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Your Personal Daily Devotional Volume One, Fourth Quarter

INTERNATIONAL DAILY DEVOTIONAL

(Your *quarterly* devotional that you *don't* throw away)

For Higher Spiritual Development and Empowered Daily Living

by

James Anthony Allen

and the

eBlessings.us Family & Friends

A Daily Devotional to be Used Always

Taking Your Spiritual Growth to Another Level!

Answered Prayers from Our Ancestors

EACH ONE! BLESS ONE!

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eBlessings.us International Daily Devotional

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INTERNATIONAL DAILY DEVOTIONAL

(Your quarterly devotional that you don't throw away)

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Peace!

Go to Your Next Spiritual Level!

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Salvation from sin is the greatest gift you can receive from the Lord.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

JOHN 3:16 (KJV)

Jesus Christ is a Person. He is God. He died for you. He shed His blood for your sins. He created you and He came to give meaning to your life. No matter how hard a person tries to achieve something in life, the life of a person as a whole can never fulfill its appointed purpose without the person knowing his Creator. He is the One that gave us our life.

Every person is born in sin. Sin is not only an action that is contrary to given moral standards. Sin is first and foremost a condition in which a person does not know his/her Creator and thus, they are not functioning in the purpose for which they have been created. The Lord has a plan for each person's life, and everybody that strays from that plan and walks in their own ways instead is missing the purpose for which they had been created. This is sin – to miss God's will and purpose for your life and walk in your own ways, ignoring your Maker.

Jesus Christ is not a religion! He is not a Church membership; He is not a doctrine, creed or tradition! He is a Person! He loves you and wants to communicate with you. He longs for your communication. Surrender your life to Him. There is no other name given to us under Heaven through which a person can find eternal salvation, satisfaction, and purpose in life. The heart of every person longs for Him, whether they realize it or not. There is no substitute that can fill that void – no glory, no power, no riches, no achievements or successes – only the Person of Jesus Christ who gave His life so you can have life! The rightful and deserving punishment for our sins is eternal death, but Jesus came to give eternal life to all who will choose to believe in Him.

All you have to do is to invite Him to come in your life and He will do it. This will be the greatest and most important decision you'll ever have to make in life. Jesus will come and will enter in your heart. That's why, with your own words, coming out of your heart, please pray with a prayer similar to the following:

Lord, please come into my heart. I repent for my sins and ask You to forgive me, that I have not known You up until now. I want to live for You. I want to accomplish Your will and purpose in my life. I want to serve You. Please come! Lord Jesus, I believe with my heart that You came to this Earth, died on the Cross for my sins and were raised from the dead on the third day. Thank You for Your love towards me. Amen!

If this prayer has come out of your heart with faith, you have just become a member of God's family, consisting of millions of believers all over the world.

SALVATION

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1 October *We know the problems. What are the answers?*

"Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?"

LUKE 1:34-35 (KJV)

So often, we allow our minds to mislead us through unbelief and so lose the blessings of God for our lives. God's answers come so easy. "Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God that ye believe on him whom he hath sent." (John 6:28-29) For humans who trust in what they can do to get what they want, this can hardly be an answer.

The Angel said to Mary in answer to her question over the puzzle of having a baby: "The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:35)

How often we have been overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, totally overwhelmed by this sweet influence? How often we have known and felt His power, but never allowed the Spirit seed to bring forth the Son in us?

Oh, that like Mary, we can just believe what the angel says to us through the Word and so we can see a performance of the Promise. For it is said, "And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord." (Luke 1:45)

Hear me saints. If we trust in God's revealed Word to us, if we agree that no Word of God is void of power, we shall have whatever things which God has promised us!

RECEIVE

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2 October Be not misled by what you think you see; the eyes see, but the mind visualizes. Reprobate minds see delusions!

"But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;"

ACTS 26:16 (KJV)

Gift Forfeited: Improper Handling -Poorly Packaged. Have you ever been excited by the anticipation of receiving a gift/present (especially during a holiday) only to be disappointed? Sometimes the packaging (wrapping) is sparkling and bold, neatly and carefully wrapped until the curiosity overtakes us. We rip it open only to find either the box is empty or contains what we least expect, may not even like, or do not even want? On the flip side, we may receive a package that has been battered/worn by misuse or abuse, and badly damaged. We are often reluctant to receive these gifts and are quietly upset, even before we decide to open them. They don't look like what we hoped for, nor do they meet our preconceived ideas.

Just think about how God Almighty must feel when someone rejects HIS gifts and stamps them as misfit. We grumble and complain about the blessings that HE has so generously lavished upon His people because the gift did not come in the desired wrapping, size, or avenue/resource we expected. God's people could not possibly be so selfish, ungrateful, and negative, or could we? God has given numerous ministry and spiritual gifts for the perfecting of the body of Christ. It is by His Divine Will according to His purpose that each person was created with one or several unique gifts to give Him glory, honor, praise, and for the edification of His people. He called some as apostles, some teachers, some prophets, some evangelists; then there are those that encourage others, some with the gifts of mercy, hospitality, etc. (1 Co. 12:4, 28) According to God's Holy Word, "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance." Romans 11:29

We, as believers, must be very careful not to throw away/forfeit a gift of God simply because it has not been delivered and presented in the "right or acceptable packages." Let us be slow to judge and quick to repent if we have rejected those that God has deemed acceptable and worthy in HIS sight. God sees the heart, while man sees the packaging! Accept God's gifts that are placed in your life!

CONVICTION

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3 October What makes life difficult is not the presence of problems but the absence of God.

"And do not (for a moment) be frightened *or* intimidated in anything by your opponents *and* adversaries, for such (constancy and fearlessness) will be a clear sign (proof and seal) to them of (their impending) destruction; but (a sure token and evidence) of your deliverance *and* salvation, and that from God."

PHILIPPIANS 1:28 (Amplified Bible)

Men and women who made headlines were ordinary people who decided to attempt great things with the supernatural power of God which comes on their ordinary attempts to make them super-ordinary. They know they must fight. They know to fight is not enough, but they must win. They have 3 characteristics.

- 1. People of Courage. Courage is an act of determination and stickability (persistence, perseverance). Courage does not mean there is no obstacle. The enemies (of God) will always be there. But a person of courage keeps on going, enemy or no enemy. You cannot win in this season without courage. Every man's life has seasons. God has a place and an assignment for us, no matter our season in life. You and I will always be needed by someone. (Isaiah 41:6) Respond to this need today with courage. Deuteronomy 31:6, Psalm 31:24
- **2. Be Conscious of His Presence.** They are people who are conscious of God's presence. You cannot pass through the shadows of life alone. You cannot confront any obstacle without God as your Source. University certificate or Diploma becomes impotent at the presence of a mountain. Go out today with the consciousness of God's presence. **Joshua 1:9; Hebrews 13:5**
- **3. Know God fights with us.** They know God will fight for them. God is the one who marks life's scripts, not your enemy or His enemies. As Bornagain Christians, we can confront the enemy (our enemies and the enemies of God) knowing it is God who fights for us. **Joshua 10:25**

GODSPEED

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4 October "Examine Your Self, and Consider."

"Again, when the wicked *man* turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive. Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die."

EZEKIEL 18:27-28 (KJV)

In life, in GOD's Creation, situations occur that lead to judgment. Some people hate themselves so they cannot be expected to follow the great commandment. (Matthew 22:38) Often the result of this self-hate is the works of the flesh: "covetousness, fornication, profanity, idolatry, ..." (Ephesians 5:19-21) As Saints, it is our responsibility to judge in the right manner. Humility is essential when dealing with people, whether they are believers or unbelievers. Consider your life and where you have been. (Galatians 6:1)

We must remember what Christ has done for us as we talk to both believers and non-believers. We are not righteous. (**Romans 3:10**) It is the Blood of the Lamb that allow us to have the understanding, knowledge, and love to walk upright in a sinful world! Without this consideration, we ourselves can stumble. (1 Corinthians 10:12)

It is important to *consider* during our judging others because GOD is extremely merciful to us. There have been times when you have made GOD mad or disappointed, but He was still merciful to you. And when you repent, He will forgive you. Likewise, we must always be forgiving and merciful. (**Matthew 18:21-22; Luke 6:36**)

In addition to judgment, within our daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly walk with God we should always consider every aspect of our environment from the least to the greatest. Everything: consider the fly on the wall, consider your dreams, consider your family, and consider that glass of water; just CONSIDER! ALL THINGS have been made for Christ and His Glory! (Colossians 1:16)

Therefore, all things must be examined that way or in this fashion. As Saints it is our responsibility to be considerate as we judge one another (1 Peter 4:17; John 7:24) as well as when emanate our surroundings.

CONSIDER

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5 October Worship the Lord. All our Worship Belongs to God.

"How can I repay the LORD for all His goodness to me?"
PSALM 116:12 (NIV)

A newly married young woman removed her ring from her finger and laid it in the church offering bag. After the service the Pastor searched her out to commend her and return the ring, explaining that the offering had been larger than needed. The woman looked up and said, "I didn't give the ring to you, but to the Lord."

The lady teaches us two important lessons:

First, true giving is sacrificial. True giving is sacrificial, in gratitude for the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. "He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for us and who was raised again." 2Corinthians 5:15

"Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me."

Luke 18:22 True giving means giving our lives to Christ.

Second, a heart full of thanks and praise of God is the answer to the question posed by our text: "How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me?" The Psalmist continues, "I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the Name of the LORD." Psalm 116:17

It is a God-pleasing act of worship when we devote our lives, our time, our talents, and our treasures to the Lord. It pleases God when our love reaches a place of sacrifice, as did the young lady in the touching story.

SACRIFICE

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6 October What should I do to inherit God's Kingdom?

"And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have the eternal life? And he said unto him, why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, *that is*, God: but is thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."

MATTHEW 19:16-17 (KJV)

When Jesus was still in this world, He used to exchange views with many people from different careers. One of the Pharisees, a ruler of the Jews, Nicodemus, decided to meet Jesus during the night. He feared being seen by the Pharisees. Thus he told Jesus: "...Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that you do, except God be with him." John 3:2 When we deeply think about Jesus' teachings, we realize that He wanted to show people the (real) true, right way (what to do and what a person could do), to inherit the Kingdom of God.

Another time, a young man came to meet Jesus. He told Him: "...Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" Matthew 19:16 Jesus said, "...but if thou wilt enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS." Matthew 19:17 "He saith unto Him, which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do not murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness. Honor thy father and thy mother: and Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. The young man "saith unto Him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in Heaven: and come and follow me." Matthew 19:18-21

Actually, this young man could not follow Jesus' recommendation though Jesus had appreciated him and his responses. And now you personally, are required to sell your property. So what is your property and how is it? No, it is not your ownership (your things), but your actions that separate you from God. Put them aside. Human feelings and actions never please God. If you leave them alone, surely you will inherit the Kingdom of God. Put God first in all things. **Proverbs 3:6**

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7 October Because you care, people see hope.

"Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him."

PSALM 67: 5-7 (KJV)

Deople will often look to God for riches and glory and things. Many people look to King Solomon as the example to follow to know whether they are moving on the right path to receive God's blessings. People say, "Surely Solomon was doing that which was pleasing in God's sight because he received riches and glory." 1 Kings 3:5-15

Solomon's riches and glory took him down the path of idolatry. 1 Kings 11:4 As he moved down that path, his heart was divided. His divided heart lead to a divided kingdom: Israel (northern kingdom) and Judah (southern kingdom). Solomon's riches and divided heart lead his kingdom into captivity, into bondage. Although he had passed away, his descendants and his people continued in idolatry, were divided in heart and became captive to their desires and their enemies. 2 Kings 24:14; 2 Chronicles 36:20

God gave us the perfect example to follow: JESUS of Nazareth who had the Christ indwelling. Let us follow the example of Jesus. He showed us how to live. His heart was neither divided nor idolatrous. Riches, glory and things are not the only measuring sticks of God's blessings. Love, peace, joy, shelter, happiness, family, and health are but a few examples of God's Provision for His children.

It is important to know that we are indeed our brothers' keepers. Mark 12:31 Let us not forget about our brothers and sisters around the world who are less fortunate than we are in our season of riches and glory; out of our abundance, let us bless them richly. "Greater love has no one than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13

RESOLUTION

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Telephone: (404) 734.7258 Email: eblessings@gmail.com 8 October We are really happy when we are loved, but the main objective in life is for us to learn to love others.

"Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude. And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets."

LUKE 9:16-17 (KJV)

If you have ever asked yourself the question, "How much should I give to the Lord Jesus?" The answer is in this verse. Jesus was with the disciples, and when the people found Him, there gathered a large multitude of over 5000 men plus the women and children. The disciples wanted the Lord to dismiss the people so they could go and find something to eat. Jesus then gave them a better idea. He asked, How many loaves do you have? Go and see. They found 5 loaves and 2 fish. Jesus took them, looked up to Heaven and blessing them, brake the bread and all ate and were full. Much food remained. Why? Because that's the perfect will of God for our provision.

Look, the Lord does not need our money, our tithes, offerings, or sacrifices. He is walking on golden streets and His name is King of Kings. Our Lord wants us to surrender all that we have to Him (it may be 5 loaves or 5 houses), so He can bless them and when He returns them to us, we will be filled and not only us, but all those that are with us and even there will be a surplus (oversupply).

Trust the Lord, surrender all that you have (not just your finances, but your family, ministry, job, friends, etc.) unto Him, so He can administrate it (govern and distribute it) in the most perfect way. He has everything and He loves to bless and give, so you and all these around you will be affected for the better by that decision of yours.

SURRENDER

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Reach out to sinners. Bring Salvation to the lost. 9 October

"Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost,"

LUKE 19:9-10 (NIV)

Tesus came on this earth with a goal to bring salvation to the lost, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

There are many unbelievers across the globe today who have the desire to know much about Jesus like Zacchaeus did, but they lack the opportunity. "A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way."

Luke 19:2-4

As servants of God, we need not to distance ourselves from the many lost unbelievers for it was Jesus who first called Zacchaeus before he came down from the fig tree. When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus come down immediately." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

The world will not know much about Christ if we fail to reach them. However Romans 10:14 says, "How then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

It is one thing to separate ourselves from unbelievers and from their sin, but yet another to win souls for Christ right where they are in their personal spiritual development. Do the work of Jesus. Walk the walk of Jesus. Get into the trenches where the sinners are--bring them to Christ.

REACH OUT

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10 October

Our Choice Today Determines the Joy of Our Future Generation. Your Choices Today Determines Our Tomorrow.

"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

ROMANS 5:19 (KJV)

Our choices do not only affect us, but also the people around us. The consequences of our choice(s) or decision(s) can be damnable or life giving. Choice brings life or death, joy or sorrow, promotion or demotion, honour or disgrace, and poverty or prosperity. You are what you are today because of your choice yesterday. Your choice is so powerful that it (your choice) can affect your life, your family, your community, your nation and the entire world. (Psalm 25:12)

Considering the above scripture, the choice of Adam in the Garden of Eden brought death, condemnation, and all forms of calamities upon the entire human race. The whole world is suffering from the wrong choice of Adam in the Garden of Eden. The destiny of all humanity was put into the hand of Adam and his wife. But their choices then brought calamities upon their generation whom we are. (**Proverbs 1:29**)

The greatest lesson to be learned is that the joy of the next generation or your family also depends on your choice today or the way you live your life today. Will they praise you or curse you? Will they blame you or sing your praise? (Isaiah 7:15)

All of us, we are suffering from the consequences of sin of which we do not know. Think about it. Will your family or your next generation suffer from the way you are living your life now? Will they cry tomorrow because of your choice or decision today? Always remember when you want to make a choice that your choice will determine your choice of joy or sorrow for your tomorrow and the tomorrow of others.

DECISION

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11 October Pray for life. Prayerfully speak life and move into LIFE.

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

PROVERBS 22:6 (KJV)

Prayers are the key of the gate of heaven. Prayers can move mountains and change any situation. "...for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." Matthew 17:20 When we pray and don't see any differences, it is because of our sins. "The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous." Proverbs 15:29

A prayer of a sinner is an abomination to God, "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD:" Proverbs 15:8, and the wages of sin(s) is death. (Romans 6:23) Satan was departed from heaven because of pride, but God so much loves us that we committ(ed) many evils and He still forgives us. Let us come closer to our God, Jesus Christ and abandon satan's works so that our prayers will come alive. Let us turn from idolatry. Let's turn away from greed and avarice. Let's turn aside from sexual promiscuity. It is evil to have sexual relationships before marriage. Abortions are a disgrace to humanity and are a crime against God's creation. It is killing and that is against the Will of God.

Our world needs repentance now. Pray for repentance and repent. We must accept Jesus into our lives, so that He will heal the world from the many deadly diseases, wars, natural disasters, and poverty. Our world needs prayer now. Our world needs us to take a moment to think about someone else other than ourselves. Maybe we can get God's attention if we follow the example of Jesus and find someone who could use our help and take the time to help; make the time to do someone a good turn.

God will forgive anything, but we need to totally surrender and abandon our sins. May Jesus Christ, the Peace of the World, have mercy for us all now and forever. Remember, pray always. "... men ought always to pray, and not to faint;" Luke 18:1

PRAYER

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12 October Will we ever get enough of what we want? Will we ever be satisfied? Riches will never make you happy for long.

"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him."

2 CHRONICLES 16:9a (KJV)

Riches–1. Let me tell you about riches so you can't say you didn't know. What did Jesus say about the rich man getting into Heaven? It will be easier for a what to get where? Camel. Needle gate. What does **Proverbs 28:22** say about hurrying to be rich? Or **Proverbs 28:20**? Surely a person of faith will be blessed, but there is a penalty for placing riches before faith, before God.

God knew, and Jesus knew that people would focus on the wrong things. That has been a human pattern. So it was imperative to send Jesus to give people the example to follow. Jehovah-God knew that people would look to Abraham, David, Joseph, Solomon, the kings of Israel and Judah and any wealthy or rich person as the example to follow. In an effort to help us desire to seek and find the truth, God sent us Jesus as the example (**Philippians 2:5-7**) so we can have all the wealth and riches of Life, a life in Jesus.

Are we captive to our over-abundance? We have to remember everyone is not as fortune as we are. Are we idolatrous? We must worship God, not people, cars, homes, and things. Are we already in bondage? We must not care more about our "stuff" than people. Do we have divided hearts? Our eyes can only focus on one thing at a time. What are we focused on? Divided hearts lead to divided kingdoms—see Solomon's example. (1 Kings 11)

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven and all things will be added unto you" is what we believe. Many have the cart before the mule. Seek God first and He will add wisdom, peace, joy, family, provision, security, true friendship, happiness, shelter, food, resources, ideas, political stability, and love to our lives and the lives of our families.

DISCERNMENT

James Anthony Allen, Evangelist eBlessings.us Founder Stone Mountain, Georgia, USA, North America Email: eblessings@gmail.com 13 October In spite of our temptations and our responses to them, God still loves us!

"And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am."

GENESIS 22:1 (KJV)

A Caring Father. The account here is stark: God tested and called; Abraham replied. The patriarch and his God had walked together many years, and the son that God had promised was now a fine young boy. The time had come for a test of the father, determining whether his faith and obedience were strong enough.

Today's fathers face many tests. Some may even feel that God is unfair to them. But our heavenly Father does not mean to vex earthly fathers. Rather, He wants to strengthen their faith and sharpen their obedience so that their sons and daughters may be guided and nurtured. May our response to God's call always be, "Yes Lord," rather than "Why me?" In what ways is God strengthening you as a Father?

Because he obeyed God concerning Isaac, Abraham was blessed beyond his wildest imagination. But the blessings were not the material riches some people associate with the word "blessings." God had in mind a rich family heritage of countless descendants and a continuity of purpose through history-the Purpose of blessing all the nations of the earth.

Though the effects of our obedience may not reach as far as Abraham's, we can still be assured that God has a purpose for our families. Other people can be blessed by our time with God, can become Christians through our witness, and benefit from our career choices. For what purpose do you think your family was created?

FAMILY

Minister George Festus Blamoh Victory Assembly Church

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"But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;" $ACTS\ 26:16\ (KJV)$

No one is here by chance on this Earth. The Lord loves you with all His heart. He sent His Son Jesus Christ to redeem you and give meaning and essence to your life. That is what our salvation is all about – 1. Salvation from sin; 2. Healing to our spirit, soul, and body; 3. Deliverance from the power of the devil; 4. Protection from all harm; 5. Prosperity in every area of our life; 6. Wholeness, and 7. Total victory in the Lord.

Life itself has three main categories – Reality, Purpose, and Power. If a person does not have Reality (appeared unto thee; hast seen; I will appear unto thee) – that's not life, but Mere Existence. Life is an aggressive thing, not stagnant, and apathetic. We have to press forward always, so we can catch Him – otherwise we might as well lie down and sleep till we die. Then comes Purpose – what thing can be called Life, which does not have a purpose? Everything that God has given life to has a purpose. Every person that has ever been born on this Earth has been born with God's Divine and Perfect Purpose to fulfill a given mandate in life. And again, we have to do everything we can (pray, fast, seek, knock, praise, worship, adore, magnify, glorify, ask, consecrate, separate, etc.), so we can touch God, and find that Purpose for which He has given us our lives (appeared unto thee for this purpose).

Someone said that he saw a light in the tunnel, and it was the light from a coming train. Of course, he said that in the negative sense, but I have a positive comparison - When the train of our Lord hits you, you'll never be the same again. But we have to continue walking in this dark tunnel, because the train is always headed towards us. The faster we **go forward**, **never looking back**, the sooner we'll meet Him. We'll be drawn to a head-on collision with His light, which will definitely bring **Reality and Purpose**. And lastly, a life full of Reality and Purpose will definitely produce **Power** – Power to transform us first and then those around us (**to turn them from darkness to Light and from satan unto God**).

LIFE

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15 October Let our walk do our talking! Our actions have loud voices! What are your actions saying?

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it* be evil."

ECCLESIASTES 12:13-14 (KJV)

Fear. It is important to have a healthy fear of the LORD. "The fear of the LORD prolongeth days." Proverbs 10:27 In the Bible when you see the word LORD (all uppercase), it denotes the word Yahweh, the omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient One. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:" Proverbs 9:10 People like to say when the Bible speaks of fear of the Lord, it is talking about being reverent, respectful, or honoring God in some way. Yes, and more. You may hear people say, the Lord will not give a person cancer, or the Lord will not allow anything bad to happen to a person. Yes, and more.

Everything, everything goes through the LORD--EVERYTHING. If the LORD doesn't want something to happen, it will not happen, I don't care if it is against nature, physics, gravity, quantum mechanics, or the Ten Commandments. God has this thing—He is in control! He runs this thing!

God is like a father—correcting, punishing, and keeping the house in order—Divine Order. God will have it His way--with pickles, lettuce, tomatoes, and hold the mayonnaise! Look at your Bible--the Old Testament. How many plagues did the LORD send upon the Gentiles or the Hebrews people? How many times did He punish grumbling people? Idolaters? Disobedient people? Adulterous people? Should I continue? God will send His Creation to correct, admonish, and deal with His children—His children all over the earth.

A healthy fear of the LORD helps us to deal with our sins, indiscretions, loose lips, idolatrous nature, etc. Fear can be healthy and it can keep us in the Graces and Mercies of our Lord God, Jehovah. "By humility and fear of the LORD are riches, and honor, and life." Proverbs 22:4

COMMITMENT

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Telephone: (404) 734.7258 Email: eblessings@gmail.com 16 October God loves us in our failures, in our mistakes, and in our shortcomings. He knows we are not perfect. He made us; therefore nothing we could ever do can surprise Him.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."
PSALM 46:1 (KJV)

Vears before I had my own children, I was the caretaker of a sweet boy named Tyler. My husband and I always thought of him as our own. He spent much of his early childhood with us. He had just learned how to walk without falling. One day he was running down the driveway. He fell. He had tears running down his cheeks and was crying loudly when I ran to him. I knelt down and picked him up. I held him close and told him it would be alright. Then I brushed the dirt off him and stood him up beside me. He cried for me to pick him up. "Carry me," he cried. As I looked in his eyes I could see his hurt and fear. I knelt down again and said, "Tyler, you can do it! You have a little boo-boo on your knee but it will get better. We will put some medicine on it to get all the yucky germs away so it will not get infected. But you have to be brave and walk with me." He swallowed hard and took my hand and we walked into the house together. I did clean up his knee and put some medicine on it. Then we prayed for Jesus to fix all the boo-boo's. Shortly after, he was ready to go back outside and run again. Outside we went and he did live to run again. He fell a few more times as well. But when he fell the next times he knew it would be okay and he just got up, brushed himself off, and kept on going.

There are so many truths in this little story. As Christians, we run our race and we fall down sometimes. Some of those first falls leave an impression that we often never forget. We must remember that God loves us. There are times He does carry us through and there are times that we must take His hand and like Peter we have to walk with Him back to safety, back to the place where the dust is shaken off of us and we can get cleaned up. Go and get all the germs out. Start a healing process, and then go back out there and go again. We all make mistakes. It is how we respond when we realize we have made them that God is looking at. He is looking into our heart issues, much more than our appearance issues. Whatever it is He still loves us. He loves us in our sin and He loves us in our repentance. There will be times that He will hold us close enough to hear His very heartbeat. And when we hear it He will then put us down that we might take His hand and walk with Him. Often we will walk into unknown territory but we can be assured He will be with us every step of the way. Along the way He will fix all our little boo-boo's. He is a faithful God who will keep us, and when we fall, He will be there to pick us up. He will heal our hurts chase our fears away with His perfect love. And we will run again.

COURAGE

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17 October Be a Christian always.

"And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out. And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, see, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:"

GENESIS 39:12-14 (KJV)

Who is a Christian? And what is a Christian? What is his duty? What is her duty? What is he or she supposed to do during their times of trouble? Many Christians think it is enough once they have been baptized and their names fully recorded in the church register. Many Christians think it is enough that their presence is ever noticed and their activities duly appreciated by the congregation as required. A Christian is someone who has repented his sins and has been baptized. That righteous person is a traveler heading to Heaven. Such a Christian makes righteous plans and is ever of exemplary behavior. He has a good testimony and good actions in the manner of Joseph in Egypt.

Joseph was sold by his elder brothers, but he behaved very faithfully in the manner to honor God. Even though he was far away from his birthplace where nobody was to witness that he was a man of God, he behaved honorably. Joseph "said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is in with me in the house, and the hath committed all that he hath to my hand. There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, but because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? Genesis 39:8-9

So dear brother, the salvation you received is not limited to church leaders. But we move with it (our salvation) wherever we travel; shopping, going to school, and anywhere we go. We have not to deny our Christian position or hide our faith because of change of a situation. Jesus said: "Also I say unto you, whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the son of man also confess him before the angels of God. But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God." Luke 12:8-9

RIGHTEOUS

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Telephone: 00 250 0875 7361 Email: maniso7@yahoo.fr **18 October** No person can work for what God has to give. They can only receive it.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name."

JOHN 1:12 (KJV)

What you constantly receive into your heart you will become. You will become what you constantly receive into your heart. Whatever any man is today is a result of what he has been receiving into his life.

Our experience in God is depending on two things:

- 1. God gives us His Grace
- 2. Our receiving of that Grace

What you receive, your life will show. Your life will show what you receive. We do not give up anything to get what belongs to us in Christ. We just receive it by faith. You can't earn the blessings of God through works. The way you receive from God is to simply take His blessings by faith. When you understand Receiving, then the rest will come. You will not need to carry that burden to work any more.

Receive His Grace by faith today. No situation or problem can ever withstand the Grace of God. The earlier you begin to walk in this light, it will not be long until your story will be like that of Paul.

"But by the grace of God I am what I am; and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:10

Grace is power to become what He wants you to be.

GRACE

Kolawole O. Emiola Word of Righteousness Ministries International Dominion Impact Church Ibadan, Oyos State, Nigeria, Africa Email: deccnig2@yahoo.com 19 October Wisdom is an Authority (Sovereignty) of God and we should seek Wisdom in all things as we acknowledge God in everything we do.

"Happy is the man who is so anxious to be with me that he watches for me daily at my gates, or waits for me outside my home!"

PROVERBS 8:34 (Living Bible)

"Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, awaiting at the posts of my doors."

PROVERBS 8:34 (KJV)

In this passage from Proverbs, God tells us that He is the author of Wisdom. Those who find God's wisdom in life find eternal life--eternal life in Him. But those who despise God's wisdom, suffer injury and death--eternal death

We need to understand what is meant by wisdom. God is not talking about mere knowledge. Nor is He talking about experience. Nor is He talking about having a sense of worldly understanding.

Wisdom is knowing God! "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Proverbs 9:10 Knowing God as our Father through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, has nothing to do with how smart we are, nor how many classes we have taken, nor how long we have been a member of a church.

It has everything to do with faith. It is Spirit-given faith which brings us into a relationship with our heavenly Father. Our reconciliation to the Father was earned at the cost of His Son's Blood, shed on the cross; our reconciliation to God and the power of God for our salvation. That's the wisest thing of all.

TRUE WISDOM

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Telephone: +254 720 489848 Email: ministerjn7@yahoo.com **20 October** All You Need is the Anointing Of The Holy Spirit.

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all those who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him."

ACTS 10:38 (NIV)

This is a true story that will help you to aspire, seek, stay, and move into GOD's presence and became a vessel of honor for this generation; a vessel which is not a sacrifice. One as He was including in death and resurrection of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

In a town called Calabar in Cross River State in Nigeria, a preacher lead by the Spirit of God went and established himself and his ministry. He was localized out of town where many other churches were found. After a short time, he moved to the level to lead a community of more than 4,000 members. With a great and wonderful structure that many dream to have, there were many signs and wonders certified through the power of the Word of God.

And suddenly, he started to face tribulation, persecution, and false testimony from the entire body of Christ. One day came as he stayed faithful to his call and focused himself to Christ who called him, a few spiritual Nicodemuses came to him with a Thomas heart and asked to him, "Pastor Joy, what is your secret of success?" He told them, "As you will be going back to your different houses pour on the kitchen table-- oil, honey, and milk. Come back to me early in the morning." They went and made the exercise like foolish dogs. In the morning, all their different tables were full of the celebration of the nature.

When they explained that to Pastor Joy in the morning meeting, he simply told them, "Everywhere GOD pours His Spirit as He promised it in His Word, there will be an attraction and fixation and growth from nature with no noise and publicity nor advertisement. Only one key-- the anointing of the Holy Ghost." So all you need is the anointing of the HOLY SPIRIT to make a difference in your life, your home, your work, your ministry, in your business, and in everything that tries to rob GOD of His glory. Glory always gives to back to God. Glory gives back to Glory. Alleluia!

ANOINTING

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21 October Go into the world and walk in the footsteps of your brother Jesus.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, (Paraclete = defending counsel, Holy Spirit) to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you."

JOHN 14:15-17 (NRSV, modified)

Today the church is weak and ineffective because man has decided to run it instead of allowing the Holy Spirit to be free and do what He has been sent to do. "Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor (Paraclete) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you." John 16:6-7 (NIV)

Am I today living in the fulness of Pentecost? Jesus is here now as you call to Him to fill you with His Holy Spirit. You dear child of God are called to heal the sick and raise the dead. You dear child have been saved so that you can preach the gospel and see many saved from the darkness of satan's kingdom and transferred into the kingdom of Heaven.

Do you feel weak today? Then turn to Jesus and ask Him to come and fill you with His power. "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." John 14:26 (NIV)

Jesus defeated satan as a man using the power of the Holy Spirit. That same power is available to you today. My child, just ask Him to come and to fill you. And then go from your place of prayer out into the darkness and do the greater works that you have been called to do. "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father." John 14:12-13 (NIV)

PARACLETE

Marie Gough House of Prayer for Ireland Republic of Ireland, Europe Email: mandjhop@eircom.net **22 October** *Don't wear a mask to hide; confession is good for the soul.*

"And the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."

JAMES 5:15 (RSV)

Leprosy, a disease hidden inside and covered under gorgeous dressing. He had all the boldness to eloquently speak in public; his confidence being that he was highly influential, yet Naaman (2 Kings 5:1) clothed his shameful flesh with his professional regalia. He rejected himself.

A disease neither his academic researches, diplomatic connections, military prowess, business achievements nor his gold or silver, dollars or pound sterling could solve. No medical cure came from the best physicians. The last diagnosis... "HE WAS A LEPER"...unveils his real personality. Outside, he wore a mask of strength to hide his weakness. Yet inside he suffered under the scourge of leprosy, living in rejection of himself.

You may not have an outward leprous disease, but you hide under your clothes those little lies, malice, bitterness, unbelief, and outright rebellion against God's Commands. They will soon expose you. You may be one of those boys and girls, adults alike, proud that your good qualifications have brought your present status. You might be a first class, high-class personality but there is one thing that disqualifies you--SIN. (John 8:34)

Every hidden habit or dirty attitude makes you a leper. Cheating and exam malpractice brands you leprous. Playing hide and seek on your wife or cheating your husband; selling your body; membership in secret cults brings leprosy on you. Disobedience--and what of stealing, gambling, extortion, bribery, dishonesty, prostitution, homosexuality, and premarital sexual acts?

Naaman got healing and was set free by washing himself in the River Jordan. Right where you are JESUS CHRIST is standing by to heal you if you call for help. He says, "Come! With your leprosy, I will cleanse you." He says, "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28 You can rest from carrying the disgraceful disease of sin. Invite Him now and your load of carry-overs and failures can be a thing of the past, if you only come to Jesus today. COME!

CLEANSING

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23 October *God is moving on our prayers all the time.*

"The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholdeth *him with* his hand."

PSALM 37: 23-24 (KJV)

Connections - 1. The enemies of the Almighty God, Jehovah want to keep our focus off of God, Christ Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Family. As Pastor Nikola Dimitrov of Bulgaria reiterates, "distractions are our enemy." Distractions and a redirection of our focus can come in the guise of possessions. Let's say it is winter and we are outside with our heavy coat. We have a strong connection with that coat when we are outside. When inside and warm, our connection with that coat doesn't seem as strong—but it is. Think conscious, (awake) unconscious (asleep) and sub-conscious (always in operation); like our autonomic system--breathing, heartbeat, etc.

When we have a fabulous house, a new car, or a \$500 watch, we are connected to those things. When we share the fact that we have these things or we show them off, we feel a strong connection with them at that moment. The strength of that connection doesn't diminish, it just goes underground into our unconscious minds, working in our sub-conscious and having an effect until the next "show off" moment where we feel the power of it. You may be innocent, as innocent can be, but stuff (materialism) is having its effect.

Materialism causes separation from the God Family (Look at Solomon's example—divided Kingdom). Our focus becomes more of taking care of our "stuff" than on taking care of God's people, God's business. Our focus is on getting more "stuff" rather than on our fellowship with God and reading His Word (Bible). Know this! Our connections impact one another. Our connections with "stuff" impact our connections with people, with our spirituality, our peace, our joy, our desires, our families, etc. Make sure you have the right connections in your life!

RELATIONSHIPS

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Telephone: (404) 734.7258 Email: eblessings@gmail.com **24 October** Physical Growth is a matter of time; Intellectual Growth is a matter of knowledge, while Spiritual Growth depends most of all on our level of obedience to the Lord.

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD."

JOSHUA 24:15 (KJV, modified)

Joshua had something unusual about him. I believe the Lord chose him, because He knew Joshua, like Abraham, would "command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord" (Genesis 18:19). He was a great warrior, and yet – a profound worshipper. The Bible says that when Moses was leaving the Tabernacle after a long day of being in God's Presence and judging the people, Joshua - his servant - remained in the Tabernacle.

Joshua loved the Presence of the Lord. He knew God so personally, that he was able to lead an entire people in their Promised Land, overtaking the enemy completely. Nothing could stop him – not even the SUN. He was like David – a mighty man of war and a humble seeker of the Lord at the same time. He was like Daniel – an incredibly wise leader and a committed servant of His Lord at the same time. He was also like Joseph – a gifted ruler and a symbol of God's Salvation at the same time.

We are all called by the Lord to seek Him and find Him in such a deep way, that we are able to trust Him for our whole family (AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD), as well as for all else He places under our care. Now, that's a challenge! Are you ready to take it?

SERVANT

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25 October When people do not do what we want or think they should, it does not mean they are wrong or outside of God's Plan!

"Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there *am* I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit hath sent me."

ISAIAH 48:16 (KJV)

PREPARED READINESS. God has a plan and purpose for every person's life. Whether the man/woman/child seeks out God to discover their purpose will determine if they live out and walk in God's Divine Will and Perfect Plan. God does not predestine and appoint perfect people, but perfects those whom HE has chosen. They that choose to hearken to His voice and obey His commands build a strengthened faith walk with Him through every step of obedience. "casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" 2 Corinthians 10:5

GOD always rewards obedience. When the children of God worship the LORD in Spirit and in Truth, HE shall direct our paths. God desires us to come to Him with a heart of total submission, that we may be instructed, purged, and consecrated for His purposes, plans, and Glory alone. God grants us the desires of our heart when our passions and desires line up with His desires for our lives. "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Psalm 37:4

God prepares His people, positions them, and opens the doors that He desires to be opened so that HE may receive all the Glory. It is in our weakness that His strength is made perfect in us and we are made whole. We are not ready until we have committed our plans to the LORD, but He both readies and steadies us when we have said, "Not my will, but your will be done, oh Lord." We are justified and certified through our obedience. God's ways, plans, purposes, and precepts are perfect. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28 It is never too soon or too late to get on God's agenda, by exchanging our will for His Divine Will!

PROGRESSION

Cheryl Ford Velasquez eBlessings.us

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"Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech."

1 PETER 3:8-10 (NIV)

Christ is building His church, the born-again believers of the body of Christ. His call to repentance to those not yet in the church is proof of His unconditional love for we humans.

Christ is the Head of the church, and even though He loves us supremely, there are certain behaviors that are unacceptable to Him. So Jesus cautions us: "Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble." 1 Peter 3:8, and "For, Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech." 1 Peter 3:10 Hence, we see there is no disharmony in Christ's church.

The church member or members are called to bless others. "Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing." 1 Peter 3:9 Jesus left us an example to follow.

Jesus is the example. We are to follow in His steps. No deceit was found in His mouth. And He has promised to be with us, never to leave us nor forsake us, (**Joshua 1:9**, **Hebrews 13:5**) but giving us all the help we need to bless others. Only those who bless will inherit a blessing.

HARMONY

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27 October When the Supreme Council of Heaven meets all night, makes Decisions, and then Rises –Consider it done.

"My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David."

PSALM 89:34-35 (KJV)

Truth is often defined as that which is trustworthy, genuine, and conforming to reality. We live in a world of lies and illusions where the best of the promises and predictions of man can only be trusted where there are alternatives or "Plan B." From our birth to our death, we are surrounded by those dearest to us. Both men and women lie to each other at the altar during their marriage vows. They soon forget the "I do's" before God. "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." Isaiah 49:15

Fathers abandon boat and walk away from home for some flimsy reasons and bridge the trust of the young ones. Governments lie to their subjects. People lie and so create an image of falsehood all around mankind. "God is not a man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" Numbers 23:19 You can stake your life on anything that God has spoken to you. We serve One that can be trusted. We trust in One that does not take a bribe. We believe in One that cannot be stampeded into a decision. God is deliberate in His ways. Moreover, He does not need any advice. For He knows the end from the beginning. He does not detour on His word or ways. His word is TRUTH.

"Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end I was born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice." John 14:6, 18:37 What is it that God has promised you? What is it that He said He would do? If He said it, you can bet your life on it. "That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us." Hebrews 6:18 God cannot lie and He will not begin with you. He will do it for you.

FAITHFULNESS

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28 October We need to know Him and know who He is for us in each situation we face in our lives.

"Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."

PSALM 46:10 (KJV)

The Lord reveals His nature to us in ways that we often do not recognize at first. We are always looking for Him to show up in our lives in the ways that we know Him. Sometimes in our lives we experience a new level of understanding about who God is. It reminds me of the time when Mary and Martha called for Jesus to come because their brother Lazarus was sick. They knew Jesus; He had been in their home. They had spent time with Him. They knew Jesus could heal their sick brother.

When Lazarus died, they were terribly upset. They were upset that Jesus had not come to their rescue and heal their brother. I think it is fair to say they might have even been a bit angry with Jesus; that is often the way we are when something we have been praying for doesn't happen in our time frame. Jesus was up to something they could not understand. They couldn't see. They were completely clueless about what was about to happen. They only knew Jesus as a healer but Jesus was ready to reveal to them that He was not only a healer, but He was resurrection life too. This was an opportunity to reveal more of who He was to them. After all Lazarus was a friend of Jesus, too.

In our lives we experience things that we don't often recognize. We call out to God: The God we know. We call on Him as healer if we have experienced him as healer in the past. We call on Him as Comforter if we have known Him as comforter in the past. We call upon Him as our Prince of Peace if we have seen Him as peace. We often do not call upon that character of God that we have not seen or experienced. There are times He wants to take you to a deeper place than you presently are. There are things about Him we do not know and it is His heart for us to know Him. He desires to show us who He is in our lives. So in those times when He is not answering your call, perhaps He simply is going to use it as an opportunity to show you a part of Himself you have not known before.

He is faithful to complete all that He has begun in you. You must believe that all things will work for your good in the end. (**Romans 8:28**) You cannot see all the things that He is working out behind the scenes. But you can pray that He will open your eyes and pull back the curtain that you may see just who is with you and for you. Sometimes we need to still our fears and our minds and just know that He is God for you.

TRUST

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29 October God Has Ordered Your Direction, Your Footsteps... Stay Focused, Avoid Distractions, Keep Your Eyes on Jesus.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help *cometh* from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. He will *not* suffer they foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber."

PSALM 121:1-3 (KJV)

Stay Focused. My brothers and sisters in the faith, there are times when the way(s) get very hard. Though you are doing everything that you believe is pleasing to God, things seem to be going in the wrong direction. Maybe someone is spreading lies about you, or your car keeps breaking down, or there are a million things going wrong all at once. "He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD." Psalm 112:7

We often think: "What did I do wrong?" "What did I say wrong?" "How did I anger God?" Even if we do make a mistake remember: "For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again:" Proverb 24:16

We may feel like we don't have anyone to turn to. Remember not to lose focus. Focus on God. You can lift up your head to the hills from which cometh your help. Your help cometh from the Lord. Stay focused on God and He will bring you through whatever you are going through. Sometimes man will let you down. But God will never let you down. He will give you the right direction when you stay focused on Him. "The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighted in his way." Psalm 37:23

Don't look to the left nor look to the right. He is your help. "...God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1b The main thing is to say focused on God. Know that you can call on him in the middle of the night. He hears you and He will give you your desires and give you the right direction(s) for what you have to do. "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:6 God loves you.

FOCUS

Mother Eloise Abadeey, Evangelist Metro World Outreach Center Stone Mountain, Georgia, USA, North America 30 October Christ is the same today, yesterday, and tomorrow. We must love and forgive each other to see the impossible possibilities of tomorrow today.

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sins is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah."

PSALM 32:1-5 (KJV)

Forgiveness and love is important in our Christian life. As a Christian, we must love one another even if the person is not in our faith. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 12:35 We must forgive any wrongs from our brothers and sisters which they have done to us. "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men of their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matthew 6:14-15

We must love one another no matter the faith to which he or she subscribes, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, or others. We must show love to anyone and everyone. We must preach to them that Jesus Christ is God and the Peace of the world and the Light of the world. "Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptised, and praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him, and a voice from heaven which said, Thou art my beloved Son, in thee I am well pleased." Luke 3:21-22

Christ is the same today, yesterday, and tomorrow. With Him, through Him, and by having faith in Him, all things are possible. We must love and forgive each other to see His works in our lives. As we love and forgive each other, God hears and acts on our prayers. May Jesus our God have mercy on us and forgive us of our sins.

FORGIVE

Pastor John O. Mwajagy Addis Bible Center

Moddo, Addis Abba, Ethiopia Email: eastafricans@yahoo.com **31 October** *Let your positive light shine to all the world for Christ.*

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

MATTHEW 5:13-16 (NIV)

The Identifier of the Christian. When one opens the newspaper, when one activates the television set, when one turns on the radio, one is there who speaks only about violence, hatred, war, the world in tribulation. What must be the attitude of the Christian when faced with this news? We must bring a change, but count it all joy. (James 1:2)

In this passage, Jesus told his disciples that they are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Thus, this is the proper identity of the Christian. What is it about salt, which are the proprieties known as salt? Salt is used for seasoning the nourishment of the body. It has thus a function of giving. As a Christian, we owe our lives to give to the community; to give life, peace, and joy which is accomplished by the means of love. A thorough love or at least a love which the Christian as salt gives as the taste to the society. "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." Colossians 4:6

"Everyone shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt." Mark 9:49 Salt has a function of preserving the Christian by their integrity and their honesty which must influence the world. Our Lord Jesus goes further by saying to the disciples that they are the light of the world. (Matthew 5:14) We are Christian lights of the world because we shine in the truth, piety, and sanctification of JESUS. "See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness." Luke 11:35 God bless you.

SALT AND LIGHT

Evangelist Seka Armand Elviss Yavo Evangelic Church of Revelation Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Africa Email: yavolevis@yahoo.fr **1 November** The opportunity to do something unusual comes only several times in life, but everyday, do the usual things in an unusual way.

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

1 PETER 2:9 (KJV)

"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."

REVELATION 17:14 (KJV)

The Responsibility of the free choice. The humanistic world tells us, "You yourself are building your destiny; believe only yourself; do what is best for yourself; you are a free man; you have a free will."

The Lord also says, "Choose whom you will serve." Where's the difference? The truth is that there are two kingdoms and you can think that you have chosen the best thing for yourself, but if you are not with God, the Bible says that even though your way may seem right unto you, it leads to destruction. Your free choice concerns which authority you will come under.

If you choose the Lord, you are coming under His authority and He has a purpose and a destiny for your life. Jesus said, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain." John 15:16 If the choice of living depended only upon you, you may have arranged your priorities like this: "First my family, second my job, and the Lord will be my hobby – I will go to Church in my spare time, sometimes I will pray, or I can read some of the Bible from time to time."

However, God does not want to be a hobby. He wants to be first place in your life. So, if you choose the Lord, your choice brings responsibility with it – to serve the Lord, to seek Him and His kingdom first. Then the Lord will add everything else that you may need. He gave His Son for us, so how will He not give us everything else? The Lord is faithful to do His part. Are you?

CHOICE

Genoveva Dimitrova "Righteousness, Peace and Joy in the Holy Spirit" Apostolic Christian Center Bourgas, Bulgaria, Europe **2 November** God loves you, so don't let anything worry you or frighten you.

"And he said, O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you! Be strong, yes, be strong. And when he had spoken to me, I was strengthened and said, Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."

DANIEL 10:19 (Amplified Bible)

RISE ABOVE BEING HURT. Things that cause everlasting hurt are distressing. An undeserved slight; harsh words cruelly spoken; a cynicism that continually cuts you down to size and causes you to be discouraged; the refusal to give credit where credit is due, thereby ignoring your true worth, and similar circumstances can cause intense pain.

The healing of any hurt lies in your own power, for you are only hurt as far as you allow yourself to be hurt. If other people are so unkind and insensitive that they deliberately inflict hurt, you must not sink to their level and allow their pettiness to spoil your life. When you allow others to "hurt your feelings" so much so that you become depressed and revengeful, you are manifesting the same spiritual and mental smallness as the individual or group who inflicted you with hurt.

Sometimes hurt is not intended, but is self-inflicted because of oversensitivity or self-centeredness. It is a common practice to overreact and to take exception even when no offense is intended. Destructive emotions need to be controlled and the mind must be disciplined so that others will not have the power to hurt and destroy your happiness.

When you are filled with the Spirit of the Living Christ and experience His protection against everything that hurts and mars your life, you will be able to forgive those who hurt you. When possessing His love and radiating His forgiveness, nothing anyone says can wound you for love and forgiveness heals everything. Tell yourself that it is water under the bridge.

RISE ABOVE

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3 November

When we truly know and love ourselves, then our selfimage/self-esteem won't be shaped or shaken by the opinions of others.

"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 2:8 (KJV)

PROPHETS or *PROFITS*? What is a Prophet? One who delivers Divine Messages or interprets the Divine Will of GOD. A chosen prophet of GOD bears a tremendous weight and responsibility to say only those things that GOD speaks through him/her for the edification of the body of Christ and the glory of God alone. True prophets of God seek no glory for themselves; they are SERVANTS whose purpose is to please God.

There have always been *self proclaimed/man-ordained* "PROPHETS" whose sole mission is to extort *profits* from the people of God. This is known as "*RELIGIOUS ENTERPRISE* on the Rise!" "Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord..." Deuteronomy 16:17 "Every man according as he purposes in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

True prophets of the LORD are sent to set the houses in order; to edify the body of Christ through exhortation. God says that we shall know a TRUE PROPHET: his messages always come to pass. It is not the person's word, but GOD's WORD that never returns void. True prosperity comes from GOD. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospers." 3 John 1:2

Ask God for spiritual discernment to see hidden things. Discernment, WISDOM, and Revelation Knowledge is a powerful combination that equips believers from becoming ensnared. "I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings." Jeremiah 17:10 Pray for all believers that are being mislead and pray for those that mislead the people, knowingly or unknowingly. They may be teaching those things they have been taught. Wisdom and prayer move and shake nations, setting the captives free.

AWAKENING

Cheryl Ford Velasquez eBlessings.us

Stone Mountain, Georgia, USA, North America Email: cfvelas@hotmail.com or cfvelas@yahoo.com **4 November** We are to be a sweet smelling fragrance to a lost and dying world!

"Mary came in with a jar of very expensive aromatic oils, anointed and massaged Jesus' feet, and then wiped them with her hair. The fragrance of the oils filled the house."

JOHN 12:3 (Message Bible)

Mary gave her most precious gift. The perfume was poured out. The bottle was broken. There was no fragrance until she broke the bottle. She gave all she had to the Lord. This was an act of total surrender. There is a life to lose and a life to be gained as we are poured out to others. Will you allow your life to be poured out to others? There are millions in the valley of decision. Who will tell them of Jesus' love?

I had a dream and in it I looked at my perfume bottle. I saw that it was almost empty. I was concerned that the perfume was about to run out. In the natural I always buy perfume duty free and I had no ability to do so at this time. I filled the bottle with water. To my consternation, as I looked at the bottle, there was a chemical explosion in the bottle, and all the substances vaporized and poured out the top of the bottle, leaving nothing in the bottle. I woke up at this point, very disturbed, thinking, "What do I do, I have no perfume now! The bottle is empty!" God showed me that the perfume is the oil of the anointing. The crushed olive releases the oil. This oil has a beautiful fragrance. If there is no crushing, there will be no oil! There will be no fragrance! That anointing to die breaks yokes, and causes us to rule, to reign, to move in power and purpose. Yes we are anointed to die! Jesus had an anointing to die. He was anointed by Mary to die. When we receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, we are anointed to die; to be poured out for others.

If we mix the oil of the anointing with the water of the Word of God (the life of God) we will have a chemical explosion that will flow out into all the world. God's word is powerful, living, and active. God's word will bring life change. The vapour is the precious Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ that pours out to a lost and dying world. The Lord wants us to mix the anointing that He gives us to go into all the world with the living word of God and then there will be a chemical explosion as we go into all the world. We will be that vapour bringing life and change wherever we go, because we bring a chemical explosion--a vapour permeating all it comes into contact with.

FRAGRANCE

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5 November *Keep God moving in your life! Do the work of Jesus!*

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."

JOHN 14:12 (KJV)

Trains to Glory! Imagine that we have a million trains in our lifetime which are on tracks heading to Heaven; heading to Glory. That is, a number of different trains all on different tracks, all heading to Glory. In your life right now as a "born again" Christian you have a number of trains moving in God's Will to fulfill His Purposes in lives. **1 Corinthians 10:31**

Examples of your trains: you are in school, you have a job, you go to church, you want to be a doctor, learn to play the piano, be a good parent, feed the hungry, help the homeless, shelter orphans, adopt a child, teach children, educate adults, or start a church. These trains are on the tracks to Glory, but some have movement and others do not. Know this: With God there is movement! Waiting on the Lord is biblical, but when God does a thing, there is movement. If a train is not moving, then the questions are: "Is this God's Will for my life right now or later?" "Is this desire from God, self, or the powers of darkness?" "On which train is there movement in my life?"

When one of your trains in life stops moving, check to see: 1) If you are stopping it (I don't like what I am doing, it takes up too much of my time, or I don't want to do what I may have to do), 2) If the enemies of God are trying to stop it or have delayed it (one distraction after another or I dislike what an outside force is trying to impart into me), or 3) If God has removed the tracks in front of your train temporarily or permanently (Something God does not want you to do right now, to do in a few months, or never to do).

When your train stops for whatever reason, remember that you have a number of trains in your life. Go to the train that has movement, and increase its speed. God is with that train and He is making sure it has fuel and that its direction is true. We have many trains in our lives. Do not allow the trains that are moving to stop because you are focused on a train that is not moving. Keep all God's trains in your life moving to not only bless you, but the lives you are carrying on God's glory train. Push on to Heaven on God's Glory Train! (Romans 11:36)

GLORY

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6 November To see a Vision Fulfilled, you need to Catch the Vision.

"Then I said to them, You <u>SEE the bad situation</u> we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins and it's gates are burned with fire. Come <u>LET US build up the wall of Jerusalem</u>, that we may no longer be a disgrace. Then I told them of the hand of my God which was upon me for good, and also... And they said <u>Let us rise up and build!</u> So they strengthened their hands for the good work."

NEHEMIAH 2:17-18 (Amplified Bible, modified)

Get into the heart/mind of God concerning what and how we ought to do things, where we are and why, and what is expected of us by God and people around us in that church, office, or organization. The prophet Isaiah saw the Vision of the Lord, and God asked, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" (Isaiah **6:1-8)** Nehemiah on the other hand challenges the Israelites of the bad condition of the walls of Jerusalem. There was an urgent need, and something had to be done. Nehemiah tells them to SEE. In order for them to fully grasp of what is expected of them they needed to catch the VISION of Nehemiah by 1) Identifying the Vision of rebuilding the wall and gates. In the church service, it's not just singing, dancing, and hearing the sermon of the day. Go on and get to know the vision of your church, identify it. 2) Identify with it. Nehemiah let them see the bad situation. It is no longer his vision, but it becomes their vision when they see. And he said, "Let us arise and build." They used to say before, "This is your own idea," as they walked through. Now they could see the reproach or disgrace was to be on them. 3) Identify the needs and demands of the vision. The wall needed materials and manpower. Every vision from God demands resources, finances, and people who are F.A.T.: Faithful, Available and Teachable. 4) Identify the blank spaces in the vision. When God gives a vision sometimes He gives the 1st phase and the last. In between is a missing link. Moses was given the skeleton or sketch of the tabernacle, Joseph dreamed, and what he saw was the last phase of the vision. Vision transcends your input capacity so you need others to fill the flesh in the skeleton. 5) Identify your personal strength. People have been created uniquely by God with different strengths. The angel tells Gideon, "Go in this thy might." Judges 6:12-14 As you identify with the vision, look at your talents, possessions, resources, abilities, and gifts. 6) Identify and fit in your place in the vision. This will help avoid friction in whatever you are doing with others, strengthen the team, and bring victory and success as in Judges 7:21. They identified their position and won the battle. 7) Act accordingly. Act in the ability and strength as you stand in your position as you fulfill the divine task or God-given dream/vision, or as you help the man of God carry out and fulfill the vision. When you have done these seven things, then we say you have caught the vision. You will enjoy being part of the vision and be fulfilled in life.

VISION

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7 November Be on Fire for the Kingdom of God!

"And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up."

JOHN 2:17 (KJV)

This testimony is a true story from a small town called Stilfontein a three-hour drive from the city of Johannesburg, South Africa.

One preacher moved from America to pay a visit to a local pastor that we will call Pastor X. After they have spent time of fellowship and sharing, the preacher said to Pastor X, "Listen, my friend, during Moses's time there were many bushes, but only one bush was on fire. At first, Pastor X did not understand him.

The preacher repeated it up to 7 times. Finally, Pastor X understood that the preacher was speaking prophetically to him about the fact that he went far away from the city (*Johannesburg -- or you can say America*) and localized himself in one bush far away from the main road (*Stilfontein -- or you can say Africa*). That bush where he found himself is on fire and will be a place of revelation and salvation for many nations. And really, that prophecy is accomplished.

My dear friend, instead of looking to your parents, friends, pastors, and the body of Christ to be revived, you must know that GOD targets you for the next divine revolution; in this planet earth there is nobody else other than YOU. Heaven is looking at you and seeking your availability to surrender yourself under the mighty hands of God to be used as an instrument of change.

Can't you just rise and join the book of chronicles of this end of times as Martin Luther, John Knox, John Wesley, Andrew Murray, Charles Finney, Katherine Khulman, Kenneth Haggin, Oral Roberts, Billy Graham, and all the rest of great men and women of God that heaven and earth have known? Just move out of your criticism, your theology, and your own conviction. Join the army of revival of this century for God's sake. May the Lord God bless and keep you!

AVAILABILITY

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8 November What seeds are we planting? What fruit is growing? What fruit will we eat in the future?

"Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, *bless* his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;"

PSALM 103:1-3 (KJV)

Riches –2. Many of us look to Solomon, Abraham, Joseph, Bill Gates, presidents of corporations, and presidents of nations as examples to follow to become successful. Many of us have connected our personal success and spiritual success with money. (1 Timothy 6:9) That couldn't be further than the truth. Many people seek riches and prosperity through tithing and seed planting. Tithing and seed planting are but two of thousands of spiritual truths which impact our lives, either positively or negatively. Our actions have spiritual consequences in our world. Remember that we activate spiritual and physical consequences as we come into contact with spiritual truths and activate spiritual laws in our lives based upon our thoughts (mind), what is in our hearts (emotions), what we say (speech), and our actions (spirit).

Just because our neighborhood neighbors or our church pew neighbors got a new Mercedes doesn't mean they are living more righteously than you or I, or are doing something that warrants duplicating them spiritually or physically. Just because they have a new Mercedes doesn't mean God has blessed them. It could be a trap. What was Jesus' temptation by the devil? (Matthew 4:8-9)

The disciples and prophets of old were not the richest men and women in the county, city, or country in which they lived. Jesus did not ride around on a white donkey, which was a symbol of prominence and authority in the Hebrew community. Did Jesus have 100 tunics and 30 pairs of sandals? Did He have three or four donkeys and a house in every province He visited? Surely Jesus could have afforded to have all the amenities of His day. Surely people tried to give Him many things. Think. Why didn't He move like you see many modern day priests, preachers, televangelists, and bishops move? Think. God gave us Jesus, the Christ who moved upon the earth without sin to be the example for us to follow. Jesus is the example, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. (John 14:6) Follow Jesus' examples.

REAPING

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9 November No Greater Love! To Give Your Life for a Stranger!

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

JOHN 15:13 (KJV)

This scripture reminds me of an encounter that changed my life and value for souls, bringing me closer to the heart of Jesus Christ and the type of love He has to die for people who never loved Him. I visited the mission field where, by God's grace, a church was planted among a group of rural destitute, outcasts, drug addicts, and even robbers under my leadership to the clear the bush.

On entering the village, I met a crowd that surrounded a young teenager (Musa) who attends our services. Musa was accused of stealing. He happened to be my first convert in that barbaric village. He was being mobbed almost to death with clubs, machetes and other weapons. When he sighted me, he cried out loudly, "Pastor, I'm dying for what I do not know about; in innocence." This he said three times. This cry broke my heart and bones. I could not bear to see him die, so I shouted aloud at the crowd saying, "Please stop beating him. Take him to the police." They furiously turned on me, giving me bruises and wounds. A village woman in the crowd shouted, "He's a PASTOR." They stopped.

I retired to a solitary place and asked God, "Father, is this what it takes to save souls?" The answer was swift, "Yes, it takes a heart so compassionate to love and to die, in order to save a soul. If you did not speak, the boy would die. Such I went through on the cross for your sins to be cleansed." The boy was eventually sentenced awaiting trial for nine months in the prison. My leaders asked me to steer clear and allow the boy to suffer alone. God granted me grace to pursue the case. I was sure he was innocent. While in the prison he learned the scripture deeply, which he couldn't before. And he became an Evangelist among the inmates. He became stronger in the Lord Jesus Christ. He told me that he kept on thinking about why they had beat me because of him. This broke him to fully decide to live for Jesus Christ. He was acquitted—not guilty.

The unconditional love of God is all we need to live in these times of trial and temptation. It gladdens my heart to know I serve an Over-Ever-Loving God. When He forgives, He forgets all past iniquities. Every Christian is called to live for God wherever we are and to show a greater commitment of love to see people liberated from the shackle of sin. Love is not a choice but a call; a duty to perform. It is only love that determines our level of obedience to Christ and how ready we are to see His kingdom come. Love unconditionally expressed to make others better without counting the cost is the true and most important key that unlocks the very gates of Heaven and draws us intimately into God's Heart. My heart is stirred-up by love, as I am loved of Christ who takes sin away.

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Dr. Peter Okey M Orji GMF Christian University

Ikeja; Lagos, Nigeria, Africa Email: pastorokey@hotmail.com **10 November** A slave is one who is compelled to serve, while the minister is one who lives to serve.

"Surely His salvation is nigh them that fear Him; that glory may dwell in our land."

PSALM 85:9 (KJV, modified)

would like to paraphrase this verse, so we can get a clearer picture of God's present will for our life: "He has saved us, so that His Glory may dwell in our land." This means that the purpose of our salvation on this side of Heaven is to be carriers of God's Glory until it fills the whole Earth.

God's Glory is His Manifested Presence. It's also His character and fruit.

When Moses prayed: "Lord, please, show me Your Glory." (Exodus 33:18),

the Lord said: "OK, I will make all My goodness pass before you..." (Exodus 33:19).

And He showed him His character – "The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth," (Exodus 34:6; Galatians 5:22-23).

Now the New Testament tells us that we are to change from glory to glory, beholding the Glory of the Lord (2 Corinthians 3:18). This means that as we behold the Lord's Glory – His Presence and character – we must allow Him to change into the same image.

In this way, we will become able carriers of His Presence and His love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance to the lost and dying world. Ultimately, this will bring God's salvation to all and fill the Earth with His Glory.

GLORY

Nikola Dimitrov

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11 November Temptation in itself is not a sin. It is when you yield or give in to the temptation, it becomes 'SIN'. With every temptation, God has made a way of escape.

"The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, "You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die." "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it."

GENESIS 3:2-6 (NIV)

The woman had knowledge of what God had said. Genesis 3:2-3 She listened to the devil, and gave thought to what he said to her. Genesis 3:4-5

Notice the progression here:

- 1. She saw (looked).
- 2. She desired (wanted) and took some (acted).
- 3. She ate (sin). She sinned by disobedience to God. She gave her husband some and he ate it. She shared her sin (impartation of iniquity).

Adam and Eve lost the close fellowship they once had with God. God, in His love and mercy made provision for our sins to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus (see **John 3: 16**) if we believe and confess that we have sinned.

Let us face this fact: we inherited our sinful nature from our foreparents. And we will only enjoy fellowship with our Heavenly Father as we confess and forsake our sins. Our lives will then have meaning and purpose as we fellowship with our Heavenly Father.

FELLOWSHIP

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12 November Think about what God's people will receive first.

"And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained *servants...* and pursued *them* unto Dan... and smote them... And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot and his goods, and the women also, and the people.... And Melchizedek of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he *was* the priest of the most High God. And he blessed him and said, blessed *be* Abram of the most High God, possessor of heaven and earth. And blessed be the most High God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all. And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. And Abram said to the king of Sodom... Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre let them take their portion."

GENESIS 14:14-24 (KJV)

People Importance. I believe that everything that God will do for you surrounds people. Your success, your victory, your breakthrough in life takes place because of people that God has given you and connected to you. That is why relationship is very important in life and is not to be taken lightly. Any man that does not value people may not go anywhere in life.

Abram had a problem. His brother and entire family had been taken captive in another land. Abram had to go and fight for their freedom and he could not do it alone. But I believe because of the heart that Abram had for people they were willing to go and fight with him. And the Bible says they got victory. God blessed them with the spoil of the land. At their return he met the king of Salem (Melchizedek) and gave him tithe of all. The king of Sodom requested the people and not the goods. Instead of taking the people, Abram took a share of the goods for those who fought with him. He said all could be taken that he had, but the portion of the men fighting behind him should not be taken. Abram could have taken the people and let the goods go. He would have lost the battle of life. Anything you will achieve in life depends on the people God has given you. The goods can finish, but as long as you have people more battles can be fought and more goods can be received. Don't be after what you will receive now. Be after what your people will receive, then you will succeed in life.

PEOPLE

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13 November *The Opportunity of a Lifetime is to meet the LORD.*

"And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him."

LUKE 5:11 (KJV)

Meeting the LORD. One meeting with the Lord Jesus, and your life may not be the same. Once you meet the creator of the universe, your life can take a new direction. Beyond the grave is the eternity, and there is God who we will meet. "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

When the fishermen James, John, and Simon met Jesus they left all and followed Jesus. (**Matthew 4:18-22**) Their lives became changed, and they found something more valuable, more worthy in which to invest their own lives. Some people admire certain persons. They became inspired by them, doing the same things they do. But no one in human history could have, has had or does have such an influence on people as does Jesus Christ.

Millions of people are meeting the Lord and are changed by Him. Jesus can change your life too. Have you met Him? Or do you want to meet him again? "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2:2

I grew up in Macedonia where I was active in the church. Through the years, I could see how many people met and found Jesus. They were delivered from sin and started to live a new life in Christ. "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12 God is doing the same in Sweden, where I live today, and the rest of Scandinavia, and around the world. At this very moment, right now, God is meeting people. Do you want to know Him better? You can meet Him today. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

NEW LIFE

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14 November Seek wisdom so ignorance will flee from you. Seek knowledge to get understanding.

"If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?"

JAMES 2:15-16 (KJV)

Clean Living. "Be ye holy, for I am holy," says the Lord. (1 Peter 1:16) That means living as holy a life as can be lived in these earthly bodies. We are human and we make mistakes from time to time. We all have our failings. Nobody is perfect. Nobody is perfect, but we can strive for perfection. We can and must be as holy as we possibly can be. We must aim to be like Jesus.

What does this mean in our everyday living? Let's see. This means no stealing: no buying "bootleg" movies or CDs because this is stealing from artists and companies who have paid thousands and millions of dollars to produce the non-"bootleg" products. Stealing is stealing no matter how it is dressed up.

This means not taking computer software and copying the disks or loading the software on other computers for which they were not purchased. We cannot receive "hot" stolen products or services such as electronic equipment, software, clothes, cable service, music, movies, food stamps, or telephone service. This is "theft by receiving."

(Exodus 20:15)

We don't have to do it just because others are doing it. Sin is sin is sin. If it looks like sin and moves like sin, it is sin. If there is any doubt in our minds concerning our actions, thoughts, or goods and services, that we receive, do the opposite of the wrong thing. Do the strong thing, not the wrong thing! Do the right thing, not the "bling-bling" thing. We don't have to have it just because we see someone else with it or we see it on TV. (Exodus 20:17) Learn to live within your means, not like everyone else.

DILIGENCE

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15 November God believes in you. (Romans 4:1-25)

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

GALATIANS 2:20 (KJV)

We are often enjoined to have faith in God; to believe that which He had promised He will make good. As much as this is truth, we need to see the other side of the coin.

In the key verse for today, we see the words "I live by the faith of the Son of God." The faith by which you live is not even your faith-- it is the faith of the Son of God who died for you. God believes in you. While you were yet estranged from Him, He trusted you. When you were His enemy, He believed in you.

He believed that if He could only let you know the truth about yourself, about Him, and about satan, you would trust Him. He went the full length to believe that if He paid the price for your salvation, that if He died in your place, you would appropriate His Grace for your salvation. He went ahead to believe (have faith) in you that you would understand that your salvation was full and free, and that it also included your redemption from sin and satan; your bodily healing. He continued on to believe that you would trust Him for your righteousness and holiness. He believed you would cease from your works to try to make you righteous. Because of His faith in you, He went ahead and gave His life for you.

God does not expect you to trump up your own faith. He just wants you to catch on to the faith He has for you. God believes in you. The least you can do is to reciprocate. "How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will." Hebrews 2:3-4 (NIV)

LIVING BY HIS FAITH

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16 November

There are always things we can find to be thankful for in our lives. If we were to begin each new day with thanks for the day we imagine we will have, our days would be much more pleasant and enjoyable.

"Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout Him with psalms."

PSALM 95:2 (NRAS)

When my children first began school, we would watch the sunrise together. Ethan would comment on all the different colors and how they changed as the sun rose up. Christian would comment on how good a job Jesus did today painting the sky for us. They were thankful for the day and for the artist that colored our day. I wanted to plant in them an appreciation for life. I wanted them to see the artist at work in hopes that one day they will recognize the artist at work in their own lives, who is painting a wonderful masterpiece to show the world.

Today I wrote about the skies, but I wrote about much more than that. I wrote about a powerful, Mighty God who has created and formed us. We all take for granted our day sometimes and forget to be thankful for what we have. We forget how powerful He is. We forget all that Jesus has done for us. We forget that in our struggles there are powerful truths to be discovered about who HE is for us.

So I encourage you today to reflect on God and look for Him to show up in little and big things that He might reveal Himself to you in a new and powerful way. There are so many things to be thankful for: to have life, to have purpose, and to have been called by His name to do wonderful things. God has a dream and a vision for us. We may not see all the pieces to it yet, for the artist is still painting on the canvas of your heart what you will be. We can rest in knowing His vision and plans for us are good. So the next time you see the sun rise, think of his new mercies given for that day. It is painted by His hand every day. Or, if you'd rather, look upon the sunset and reflect upon His favor that He has shown you in the day. Take time to worship Him and remember His awesome love for you.

THANKFULNESS

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17 November Trees cannot grow strong to weather the storms life offers, if their roots are not deep in the soil.

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:"
PSALM 66:18 (KJV)

Standard - 1. Throughout the Bible, there are examples where the LORD raises a standard by which to judge the people and to bring forth His chastisement and correction, i.e., judgment. The person raised up as the standard was not by any means perfect, but they sought to live their lives seeking to do God's Will, to follow God's Commands, Commandments, Precepts, Laws, and that which He spoke into their lives. Abraham, Moses, Joseph, David, and Daniel are only a few.

When we are in the middle of a bad situation, remember, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5c; "for the Lord thy God is with thee." Joshua 1:9c. In whatever circumstance we find ourselves remember that as we move to live in God's Will and as God positions us to live in His Will, life's circumstances, God's Holy Family, and all Creation will be moving upon us to make God's Will happen in our present day experiences. God has answered our prayers!

This means that things that we don't expect to happen will be happening. This also means that the enemies of God, realizing that we do not understand that God is perfecting His Will in our lives, plant seeds in our minds, hearts, and spirits of disbelief so we will not grasp Jesus' hand and know that the Lord is perfecting His Will in our lives and answering our prayers in accordance with His Will for our lives and the lives we touch.

Being the standard means we will go through God's refining fire which perfects His Will in our lives, so we can be the standard which He requires to execute His Precepts, Laws, Principles, and His Powers. Do not look at the specks in our neighbors' eyes, but remove the planks out of our own eyes. Our lives will then have the impact God wants on all of Creation.

FRUITION

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Telephone: (404) 734.7258 Email: eblessings@gmail.com **18 November** Fulfilling God's destiny is the most important thing we can possibly achieve in our life.

"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord ... that I may win Christ, and be found in Him ...That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings ...If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."

PHILIPPIANS 3:7-11 (KJV)

Destiny is what we are ready to die for. Destiny is God's calling, purpose, vision, intentions, plans, and strategies for our life. Destiny is God's Divine inheritance for us.

What hurts the Lord the most is when we do not function in our destiny. God will call Himself by our name when we walk in our destiny. The ability to fulfill destiny is connected with having a chronic hunger for the Lord.

Our destiny is connected with our gifts, talents, and what we do best through the grace the Lord has placed on the inside of us. Functioning in our destiny will start from our decision. We must follow our destiny by faith.

Our destiny is to know Him. Not knowing our destiny will bring demonic dependence and depression in our lives. God's destiny purifies us. If we will follow our destiny, we will have to pay the price, which is to destroy our self-centeredness.

The Cross is the key to our destiny.

DESTINY

Nikola Dimitrov

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Stara Zagora, Bulgaria, Europe Email: reformator@hotmail.com **19 November** Love the LORD with all Your Heart, Soul, Mind, Body, and Strength.

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word."

PSALM 119:9 (NIV)

How Can a Man Keep His Way Pure? In our world today, full of materialism and all kinds of opportunities to live life to the fullest, have you ever wondered, "How can I live a pure life for God?" All too often we have to agree with Paul when he said in Romans 7:15 and 20 "For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate." "But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me." It's obvious that we, as Christians, need to find out how to control the sin that dwells in us. As Christians, we are forgiven for our sins, but we know that the old nature still hangs around. We all know that we have committed our lives to God and want to please Him, but we are all too often disappointed when we fail to live up to this desire. All of us have a weakness or several weaknesses in our lives that we deal with on a continuing basis. So how do we overcome these weaknesses and live a life for God doing the things that please God? I think God's Word has the answer and it will take commitment and discipline from us to follow through on what God has told us.

In **Psalm 51**, David tells God what each of us has probably thought many times, "create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." We truly want to do what is right, we want to please God, but usually we keep falling and doing just the opposite. Psalm 119: 9 and 11 tells us "How can a voung man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word." "Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You." Memorizing God's Word is a big step toward living a pure life. What we put in our mind can be a big help, or a big hindrance, to living a life pleasing to God. Ephesians 4:22-24 tells us "that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth." We need to renew our mind and think on godly things, not worldly things. **Philippians 4:8** says that "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell (think) on these things."

PURE

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"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, so that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

JOHN 3:16 (KJV)

Are you really living like you really believe in God? In life, we believe what we want to believe. In the movie industry, there is a term called the "suspension of disbelief." This means they get you to believe the impossible. They get you to turn off your "disbelief" of a specific action, thought, event, or movie element. We believe something we have never experienced before. We stop saying, "I can't believe that," or "I don't believe that." when something ridiculously impossible occurs.

The enemies of God use this same technique in reverse. They attempt to turn off our belief—to get us to believe what we can touch, not what we can't see. What we see is real to us. When was the last time you touched love? Do you believe that angels exist? When was the last time you called on an Angel of God: Michael, Raphael, or Gabriel? Do we believe in God? Why keep living the way you do? Talking the way you do? Allowing children to starve, suffer, and die? You don't believe that there are fallen angels, demons, or enemies of God. Why don't you bind them, rebuke them and put them in place at work, at home, and at church?

One of the reasons we go through so much adversity in our lives is because the Lord is getting us to develop belief in Him and relationship with Him. We say we believe, but we don't act like we believe. The woman with the twelve year "issue of blood" believed her healing was to happen (not going to happen) if she touched Jesus. Don't live in a twelve year ordeal before you believe! Believe now! Be honest in your belief. Ask the Lord to help you in that area—He will.

You believe the floor will be there when you get up out of the bed. You believe the gas in your car will get to the motor and you believe without any understanding that your voice on the telephone will travel around the world in seconds. The spiritual world exits whether you want to believe it or not. Think in "belief" and change yourself. Speak in "belief" and change your neighbor. Act in "belief" and change your neighborhood. Live in "belief" and change the world! Believe that what is real—is real.

FAITH

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21 November Love the Lord with a Marital Love.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

EPHESIANS 5:31-32 (KJV)

Very often, we say, "I love Jesus! I love God!" In our prayers, we shout "Jesus, I love you!" "Lord, I love you." But the ultimate question we need to answer is this: "Why do I love Jesus? And how long will the reason for my love last? Brethren, we don't love Jesus simply because He died for us on the cross. If that is the case, a worldly philosophy will otherwise teach us one day that Jesus didn't die on the cross for us. We don't love Jesus simply because He went to prepare a wonderful place for us in Heaven. Otherwise, a materialist will argue to you that there are amazing places in the USA and other places all over the world, which you can enjoy now.

Brethren, we don't only love Jesus because He is able to heal us and to give us good health. Otherwise, rich people just like Michael Jackson and other famous people could have excellent doctors exclusively for themselves! Therefore, what shall we do?

OK, we love JESUS just because we love HIM! Nonsense? No, I love JESUS with a marital love; just like a woman loves her husband, and viceversa. I don't love my wife because she prepares good foods for me and helps me in my house. Not because she gives me children or does other tasks for me. I love my wife with love I cannot argue for! I love my wife for no specific reason. I love her since I took her to be my wife among all the other women and that is all! Of course, that is how we have to love Jesus and the accessory reasons could come in addition.

Paul said to the Ephesians "I am applying it to Christ and the church." Brothers and Sisters check your love for Jesus and find out what you are doing. LOVE JESUS NOW IN THE CORRECT WAY! Amen.

CORRECT WAY

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22 November *Make Christ your goal in life.*

"What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ."

PHILIPPIANS 3:8-9 (NIV)

Every life on this earth must have a goal. **Philippians 3:4–14** A goal must be achievable, attainable, and tangible. In this passage, Paul has made Christ his goal in life, because knowing Christ is the ultimate goal in life. There are three qualities that we see from our text that we can emulate: **Dedication, Desire, and Determination.**

- **1. DEDICATION. Philippians, 3:4-8** We need to dedicate our total lives to Christ; our thoughts, our plans, our emotions, etc. This means giving all your life to Him (Christ) to control. Today even many Christians even do not consult God in whatever they do. Their lives are in their own hands. Some have given the Lord part of their lives, but not all. It's impossible to divide yourself.
- **2. DESIRE. Philippians 3:9-11** We must also desire to know Christ more and better than any other thing in our lives, **2 Corinthians 5:9 --** the desire to know Him personally. To desire is to wish for, look for and fight for it. We have to do with having a good and intimate relationship with Christ and knowledge about Him. Many Christians know Christ only in their HEADS, but not in their HEARTS. Christ is not controlling their hearts--their hearts are far from the Lord. May you allow Christ to have a seat in your heart today. It means allowing Him to control your emotions, your will, and your mind.
- 3. **DETERMINATION.** Philippians 3:12–14 To make Christ your goal in life, there is the need to have a determination attitude. Christianity doesn't promise free launch or safe journey. We need to fight to make it. When God promised His people (children) the promised land, He didn't fight for them. They met many hindrances on their way. You will also face some hindrances on your way to achieve your goal, but don't give up. God wants His children to be determined. By God's grace you can do it. Ask Him for help today and He will give it to you.

GOAL

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23 November You can count on Jesus Christ. He is faithful.

"Thou shalt have no other god before me."

EXODUS 20:3 (KJV)

Everyone depends on someone or something in their life. People expect their cars to start when they turn the ignition. Husbands depend on their wives. Workers depend on their paychecks. We don't think twice about the air we breathe. People want cell phone service everywhere on the planet; no matter where they are!

In American society, we expect things: hot water, food in the grocery stores, clean water, air conditioning, running water, lights, ice, and other various luxuries! *We must be careful*. The only aspect of life which is guaranteed is **JUDGMENT!** (**Philippians 2:10-11**) Thus the GOD-Head should be first on our "to do list" every day.

There is no guarantee that our cars will start, or that our money will be in the bank when we check our bank account (I don't care if they told you it was direct deposit). That is not to say that we should not enjoy technology, family, or the first of the month. Instead, it means we must put our hope, faith, and love in **GOD**, **EMMANUEL**, and **The HOLY SPIRIT**!

Christians must keep GOD 1st always (**Matthew 6:33**). GOD is faithful; He will never abandon you if you serve Him only. (**Joshua 1:5**) You must keep GOD first because He created you. He knows everything about you. He knows what you are capable of doing, and He wants to protect us from ourselves. (**Galatians 5:17**) Thus, we should do His WORD, because He will keep us from unprofitable persecution. (**James 1:22**)

Can your car, job, brother, or bank account do that? I didn't think so. GOD wants the best possible outcome for our lives. So by keeping GOD first, we honor our faithful Creator. (1Peter 4:19)

FIRST

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24 November Time is equal for everybody, it does not have favorites. Use it today, so you can reap tomorrow.

"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

1 JOHN 5:11 (KJV)

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

JOHN 10:10 (KJV)

Usually the first thing that we hear when we are born again is that Jesus Christ died on the Cross for us so we can be reconciled to God. In other words, we learn the purpose for which Jesus was born was to die and be the perfect sacrifice; God's Lamb.

Have you asked yourself why did Jesus die at 33 years of age, and not at 10, for example? Let's see His prototype in the Old Testament. Abraham was ready to sacrifice his son, and Isaac was a child. What is this sacrifice showing? It shows the faithfulness of Abraham. When He was 10 or 15 years of age, was Jesus less than God? Of course not, He would be the perfect sacrifice as well.

But look at this from another angle. Jesus allowed God's life to flow from Him for 33 years. This was a time of constant communion between Him and His Heavenly Father. He allowed the life of the Father to fill Him, so He can reveal everything that the Father was doing. Jesus was giving away (sharing) the life that was in Him – He was healing, delivering and raising people from the dead. Yes, He came to die for us indeed, but also "to give life more abundantly." He Himself is "The Way, the Truth and the Life."

He was dead for three days, but was raised from the dead and now He is alive so He can give life. We, as His Christian followers, must act like Him – to want and to get filled with life from Him, so we can give it to the others around us. As the Father loved us and gave His Son for us, so we should want His life to fill us, so it can flow through us and so we can give it to others.

GOD'S LIFE

Genoveva Dimitrova "Righteousness, Peace, and Joy in the Holy Spirit" Apostolic Christian Center Bourgas, Bulgaria, Europe

25 November *Foolishness makes a man unclean and stink!*

"What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

MARK 7:20-23 (KJV)

FOOLISHNESS. How often we read from the scriptures only the things that we want to see. Our minds are so clogged by the traditional things we hear so often from the preachers in the pulpit that we seldom take time to go beyond the forty to forty-five minutes of the sermon.

In one passage that I read today, Jesus was explaining to the disciples the things that defile a man. Of these things that we generally call character flaws, Jesus says they make you stink. Jesus' list starts with evil thoughts and ends with foolishness. Does this not surprise you that He starts with the unseen and ends with the "unknown"? Foolishness is born out of ignorance, and ignorance is simply a rejection of knowledge.

In Hosea 4:6, God says "...because you have rejected knowledge I will reject you from being a priest." God is saying that those who reject knowledge, lack the credentials to minister to HIM on behalf of HIS people. Therefore they cannot function as priests. We cannot be intercessors if we lack wisdom. For us to function effectively in the kingdom, we must be knowledgeable and wise. We need to be informed, and in order to be informed and equipped, we must study to show ourselves approved.

How often we spend precious hours watching the television rather than spend time studying the Word of God. Study the Word of God, but also study books and supplemental material to broaden our understanding. "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness and wisdom." James 3:13 It is in our understanding of life and its purpose that the character flaws that Jesus mentioned in Mark 7:20-23 will give way to good conduct. Foolishness is called an evil thing and will cause us to lose respect and position. With help from God, let us be wise and not fools.

STUDY

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"Jesus said, "<u>Love the Lord your God</u> with all your <u>passion and prayer</u> and <u>muscle and intelligence</u>--and <u>love your neighbor as well as you do</u> yourself.""

LUKE 10:27 (Message Bible, modified)

We are to love God with all our passion, with all our life, all our muscle, all our intelligence. If we love God, we will love our neighbor. How do we love our neighbor? We must love our neighbor as we love ourselves. How do we love ourselves? We feed, clothe, exercise, and care for our bodies. How can we care for our family, our neighbor, our friends, our street, our community? These are all our neighbors.

When Jesus gave this commandment and spoke these words He saw that if we could not reach these people with the Gospel, the good news of life in Christ we had no love for them and no love for ourselves! How can we say we love God if we do not love our neighbor? How do we love our neighbor? By reaching them with the love and mercy of God!

God gave me a revelation concerning this and the Great Commission of **Acts** 1:8 that all power is given us to go into all the world and preach the gospel. We are to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. People have said, "Well, I don't have to do that. I don't have to go to the ends of the earth. I have to reach my Jerusalem and that is my neighbor, my street, my family, my community."

God showed me that this verse does not speak like that. Our neighbor is not included in this verse! When Jesus gave the first and second great commandment He dealt with reaching our neighbor! We cannot say we love God if we don't reach our neighbor! We do not love ourselves if we don't reach our neighbor.

NEIGHBOR

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27 November To enjoy a Spirit-filled, joy-filled life, and to be an effective witness for Christ, old sinful habits must be dropped and replaced with wholesome Godly habits.

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

EPHESIANS 4:29 (NIV)

Godliness. "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice." Ephesians 4:31

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

- 1. We must not put down, speak harsh words, or speak ill of family members or anyone else. To do so is not Christ-like. Instead, we must speak words to encourage and build up each other.
- **2.** To get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger (verse 31), we must ask the Lord to reveal to us any bad attitude, habits, any underlying guilt of the past, or hidden sins that might be the root cause of any sinful attitude or behavior. Wait in the presence of the Lord, and as He reveals the wrong and sinful motives, ask Him to forgive and cleanse you of these. Examine your life daily before God, and do what God asks you to do. It may be to ask forgiveness from your spouse or someone.
- **3. Forgive others** (verse 32). Replace anger and bitterness with compassion, kindness, and gentleness, and ask God to show you ways that you can help others find God's will for their lives. It is God's will for you to honor Him in all your ways, all the days of your life.

EFFECTIVENESS

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"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

HOSEA 4:6 (KJV)

Balance. Balance is important in life. Day and night, life and death, husband and wife, peace and war, sorrow and joy, storm and calm, man and woman, cold and hot, ying and yang, dusk and dawn, hate and love; the list can go on and on.

Know this; there is not balance in single parenting. This is not to say that single parenting is a bad thing, but it is unbalanced. God gave us balance. He also gave us the example of family or relationship balance in Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve, or Adam and Adam, not Eve and Eve, not Eve only or Adam only. Balance in nature, balance in life, balance in relationships, whether at home, work, school or play.

I am not gay-bashing or single-mother bashing. I want us to think about and consider balance in our lives; not only in relationship but in all aspects of our lives. Not eating too much, not watching too much television, not reading too many horror books, not going to too many sports events--balance. Not desiring the latest new fad or having too many boyfriends or girlfriends, not having sex every night in every position--balance.

Not going to church every time the doors open and letting your family go to hell; not believing every word the pastor is preaching, but reading your Bible-balance. Balance is a simple thing that has powerful implications. A tightrope walker who varies his or her balance the slightest degree can fall to his or her death. Examine your life and evaluate the spiritual, mental, and physical balances.

Life is a tightrope of sorts. If we move the wrong direction, it can mean your death, your family's death, and the death or your community. Balance in life is not only important but necessary!

SELF-CONTROL

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Telephone: (404) 734.7258 Email: eblessings@gmail.com 29 **November** There are times that we stand and wait listening for the word of God to direct our path in battle.

"There is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but who walk according to the Spirit."

ROMANS 8:1 (NKJV)

Levery fifth Sunday the children of our church minister in song and dance or drama skits. We have long practices on the Saturday before. This particular day, I had a lead part where several children were to follow my lead. We had all practiced, then the day arrived when we were to actually perform. We had word warriors that knew the Bible well. We had prayer warriors that have a heart to pray. And we had warfare warriors that know how to use the word as a sword and fight a good fight. My group were the warfare warriors and they did martial arts to demonstrate the point. As I had some of the younger children, I watched them closely and helped them along. At one point, one of them had made a mistake. He stopped, looked at me, knowing he had made a mistake, not knowing what he should do now. I looked at him and whispered "It is ok; just keep on going." He did as I had encouraged. We finished with grace.

In the moment that I whispered to that small boy I could hear the voice of the Lord speaking to us as individuals, whispering, "Hey, it's ok....just keep going." In our walk with the Lord we do just as that little boy. We make a mistake, we loose our place and forget what comes next. All too often we just stop and stand still. We recognize we have made the mistake and we repent, but we stop moving forward and we carry guilt, shame, and condemnation. Then Warrior King Jesus whispers to us as our great leader saying, "Hey, it's ok; just keep going . . .don't stop what you are doing, just follow me and embrace my grace. I am here. I am with you . . . You will finish the race." What wonderful encouragement that comes from the Lord.

We all make mistakes in our lives. Mistakes are part of life. We come to God in our imperfections. He loves us in them. We are not a perfect people. We are not the perfect church. But we can be a forgiven people and a forgiven church. God still embraces us. He knew we would make mistakes. He knew we would sin. That is why we have the wonderful Scriptures to hold on to. In 1 John 1:9 it says that "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." That is why we have no more condemnation.

This was a story of how a little child heard me say, "It's ok; just keep going." Perhaps the Lord is saying this today to you. Maybe there is something the enemy is holding over your head. He is trying to keep you in shame and regret when all you have to do is hear the Word of the Lord over you today. Come on my little warrior, just keep going with me; I will give you the victory battle plan, just follow me.

PERSEVERANCE

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30 November God bless everyone, the good and the bad, the happy and the sad.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

JOHN 3:16-17 (KJV)

At the sight of God, since our ancestors Adam and Eve disobeyed His will and ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, human beings have indulged in sin. However God loves sinners, even though He hates sin. Jesus Christ came to this evil world, not to condemn us, but to forgive us. His light shines from east to west. Whether you have believed in Him or not, He always keeps and sustains us. We are prodigal sons. God is waiting for our arrival. Repent, the kingdom of Heaven is coming.

I had been trapped in the valley of the shadow of death. Not a ray of light within it. But God had never forsaken me. I am a Chinese. Since I attended college at the age of 18, I began to pursue the truth. Which is the real life? Which is the truth? Once I became a Buddhist believer, I thought if I did more good deeds, I would gain the peace and happy life. But reality crushed my daydreams. On an unexpected day last year, I lost my job and my wife treated me as a stranger. I was in deep darkness. But God's will is good. Every night I read the Bible. I repented. I prayed. God's Word seemed like a lightning, splitting the sky.

Since then I found peace and joy in my heart. I could enjoy sweet dreams as if a baby sleeping in mother's hands. Praise God for lifting me up in trouble. When I walk on the streets in the morning, I often think how great God is. Though many people walking on the same streets do not believe in God, they are living well. God gave to some people health, to some - wealth, to some - bread, to some - peace, to some - joy, and to some - eternal life. Everyone is blessed by God. Everyone must thank God for the fact that he is alive today. Those who are weary must come to the Lord, for His burden is light. Let us wait for Him patiently.

GOD IS GOOD TO ALL

Wung Way

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1 December Still Chained to Your Past? You Must Start Afresh.

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

EPHESIANS 4:22-24 (NIV)

Mistakes, failures, and defeats in your past can hamper your spiritual growth. Never blame yourself about the past and allow it to control your thoughts. It can rob you of the joy that God intended for you. No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead. (**Philippians 3:13-14**)

If your life is haunted by memories, you cannot experience the freedom of spirit that is in your spiritual heritage. Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes. You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness--righteous, holy and true. (**Ephesians 4:23-24**)

The past may make you ashamed, but the glory that brightens the future outshines the darkness of the past and makes what was once deemed impossible gloriously possible. (John 3:3) When you remember the past you allow a worldly attitude to rob your highest goal in life. Such memories can cast unnecessary shadow over the present. If you think about the past, you are opening the doors of depression; you allow the past to determine the quality of your life.

Remember the past is history, the future is a promise; then the present time is really what you have. Whenever the devil reminds you of your past, remind him about his future; that he will die in hell for the rest of his life.

(2 Corinthians 5:14-21)

FORWARD THINKING

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2 December God is LOVE, able and kind. But we are all separated from God because of sin.

"For there is not a just man upon the earth that doeth good, and sinneth not."

ECCLESIASTES 7:20 (KJV)

Sin blocks the love of God to us and brings enmity between God and humans. Sin is bad and a disgrace to humanity; we cannot live in our sins and evil ways and expect good from God. Prayers, fasting, singing, and charities are the best way to come closer to God. And the best among all is charities to the less privileged. Let us practice good Christianity and help one another not only by financial purposes from our hearts, but by prayers, caring, advice, encouragement, love, and bearing one another's burdens and helping resolve each other's problems. There is no profit in sin and the Bible is clear while explaining it in **Romans 3:9-20.**

Salvation is our main purpose in the world, not riches. Let us seek God and live for Jesus Christ, the Son of God who cares for us and gave away His life on the cross for our sins. Salvation is important for all souls because this world is not our home. We are here just like people in a marketplace, then later we will all go home. What shall it profit a man if ye gain the whole world and lose your soul? (Mark 8:36) And no one can gain even a quarter of the world and yet he is perishing away. Without God in our lives, it is just as if we are nothing in this world.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith." Romans 1:16-17 Salvation is our purpose on earth and if God blesses you, remember your fellow brothers and sisters and care for them also. Charity is also the best way to serve God.

May the Peace, Love, Mercy, and Blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ be with every one of us now and forever. AMEN

CHARITY

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3 December Receiving as a blessing? No, Giving is a Blessing.

"I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive."

ACTS 20:35 (NKJV) (Acts 20:20-35)

I'm really thankful to God for being an instrument that God very often uses. Though I'm reluctant to write about giving. I'm bold enough to tell you the truth of God. As a fellow worker, I think of sincerely addressing the ministers of God. One of the primary qualities of a minister of God is to generously help people in need. (1 Timothy 3:3)

The message is not understood clearly here. And it's regretful to acknowledge that generally, ministers are well known for receiving more than giving. There are those kinds of ministers included that are eloquent in preaching, having sound knowledge, having great talents, being good at fundraising, and skillful in administration. But they are not known for generous living; generous giving. Before challenging others to give, ministers have to be role models ourselves in giving. Ministers are also called to be good examples of every good act.

There were times when Paul, the apostle, being a laborer in Christ's service, worked with his own hands and helped the weak. We well know the word: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." But generally, ministers' giving is only in preaching and writing. But can we look into the context and consider to whom it is actually addressed? It is to the ministers of God. If we read (Acts 20) we can get clear insight into what Paul, the minister of God said and did. Here Paul taught the ministers of the church to be generous givers. He especially was reminding the ministers, "It's more blessed to give than to receive." But today, ministers are the ones who will be receiving more from others. Frankly, it is commanded of the ministers first—to give.

This scripture applies primarily to the ministers and then to the believers of Christ. Ministers of God, can we raise up first to live a sacrificial life by generous giving? If yes, then no doubt the believers will learn the pleasure of giving to the poor and the Lord's service by seeing the good acts of the servants of the Almighty God. Jesus Christ is our model. Paul did follow His model and I am asking you to follow also. We ministers can also follow the model of Christ. Can't we? God give us grace. Amen.

MODEL

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"And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

MATTHEW 18:3-4 (KJV)

God wants us to be childlike, not childish. Childlike means the innocence of a child. It is also a part of the child that is trusting, forgiving and that loves unconditionally.

Childish means an immature spirit. This is the flesh of the body. It is also selfishness and a rebellious spirit.

"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

1 Corinthians 13:11

"Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men." 1 Corinthians 14:20

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." 1 Peter 2:2

God does not want us to stay little children. He wants us to grow maturely in Christ. However, He wants us to have childlike qualities: the part of the child that is innocent; the part that loves unconditionally, forgives easily, and has no malice in the heart.

CHILDLIKE

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5 December Information can be acquired through education, but Wisdom comes from the Lord.

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

MATTHEW 21:22 (KJV)

What Just Happened? Think about the last time you asked that question. More often than not, it was when something did not go the way you expected. Something happened which rocked (disturbed, interrupted) your world. It had an impact that was both unexpected and emotionally moving, either good or bad. Something just happened. Now the question is: What was it?

Things happen all the time, both positive and negative. It is important to know if it is positive, it is probably from the Lord and if it is bad, it is probably from the enemies of God. Check your perception of the event and check the short-term and long-term results of the event. This will give you a frame of reference for this event and future events like this one.

People make decisions all the time. Life is full of decisions. When one of these "What just happened?" events occur in your world, then before you make a decision, often a life-changing decision, determine what happened before you open your mouth and speak into the trouble which the event is creating. We can speak (plant seeds) of life into the event, or we can speak (plant seeds) of death into the event. Since most events involve people, then be sure to speak life into the lives of those involved.

When something happens that affects our world, pray to Jesus about it. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom in the situation. Do not let emotions rule the day, but the wisdom of God. Emotions will often take us down the wrong path and those emotions will soon dissipate. Use wisdom and logic to determine what each person's motivation is and what they gain from the action or inaction. Seek God and ask —What would Jesus do?

JUSTICE

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6 December Our life on this planet has one main purpose and that is for us to be witnesses for Him.

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

ACTS 1:8 (KJV)

These were the LAST words our Lord Jesus Christ pronounced before He was taken up to Heaven. When a person is about to say his last words, he is definitely going to say his best, his most important, his most intimate, and his most meaningful words, especially if he is going to say them to the next generation.

He is definitely going to focus on the HIGHEST PURPOSE. He will certainly not waste his words.

That's exactly what Jesus did when He said those words to the disciples. He released to them their highest purpose in life. He said, The Holy Spirit Himself would come upon them for this very purpose. He would entrust them with His power so they can fulfill that purpose. He would give them His abilities, His gifts and His fruit. He would be with them; He would protect them, help them, guide them, encourage them and comfort them.

What is that purpose? It is for us to become witnesses for Him to the ends of the Earth. It is to be carriers of His Glory, bearers of His Cross. It is to express His image to the world and bring in the Harvest that is ready and waiting for the laborers to gather it.

That's what we should focus on. That's our highest goal. That should be our global vision. That's why we are here on this Earth. And we can do it, because the Holy Spirit is with us.

WITNESS

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Stara Zagora, Bulgaria, Europe Email: reformator@hotmail.com 7 **December** "For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again:" Proverb 24:16

"But thou, O man of God flee these things and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness."

1 TIMOTHY 6:11 (KJV)

The Just Man. (Ezekiel 18:5-9) Is a man just? Is a man true? People in the world, and some Saints also have their own perception of what a "just man" is. The book of Ezekiel gives us guidelines to address any questions, even though this scripture is taken from the Old Testament. It gives the Saints a clear picture of what a just man should look like.

According to the scripture, the just man is a lawful man, (v.5) who follows GOD's law and the ordinance of man.

He is not an idolater (v.6) in any sense of the word, "Wherefore my dearly-beloved flee from idolatry." 1 Corinthians 10:14 Neither television, fame, promotion, nor drugs (alcohol), money, gold, or trophies are his idols. The just man doesn't lie with a woman who is unclean, nor with a woman who is not his good thing. (Proverbs 18:22)

He interacts fairly (v.7) with his fellow man without violence, beguiling, or treachery. (**Ephesians 4:26-27**) The needs of the less fortunate are before him, and he has compassion for the hungry. (**James 2:15-16**)

He lends without interest (v.8), and does not take what is not rightfully his. (Exodus 20:15)

His hands are clean, and if there be any confusion, the scripture tells us that he walks in GOD's statutes (v.9) and judgments!

Thus we know that CHRIST Jesus is the example for ALL SAINTS to follow. Yet, like the virtuous woman, the just man reveals the guidelines for a man that GOD *says* is just.

THE JUST MAN

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8 December

The Word of God tells us that there is a name that is above every other name, Jesus (Christ), the Anointed One. (Philippians 2:9) Only through calling on this name is salvation experienced. (Acts 4:12)

"Bartimaeus, a blind man sat by the roadside begging. His disciples, and a huge crowd followed, as Jesus was leaving the city of Jericho on his way to Jerusalem. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!""

MARK 10:47-48 (NIV)

Mark 10:47-48; 51-52, (NIV). "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said "Rabbi, I want to see." "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road. (51-52)

The blind man, in his desperation called out to Jesus. He shouted, and many people tried to quiet him down, but he shouted all the more, for Jesus to have mercy on him. (47-48) Jesus heard his cry for help, stopped, and sent to call him. Many times, we worry over trivial matters, the cares of the day, the problems we might be facing. We may worry about the burdens that seem to be weighing us down, and while these concerns become our focus for many hours in a day, and sometimes many days, we forget there is One on whose Name we can call for help, the name JESUS!

Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted Him to do for him, to which the blind man replied that he wanted to see. Jesus said to him, "your faith has healed you," and immediately he received his sight. (51-52) Our enemy, the devil, will at times try to use others, or things, to distract your attention away from calling on the NAME of Jesus, but you must be the more determined to call upon that Name, the only Name through which you will receive forgiveness and cleansing of your sins, or healing if you are ill. What do you want Jesus to do for you? God cares about what you might be going through. You can come to Him through Jesus' name. Bartimaeus was desperate! Is he saying to you, "hurry up and go to Jesus?"

JESUS

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9 **December** God will speak through whomever He pleases. Listen and Obey. God is Faithful to the Obedient.

"Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, BUT SAID, THE LORD REBUKE THEE."

JUDE 1:9 (KJV, modified)

As a person I am a messenger of God. I am to do what I am told. "Then spoke Haggai the LORD's messenger in the LORD's message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the LORD." Haggai 1:13 Messengers do not change or amend letters they are sent to deliver. (1 Chronicles 21:9-13) All my words should show that I am the messenger.

Pride should not overtake me. Good messages that come through my mouth are from God. Good works that pass through me are from God and not from me. "But it is good for me to draw near to GOD: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works." Psalm 73:28 I do not want any praises from mankind. Even Angels are messengers. (1Chronicles 21:18) I am worth nothing. I carry words from the Almighty. "As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before they face, which shall prepare thy way before thee." Mark 1:2

I agree I am like all other brothers and sisters no matter what. "The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works." Psalm 145:9 The word comes from God Almighty and not from you or me. "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. Malachi 2:7 God sends His Word through His messengers.

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts." Malachi 3:1

MESSENGER

Tichadii J. Ziwenga, Bible teacher Greater Bible Way Gospel Church 54 Tsukukuwiri Road, Zengeza 1 Zimbabwe, Africa Email: tichadii@vahoo.co.uk **10 December** Before uncovering/exposing the wrongs and woes of another, make certain you have nothing to hide!

"As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God."

DEUTERONOMY 8:20 (KJV)

Inside, Outside, and Beside SELF. Contrary to the way most of society has been reared, which is to look out for self first and self most, this is *not* GOD's Way. This beast of human nature is called *selfishness*. The instinct that all people are born with is survival instinct, or self-preservation. As we go about in our day to day lives, being consumed by worry, anxiety, and stresses of every kind, we tend to be lead and mislead by what we see in the natural, while walking by faith just gets pushed aside because of pride of life and circumstances.

When we think of others more than ourselves, then we are on God's agenda. God says to love our neighbors/brothers as ourselves, not more or less than ourselves. **Romans 13:8, Matthew 5:43-44.** God's love for humanity is a demonstration of functioning outside self. God has given us free will to choose life instead of death, blessings instead of cursing. As God's hands extended, we are to give to others out of what we have. We are called to be an OUTREACH to the world, not an IN-REACH.

Last but not least, those of us (all of us from time to time) get *beside ourselves*. When getting beside ourselves, we behave contrary to our norm -- usually in times of adversity. However, getting beside ourselves is deemed *double-mindedness!* The word of God clearly states that "A double-minded man is unstable in all of his ways." James 1:8 (KJV) So, conduct a Spiritual evaluation today: Are you *Inside Self*, (SELFISH), *Outside Self* (God's Hands Extended), or *Beside Self* (Double Minded)?

Our motivation serves as a *landmark*. A landmark serves as a boundary mark, as a guide; a distinguishing fact or event; a milestone or a TURNING POINT! A landmark lets you know where you have been, where you are going, and where you currently are. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you your SELF-MOTIVATION!

LANDMARK

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11 December There are Countless Thousands who can Benefit from Your Over-Abundance. Share to Show You Care.

"Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee ahungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?"

MATTHEW 25:44 (KJV)

Giving From Equality. (2 Corinthians 8:13-15) It is not that there may be relief for others and hardship for you, but it is a question of equality. At the present time, your surplus is available for their need. Their abundance may also become available for your need, that there may be equality. As it has been written: the person who gathered much did not have too much, and the person who gathered little did not have too little.

The fourteen-year civil war in Liberia has not only destroyed lives and property, but has left severe poverty in the lives of average Liberians. The economic standard of living has deteriorated to the extent that average Liberians exist on one daily meal only. This constrains girls to prostitute for survival. Many hardly get a single daily meal. The situation has grown to the extent that sometimes many children and adults pick in the garbage while others have become child soldiers which results in many becoming handicapped, drugs-addicts, while others even lose their lives.

Life and survival has become very difficult as children are now laboring as parents because of the economic hardship. You can change the destiny of a child or a person with your giving. If we are not born with it, where does generosity come from? Generosity is the result of God's grace in our lives. (Romans 12:8) Giving is described as a gift of the Spirit--a divine enablement. God enabled the Macedonian Christians to financially assist the destitute Christians who they did not personally know. You may not personally know to whom you are giving, but you are changing the destiny of someone. Christians in the Western world often do not lack the essentials of food, clothing, or shelter, so this may be strange in their minds, but the truth of the matter is that average Liberians are dying of starvation each and every day and their needs are astonishing. You can make a difference.

HELP

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12 December What does your glass of water look like?

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass."

JAMES 1:22-23 (KJV)

God's Spirit spoke to my spirit and told me how most Christians are. He said if you take a clean clear glass and pour in clean water, it is pure and clean. It is like a person that has first given his heart to Jesus. "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

Luke 10:19

If you take this glass and never drink it and just set it aside, it becomes stagnant. Just like a Christian that gets saved and never reads the Bible, never uses the power of God and never become a disciple of Jesus Christ. They are like that stagnant glass of water. If you leave the glass of water there long enough bacteria grows in it. "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." John 9:4

If we are not soldiers for Christ, we will soon allow sin into our lives and corrupt our hearts and turn us away from Christ. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

God is telling us it is time to get off the pew and start doing His work. If we never apply His word in our hearts and do His work, we cannot grow. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." John 14:12 It is time to put on the whole armor of God and become His disciple. "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness." Colossians 1:10

Disciple - A disciple of Christ is one who (1) believes His doctrine, (2) rests on His sacrifice, (3) imbibes His spirit, and (4) imitates His example.

DISCIPLE

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13 December Those who purposely deceive are themselves deceived, confused, and move in disobedience.

"Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."

ROMANS 8:12-13 (KJV)

Healing starts at home. Both spiritual healing and physical healing starts at home. Your healing starts with you; not with a spiritualist or your preacher, but with you. God in you is your hope of your healing! This is how to receive God's healing, peace, joy, and love for you and the fullness of a relationship with God. 1) Ask the Lord Jesus Christ to be your personal Savior. John 3:16. 2) All the things which you used to do that were wrong, selfish, bad, or evil, you have to stop doing. This means now; not next week or tomorrow. 3) You have to make a list of everyone who you have ever harmed, who you have hurt, who you have a grudge against. You have to go down that list one by one. Take one person at a time and go to them, physically if possible, and ask their forgiveness. Anyone and everyone living or dead, ask out loud for their forgiveness. Tell them that you apologize for the wrong you have done and ask for their forgiveness. This gets easier the more you do it.

While you are in this process, **4**) remove from your life: A) too much salt, B) too much sugar, C) too much work, D) too much television, E) gossip, mocking, picking at people, F) covetousness, greed, avarice, G) bitterness, hatred, prejudice (even for your enemies--that is a trap of the enemies of God), H) anything bad for the body (**1** Corinthians **6:19**) done in excess like beer, food, alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or sex needs to be brought in line with the Will of God.

While you are in this season, continue in 5) prayer, studying the Bible, praise, and worship. Attend church. Help someone! Be happy and make plans. Praise the Lord for what He is doing and what He has done in your life. You ARE on the road of recovery and you ARE being healed every day and you ARE healed. So thank God for your healing. When the enemies of God come to steal your healing by telling you that you do not have to do what is outlined above, consult God or Jesus and bind them in the Blood of Jesus and continue down the road to YOUR HEALING. Peace!

PERCEPTION

James Anthony Allen, Evangelist eBlessings.us Founder Stone Mountain, Georgia, USA, North America Email: eblessings@gmail.com 14 December Needy Yourself? Help Someone Else Anyway.

"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

PHILIPPIANS 2:4-5 (KJV)

As a pioneer missionary, I have visited a lot of places and have met a lot of people. One day I was traveling by train towards my ministry field. At a railway station I got down to fill my water bottle when the train stopped. A neatly dressed gentleman about 60+ started crying for help. I wanted to help him because he needed me. He had lost his money purse and needed money to get back home. That's what he pleaded to me. In the meanwhile, the train started moving, I gave him \$1+ US Dollar [50Rupees] though I didn't have much money either. The offering was wonderful, meeting his need. The man offered me a blessing in return. I told this event to my friends on the train. They had a big laugh and I was told that it was a regular trick played on unassuming people. I felt cheated, but on second thought, I felt that what I had done was a good gesture to help someone in distress. My intention was to help out and I did what any good person should have done. Even in a society full of tricksters and cheats, let us not forget personal emotional responses. The \$1+US Dollar [50Rupees] I gave away was not a loss but a big gain. In my heart of hearts, I felt that I had helped someone.

One of the ways God teaches us to love others is by cheerfully reaching and helping them in their need. Of course it's not an easy thing to joyfully help others with our resources as we struggle with selfishness and selfish ambitions within us. But those who are willing to follow Jesus must learn the act of giving, by denying their focus on themselves.

Let's examine ourselves. Do we practice selfless acts of love and care in our lives? God wants us to learn the grace of selflessness--giving to the needy people. Don't you know if He wills, God can shower His provision upon the needy from heaven? But He chooses to give us the privilege. Learn to give. By this act of kindness we learn to share His love with others. Let us give when we do not have enough for ourselves. We can always give when we have. May your attitude be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Amen.

KINDNESS

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Telephone: 00909440234218 Email: zsandra@rediffmail.com **15 December** Be not guilty of receiving more grace and tolerance from God than we are willing to administer to others.

"JUDGE me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide.

PSALM 26:1 (KJV, modified)

HALLELUJAH!! Anyhow. Everyone comes to pivotal turning points in life. Everyone faces crisis, challenges, heartache, loss, anxiety, and calamity of some sort. As the elders say, if you haven't yet, just keep on living. "Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there were none; and for comforters, but I found none." (Psalm 69:20) When troubles approach and come upon us a like a flood, we are still required to give God all the glory, simply because HE is God and is far greater than every circumstance and situation. When all hell breaks loose, shout with a voice of triumph: HALLELUJAH! Anyhow! When we give God steadfast praise despite our problems, quagmires, and dilemmas, GOD surely takes notice. "Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed." (Psalm 37:3) "But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil." (Proverb 1:33)

When we, as children of the Most High God, truly trust and believe that HE alone is all seeing, all knowing, and has plans to do us good and not evil- our foundations will not be shaken, if and only if our foundations are built on Him, the rock that shall not crumble. HALLELUJAH!! anyhow. "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world, ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) The next time adversity strikes, shout HALLELUJAH!! anyhow. "I shall bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." (Psalm 34:1)

GOD's grace and mercy endures forever. When we rise up and offer praises and thanksgiving unto GOD in the midst of the storms, it both confuses and defeats the enemy. Lifting up our cares and troubles to God may not be easy, but HE is in control. There is no need to worry about things that are too big, too difficult, things we have no control over. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all." (Psalm 34:19) HALLELUJAH!

BREAKTHROUGH

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Email: cfvelas@hotmail.com or cfvelas@yahoo.com Stone Mountain, Georgia, USA, North America 16 December A person is only as honest and trustworthy as when they are alone; God sees all and hears all.

"A hypocrite with *his* mouth destroys his neighbor; but through knowledge shall the just be delivered."

PROVERBS 11:9 (KJV)

Stop wearing your old ways! We have told ourselves that we are going to live life differently. We have made a new commitment to our Christian walk, with our relationship with God. We have affirmed with our hearts, minds and souls to make a new and different life. But something is wrong... I keep doing the same old things. Why?

What is wrong? Physiologically, people are "creatures" of habits. It has been proven that if human beings are given a task to do, if you get them to do it twenty-one (21) days in a row than people form habits concerning that action. Yes, that's right, it is proven, do a thing **21 days** in a row and it is a habit... **It sticks like glue to you!**

I believe this reality is used (prostituted) by the enemies of God against us. They use us against ourselves—that is how they use our power against us. We empower them if we live wrong. If we do a bad thing for 21 days; if an enemy of God can get us to think (believe), move (do an action), or talk (speak death) a particular way for 21 days, then they do not have to continue with us (dwell in us, dwell with us, or be among us) all the time. They will leave and get into someone else's life for at least 21 days and create negative behavior in them (actually we create the negative behavior, not them; they just give us input). Then they leave and find the next "willing" candidate (someone who has opened spiritual doors in their lives by their negative thinking, action, or speech) who will be subject to the enemies of God for at least a 21-day period.

This way the enemies of God, of Christ, of the Holy Spirit, and your enemies do not have to dwell with you all the time. They come and go. When they go, when you see your son, daughter, or husband acting normal, that is when you again pull out the Holy Water or Holy Oil and anoint their room(s), their clothes, their car(s), truck(s), and anything you can think of that they will touch. So when the enemy comes back, there will not be a place for them. You or they have been doing the wrong thing for so long that it can be difficult to let go. **Let go and let God!**

CHARACTER

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17 December Actions and deeds are stemmed from what is rooted in the mind and heart.

"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye."

COLOSSIANS 3:13 (KJV)

We need to feed our minds with the word of God. We need to keep our minds on heavenly things and remember: "You have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind of the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry." Colossians 3:1-3,5 (NIV)

When Jesus was here on earth, he used the Word of God to defeat satan. Obviously, he had to know the Word and have the Word in His mind so it was readily available. In **Luke 4**, we read of the temptation of Jesus and how He defeated the enemy by speaking the Word. If we memorize the Word and have it in our minds, we are able to defeat the devil when he attacks us.

In Joyce Meyer's book: "Battlefield of the Mind", she has called our mind a battlefield. How true that is. Our minds are constantly being bombarded by worldly ways, selfish desires and wants, and just about anything that would make us happy. Unfortunately, most of the time, what makes us happy is not pleasing to God. Romans 8:5-6 says, "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." Luke 6:45 This shows us that what we put in our minds (hearts) is what will come out in our actions: "the good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart (mind).

INHERITANCE

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18 December One Must Have A Mission in Life

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me."

ISAIAH 6:8 (KJV)

Everyone is called for a purpose in life. Jesus was a man with a mission. God sent Him to bring the message of love, hope and salvation through the cross. When Jesus had tasted it, He said, "it is finished." John 19:30 That was what God wanted Him to do.

The secret of successful living is to work constructively towards a positive goal. To each and every church, family, society, and organization you have a duty to God and to yourself to be the very best at all times. Do not be content to lead a second rate life, but be determined to live to the maximum of your ability. Let His will become your mission in life. You will experience a deep sense of satisfaction and fulfillment. Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work." John 4:34

God has a purpose for each one of us in His own way. He makes that purpose known. We need to remain open-minded and sensitive to the prompting of His spirit so that he can lead us in God's way and give us the strength to carry out His wishes. "The Lord took hold of me, and I was carried away by the spirit of the Lord to a valley filled with bones." Ezekiel 37:1-14

Jesus has demonstrated the manner in which you are required to persevere as you go about God's business. God in His power will give you the ability to fulfill your mission, too. And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose. **Romans 8:28**

MISSION

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19 December

God cares. We have to care also; not only about ourselves, but others, especially the widows and the orphans.

"But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me."

LUKE 10:40 (KJV)

Who Cares? We are so quick to accuse God! Adam did it in the Garden, saying to God, "The woman You put here with me, she gave me some fruit from the tree." (Genesis 3:12 NIV) And the disciples in the stormtossed boat asked Jesus, "Teacher, do You not care if we perish?" (Mark 4:38)

And now Martha, distracted with her noble intentions, frazzled by the housework, blames Jesus, "Do you not care?" When things don't go our way, sometimes we point fingers at God. "How could You let such a thing happen, God?"

It seems as if we believe we deserve a life free from sorrow. And when we have problems, we become angry at what we see as divine 'carelessness.' And yet it is God who cares the most. If we wonder about God's genuine concern for our ultimate good, we have only to look to Christ's cross. There we see our merciful God caring so much for us that He gave the life of His only Son to redeem us from our sins, including our distractions with the cares of the world.

When our lives do not go as we wish, and we are tempted to accuse God of not caring, we must remember the cross and know that God will always care for us. We must remember Christ's promise, "I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28:20)

CARING

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20 December Good health is the precious commodity that promotes physical, spiritual, mental, and financial well being.

"But when Jesus heard *that*, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what *that* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

MATTHEW 9:12-13 (KJV)

Triggers. What we see, taste, smell, touch, and what we hear triggers our imaginations. Our senses trigger what we see in our imaginations, both consciously and subconsciously. These triggers (input to our senses), engage (start in motion) Emanation. Emanation is an issuing forth from a source. God is the source and we are the catalysts for change.

God has placed in us the ability to imagine a thing and make that thing happen. This is a power of God—Emanation.—A power of God in us.—Jesus said that we could do what He did and more. **John 14:12** Emanation is how. That ability of God in us is called Emanation.

God imagined an environment (which He hadn't yet made) in which to place His redemption for mankind (Jesus) and this place is the universe in which we live. "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light." **Genesis 1:3** Emanation is God's creative power in us.

Words trigger our minds' eye with visuals which motivate us logically (mentally), move us emotionally (spiritually), and carry us physically (direction) in a specific lifestyle. The words may be our own, from television, radio, CD's or from our friends. Our minds are fertile ground for the seeds of words to grow and the fertilizer is what we do with those words through Emanation, which God has placed in our being.

Let what we see be positive. Let our thoughts be positive. Positive thoughts manifest positive actions and emanate God's Perfect Will in His Kingdom. Let our thoughts, words and deeds be positive and serve all of God's Creation fulfilling His Divine Purposes and Will in His universe.

TEMPERANCE

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21 December God Almighty's LOVE is the gift that keeps on giving!

"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight:"

COLOSSIANS 1:21-22 (KJV)

Grace: when you get what you do not deserve! The One who was hurt came and made peace. It is thoroughly amazing though it was man who had betrayed the confidence thrust on him in the garden, that it was man who had thoroughly gone astray, because of his self-seeking and self-indulgence. Man turned his back on God and His creation. Mankind sought after images made by their very own minds and hands. Yet God, in His infinite mercy is the One who came to make peace for man's wrongdoing.

Even when people, after coming to the knowledge of salvation, turn their backs on God Almighty and seek after their own ways, it is *still* God that draws us back to Him, time and time again! Is it *not* God who said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."? (Hebrews 13:5) "Oh the love that drew salvation's plan, Oh the grace that brought it down to man!" For while we are still sinners, Christ died for us.

"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." Romans 5:10 This is GRACE...AMAZING GRACE.

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Hebrews 4:16 Not only will we obtain mercy, but we will find grace—unmerited favor in times of need. Come to the Throne of Grace today.

GRACE

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22 December The truth of God's Word is THE ONLY thing that can completely set us free.

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

HEBREWS 4:15-16 (KJV)

When our conscience is not clear, we are trying to run away from the Lord. That's because we are walking with a sin consciousness. Sometimes people try to "help" us get into that wrong position. Like the three "friends" of Job, they tell us their stories, their achievements, their comparisons only to get us further away from the Lord.

The Bible says though, in the above scriptures, that our great High priest is well able to be touched with the feelings of our infirmities, because He had been in our place. He had endured every temptation we will ever face and therefore He is always gracious and compassionate towards us.

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:15-16 (NIV)

So, we should not be running away, but always running towards Him, boldly coming before His throne of grace and holding firmly the profession of our faith. Then and only then will we be walking in His grace, mercy and freedom

FREEDOM

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23 December *Eternity is not a destination, but a continuous journey.*

"And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all they soul, and with all they strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself."

LUKE 10:27 (KJV)

The 11th Commandment. If the Lord wanted us to have an eleventh Commandment, then He would have given it to Moses. One would believe it to be: "Give your tithes and offering every time you go to church." There is no eleventh commandment, but it would probably be **Mark 12:30**. The Lord spoke to me one Sunday and said as clear as day, "Beware of those who place tithes and offerings before the Ten Commandments." I am a believer in paying tithes and offerings; paying over that which is described in the Bible, ten percent of "first fruits" and an offering from your best. But in today's church, things are out of control. You hear, "The Lord told me to have 1,000 people bring me an offering of \$1,000." Or "Put your tithes and offering on your credit card." And there are ATM machines in some church lobbies. I wonder why? Is God happy? Did the Holy Spirit really say that? If giving "tithes and offerings" was on the forefront of God's mind, they would be on the stone tablets given to Moses. Be more concerned with following the TEN COMMANDMENTS (Exodus 20); they are still in effect. Grace, mercy, Christ Jesus, and before that-the Big Ten! People say giving "tithes and offerings" are a covenant. They represent an element of our covenant, not the covenant; covenants are made to leaders. A few are the Noahic covenant, the Abrahamic covenant, the Mosaic covenant, the Davidic covenant and the covenant Jesus Christ makes with us as our Savior.

Paying land, fruit and animal tithes is a Levitical commandment (**Leviticus 27:33**). We must follow God's Ten Commandments first and foremost. **Deuteronomy 28** tells what happens if we do or do not follow God's Commandments. If we violate the Big Ten and pay our tithes and offering, we still have violated God's Law. "GIVING" tithes and offerings is like "REAPING and SOWING" which are precepts, which respond to "cause and effect." You do this and that happens. Anyone good or evil can "give" and they will "reap" benefits; cause and effect. The violation of the Big Ten will have its effect in God's own time, but initially God's Precepts will be in action. Remember, the 11th Commandment is not "tithes and offering," and if there was an 11th Commandment, it could also be the first and great commandment according to Jesus: **Matthew 22:37.**

OBEDIENCE

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24 December *Man in his infinite wisdom amounts to vanity of works, action, and deeds.*

"This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic."

JAMES 3:15 (NKJV)

An and his wisdom. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, and devilish. The smartness of men and women is of no value in getting the blessings of God. Our education minus Christ is our frustration. If Christ is absent in our lives, there is a lot of crisis. There had been a time when Isaac would be in the presence of God and asking what the will of God is. (Genesis 24:63) But things are changing now. What a family. A selfish, pleasure-seeking father. A deceitful mother. A carnal minded Esau and a cheating Jacob.

Isaac told Esau to furnish him with a meal. Rebekah and Jacob heard about what was to take place and they changed the situation around. (**Genesis 27:1-8**) Isaac didn't realize any part of this plan. It was very surprising that Isaac, who was spiritual, wanted to give the spiritual leadership of the family to Esau, who did not care about the spiritual privileges of Abraham's generation, only about the name of food.

Though Jacob gained the blessings, it was at the price of great suffering and hardship. Jacob was supposed to do better by leaving his future or life in the hands of God. God has said that Esau was to serve Jacob. Jacob could have trusted God to bring the promise to reality. You might even try to do God's will in deceitful ways but it will do no good. Jacob brought to himself great suffering. He had to run and lost his membership in the family for several years. He didn't see his mother again. If God promises us a blessing, He can be trusted to bring it to us. It doesn't matter how long it may take. Our deceitful ways are not needed. If we get it prematurely, we will only bring upon ourselves delay and suffering. For the vision is set for an appointed time. Though it may delay, let us wait for it. For it will surely come. (Habakkuk 2:3)

PROMISE

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25 December God grants us Supernatural Power to Work in the 21st century.

"And God said unto Moses, I AM that I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." EXODUS 3:14 (NKJV)

The world is sensual in orientation and scientific in thinking. Therefore the only way to command their attention is to do something they cannot do. The supernatural is very important in the church, not just because it's natural with the church but because it's one thing that gets the world's attention. Interest in the spiritual realm is on the increase and the appetite for the extraordinary is continually growing. Now, many of the so-called educated people in the great, industrialized countries of the world are trying their hands on the negative supernatural such as witchcraft, magical arts, and mind religion.

The reason isn't far fetched. They've discovered that there's something beyond science. They now understand that there's more to what we feel and see. But the more they dabble into such things, the more the organized church says, "We don't need the supernatural, let's just read the Bible." That's ludicrous! The message we preach is more than words; it's a demonstration of power. (1 Corinthians 2:4) It's supernatural. This power cannot be delivered by oratory excellence. It can only be demonstrated by the miraculous. A man brings out a book and calls it the Koran. The Buddhist brings out his own. The grail messenger brings out his own. Even the occultist brings out theirs. How do you convince all these people that your Bible is the true Word from God?

Moses stood before the pharaoh and cast his rod on the ground and it turned into a serpent. The pharaoh was unmoved because he was used to such 'magic.' His magicians did it all the time to entertain him. His magicians came with their rods and cast it down on the ground before Moses and their rods became serpents as well. But when Moses' serpent swallowed theirs up before their eyes, they knew that Jehovah was God. There has to be some proof of the resurrection power of the Lord Jesus Christ. The proofs are the miracles performed in His Name. This is the twenty first century, lets show the world twenty-first century miracles so they'll know our God is alive in the twenty-first century. (**Hebrews 13:8**) Without the supernatural, your Bible won't be different from any of those religious books! We can't just talk about the miracles in the Bible; we must perform miracles in our days in Jesus' Name. Hallelujah! Your generation is waiting for you.

SUPERNATURAL POWER

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26 December Do whatever you do to the best of your ability, aiming towards excellence in God, not the perfection of man.

"For the Scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this purpose have I raised thee up, that I might show my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth."

ROMANS 9:17 (KJV)

 $\mathbf{Balance} - \mathbf{2}$. Balance is a prerequisite in life. Wherever we lack balance in one area of our lives, it spills over into other areas. For example: We as people of God, especially *SPIRITUAL WARRIORS*, may want to help and save everyone we come across with a problem or crisis. However, in error of judgment, lack of discernment, or being immature or naïve in the Body of Christ we can easily get ensnared in the visible and invisible traps of the enemy.

Before we, as believers, go off on a "Holy Crusade" to wage war against the powers of darkness and all ills and woes of the world, we must make sure that God Almighty is directing our paths and we are following His instructions while being led by the Holy Spirit. When we lack follow-through and commitment, we may injure those that we may desperately desire to help. We must be keen in recognizing if the person we desire to help is his own worst enemy. Although we may be well meaning, unfortunately, we are unable to rescue a person from himself or herself and their patterns of destructive behavior that are often self-induced. In such cases, only the Holy Spirit can break off the bondage, deliver them, and set them free. Pray always and do not enable them in their disobedience to the Lord, to you and your family.

In the interim, we must make certain that while we are busy with kingdom works, we are not glorifying the flesh through selfish motives and hidden agendas. First and foremost, we must be diligent as believers in the body of Christ to serve as faithful stewards over those things that God has entrusted us with, primarily our own families. When we put God first, family second, and the church next, we are then in a better position to assist others—our house is in order. In the Bible, 1 TIMOTHY 5:8 states: "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." {Infidel -- origin: Greek – apistos: heathen, unbeliever}.

AWARENESS

Cheryl Ford Velasquez eBlessings.us

Stone Mountain, Georgia USA, North America Email: cfvelas@hotmail.com or cfvelas@yahoo.com **27 December** We must declare the Gospel by our way of life.

"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."

ROMANS 12:9-10 (NIV)

Let LOVE BE GENUINE, HATE WHAT IS EVIL, hold fast to WHAT IS GOOD, LOVE ONE ANOTHER with mutual affection; OUT DO ONE ANOTHER in showing honour. (ROMANS 12:9-10)

"To whom much is given, much is expected," so says an age-old adage. Having been a privileged beneficiary of such a salvation through grace, it is our priority and our most absolute duty to be ready in order to give all that it takes to represent Christ in our society. Our lives should not be lived on more ritual activities, but rather in conscious obedient service to God. There should be practical demonstration of the Gospel through our daily lives as Christ's ambassadors on earth. People must see Jesus in action in us.

As a matter of fact, consecration of one's body is a crucial foundation of practical Christianity. For Jesus has come for a cause: To save all of mankind by making himself nothing, taking the nature of a servant, humbling himself up to the death on a cross; by so doing, we, free, received the precious salvation. God's will is to see that everybody gets saved. That's why each of us, as little Christs, must realize that to beam the Gospel is our first and last priority even though we might have to die for it. People can only be saved if we connect them to Jesus. Therefore, it is obvious that we are to offer our lives as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. It is important for a Christian's life to be consistent with the Gospel message. Let's hate what is evil with all of our strength. Let's love one another. Let's be united with Christ. Let's be like-minded. Let's be one in spirit and purpose. The whole world of darkness will be engulfed and overwhelmed by the power of the Holy Spirit through the word of God in us.

As Christians, we must be ready to forgo worldly pleasures for Christ's sake. Our main focus should be how to please God in our day-to-day lives. We are part of one body (Christ's body), so be humble enough to accommodate others by cooperating with them in the things of God. Christians' lives are the Bibles that unbelievers read, therefore, we should be careful not to give a wrong impression of the Gospel. Let people see Jesus in you.

CHRISTIANITY

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28 December Do all things in a spirit of love.

"Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,"

1 PETER 1:22 (NKJV)

Discerning and Wisdom. Imagine three people. Person #1 is talking badly about person #2 to person #3. What is person #2 to do? This is a case where your friend or your acquaintance is now your "enemy" or no longer your friend because they are talking behind your back spreading lies. What do you do? This wisdom and discernment is for you.

- 1) Ask the Holy Spirit to tell you what to do and say in your situation. (Matthew 21:22)
- 2) Operate in a spirit of love, not bitterness, hate, envy, jealousy, prejudice, etc. (Galatians 6:1) Love one another with a pure heart. Know that your former friend is a victim of the enemies of God. They are moving in "nastiness" -- moving like a snake. (John 8:44)
- 3) Know that if person #2 tries to tell person #3 that person #1 is spreading lies, accusations and division, then person #3 will go to person #1 to check out what you said. Person #1 will do what? Lie.

Know that you must be living right and **Matthew 5:11.** In situations which frustrate us or cause us pain or sorrow, use the Word for resolution. In any situation, as person #1, #2, or #3, use the Bible to find your way through the darkness. If what is being spoken is evil, then it is not from the Lord. The enemies of God are accusers of the brethren, (**Revelation 12:10**) They lie, deceive and cause division in relationships.

Person #2 must find scripture to say to person #3 that is directed to person #1, which relates to the particular situation. Person #2 must realize that person #1 is a victim of the enemies of God; therefore pray for them and their release. (**Luke 18:1**) Pray for person #3 because they are not mature enough spiritually to discern the deceit, lies and division. Everyone involved is a child of God and must be treated as such.

Remember, if it is moving like a snake, hisses like a snake, it is a snake. Put your heel on the snake and release the victim(s). Call it what it is and treat it accordingly. Know them by their fruit. (Matthew 7:20)

COUNSEL

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29 December God is our Shield. God is your Shield.

"After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.""

GENESIS 15:1 (NKJV)

How powerful those words must have sounded to Abram (later renamed Abraham). Abram had been given a promise by God, but as yet that promise had not been fulfilled. And perhaps Abram was beginning to doubt his role in God's plan. But God reassured Abram; "I am Your Shield."

Are you in need of assurance from God today? "And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end." Hebrews 6:11 We live by His promise. "He redeemed us in order that the blessings given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit." Galatians 3:14

He has promised to pardon our transgressions because of Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross. (1 John 1:7) He has pledged to be with us always. (Joshua 1:5) He speaks of peace that passes understanding (Philippians 4:7), joy that overflows (1 Peter 1:8), and love eternal.

Sometimes we feel God's promises to us remain unfulfilled. Perhaps we wonder if we are still in this part of plan. How important for us, then, to hear Him say, "I am Your Shield."

He is our Shield against sin, death, and satan. He has redeemed us (**Galatians 3:13**) through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. We are His Children--Children of Christ's promise, and He will never leave nor forsake us. (**Hebrews 13:5**) The cross is the assurance of the Shield. God, who spared not His own son, but offered Him up for us all, will protect us as He leads us toward heaven's open doors.

SHIELD

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Kakamega, Kenya, Africa Telephone: +254 720 489848 Email: ministerjn7@yahoo.com **30 December** If we can just only be faithful even in the small things, the smallest acts of obedience can yield the greatest rewards!

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first-begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood."

REVELATION 1:5 (KJV)

Honor God. This is a testimony about a man called Simon. Simon was working twelve miles from his home without any means of transportation to get to his job. He was committed to get to the bus station every morning without fail, by whatever means he could to carry out his duties. On his journey every day, he passed a chapel of praise. One morning, GOD commanded Simon to do something quite simple. This was the command: EVERY MORNING, STOP HERE just to say, "Lord Jesus, GOOD MORNING!"

Over the course of seven years, our dear friend Simon obeyed the LORD and kept the commandment that GOD had given to him. One morning, just after his appointment with the Lord at the chapel of praise (church), Simon encountered a most horrible car accident and was nearly killed. Simon was transported to a local hospital and hospitalized. Everyone was losing hope for him; for his condition to improve. After seven days, the Forever Faithful One, JESUS CHRIST OF NAZARETH came to him in a clear vision as he was quickly approaching death and said, "SIMON, GOOD MORNING!" Suddenly, a great miracle happened and Simon awoke, received the fullness

of God's healing power. He was restored completely in his body, soul, and spirit! He then started to proclaim the faithfulness of the LORD, our savior

JESUS CHRIST...ALLELUIA! If we can only just be faithful!

Dear friends, it is an important move in integrity to remain faithful to God who has sacrificed His best for us. If the Lord God is calling you to a special commitment and covenant to Him, do not ignore it. It is for your own good. When we are faithful in what He requires of us, He will empower us and reveal His mercy, grace, and everlasting love as His faithful, obedient children. May the Lord God bless you and keep you! AMEN.

INSTRUCTION

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31 December When people are in the dark, their eyes are closed to God and their spirits are light deprived.

"As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;"

LUKE 1:70-71 (KJV)

Pushing to the Limit. We have a tendency to push things to the limit. This means several things to different people. It means your employee or teenager will push the limit to see how far they can go before you reel them back. It means the toddler will touch the hot cup or hot food until they realize that it burns. It also means that a person will try to be the first man to travel around the world in a hot air balloon, glider, airplane, with only a parachute, or by whatever the folly may be at the time.

In life, we push to the limit all the time. Some people stay in the bed until the last minute and rush to work. Some people push on through that traffic light that is no longer yellow. Others will over-extend their credit or buy a house or car, which is truly out of their reach. This is pushing the limits in slothfulness, rushing and poor planning. Utilize wisdom. Push to the right limits.

I am talking about pushing the limit to have God, "prove Himself now." **Malachi 3:10c.** We Christians know that tithes and offerings represent more than just money, but covenant. I am saying push your covenant with God to the limit. Prove God in your life. Do not bargain with Him; He will not respond. Push your Christian walk to the limit; this does not mean put your tithes and offering on your already over-extended credit card—No! I am talking about true covenant; not money. Walk the walk of Jesus; visit the sick, go to nursing homes, minister to the less fortunate.

Follow God's Commandments (the Big Ten), His Commands (when He speaks—what you may be calling intuition), and His Direction (what you call circumstance or coincidence) and allow God to prove Himself in your life. Follow God! He is real! He is real in your life today. He is around all the time. Prove Him now!

STABILITY

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