

January / February 2023

Braman Foundation of Charities  
presents

# DISCIPLESHIP

A Devotional Magazine

*New Beginnings*



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## Reflections

We are pleased to offer to you a “Daily Reflection” for every day of the year. It is vital to use a strong, spiritual based, Christ centered reading to help start your devotion or to end your devotion.



## Favorite Scripture & Prayers

Braman Foundation of Charities has collected and discovered Promises and Commands from our Lord through scripture for decades. Additionally, we know there are prayers that have been written throughout the bible to give us both guidance and comfort. This collection, when reflected on will give deep direction, comfort, and joy.



## Understanding the Holy Spirit

Growing in understanding of the Holy Spirit is so important in one's faith because the Holy Spirit is your constant companion. Thanks to God through Christ the Holy Spirit has been given to us for various reasons. This body of work has been written to support this fact. One's faith must continue to grow in order to better serve the Lord in all our endeavors.



## An Understanding of Devotion, Confession, Self Reflection & Repentance

This short essay is to help the believer with tools to bring him or her into a deeper relationship with Christ. Simply, to the point, and to testify in truth and the word of God. Progress into a relationship with Christ that is the single most important relationship in your life. He will never leave you, nor forsake you.

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*“Be part of a Christ centered movement to Love Our Neighbor”*

# DISCIPLESHIP

A Devotional Magazine

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# Welcome

Welcome to 2023!

God bless you! May the Lord ever be with you and you more importantly, with the Lord.

Always we look to January as a “New Beginning”, starting over, or re-dedicating our lives to the Lord. Growing in a deeper relationship with Christ.

Christ reminds us to “seek yea first” the kingdom of God...and so make a decision to grow first in Christ knowing He will take care of all the rest of our lives.

And so we continue to study the sermons of Richard W. Braman. In this issue we look for a theme of New Beginnings, starting over, a dedication of our lives to Christ.

Read and re-read the sermons of RWB, the inspired words of Charles Spurgeon, and AB Simpson. The ministers were God fearing, righteous men that served God’s kingdom with all their hearts and minds.

BFC’s Discipleship begins its third year in print with its theme always to help stimulate a deeper and more abiding life with Christ.

Jesus is even calling us into oneness with Him. “I in my Father and He in me”, “I in myself can do nothing, but He that dwelleth with me doeth the works”.

Grow in this understanding, be ever blessed, and have a God filled, joy filled 2023.

Always in Divine Friendship,  
BFC  
January / February 2023

18 Davies Place Poughkeepsie, NY 12602



**HOLY COMFORTER**  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

*Join us for*

**Discipleship | Tuesday 7pm**

**Bible Study | Thursday 7pm**

The 2023 Scripture:

*“Lord, I thank you that no weapon formed against me shall prosper and every tongue that accuses you in judgment will be condemned. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their vindication is from me, declares the Lord.”*

Isaiah 54:17

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*BFC Devotional Magazine*

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# Amending the Defective

*“This is why I left you in Crete, that you might amend what was defective.”*

*-Titus 1:5*

The text is chosen from Titus 1 :5; “This is why I left you in Crete, that you might amend what was defective.” Titus was a young man just beginning his Christian ministry. Paul had given him a rugged assignment. Crete was not a comfortable parish. That is why Paul began his letter to Titus bluntly, “This is why I left you in Crete, that you might amend what is defective.”

The preacher is at some disadvantage in using this text. Note that it is a young preacher that is sent to Crete to put things in order. A modern tendency in the church is to let the preacher do it. “That’s his business.” But the text is taken to give an example of what is every Christian’s business. Please do not apply it to ministers only. Rather, catch the idea of the 4th beatitude in the New English Bible, “How blessed are those who hunger and thirst to see the right prevail.” That right shall prevail is not only the preacher’s business; it is everybody’s business.

We can take it for granted that a man should amend what is defective in his own life. Paul is not unmindful of this. He writes to the young man, “Show yourself in all respects a model of good deeds, and in your tending show integrity, gravity, sound speech that cannot be censored, so that an opponent may be put to shame having nothing evil to say of us.”

To those of us who are Christians, the first kind of witnessing we can do is by the kind examples we set in our everyday lives. Those who are searching, are looking at us whether

we know it or not, judge the whole church and the Christian religion on the way we live and act in our lives. If we are hypocrites, liars, cheats, drunkards, then those on the outside feel this is what the church is, and they do not need any part of it because they can be this without going to church and being a Christian. How very important this example of our lives is to those around us.

Getting back to Titus, what was wrong in Crete? Paul made no bones about the fact that the Cretans were “liars, evil beast, lazy gluttons.” He wrote that, “one of themselves, a prophet of their own,” says this. “This testimony is true.”

When a metallurgist offered to cure Big Ben, the clock on the tower of Parliament in London, of its stuttering, a Minister of Works refused the offer because “the world has got used to” the cracked sound. Maybe Crete was used to its moral crack.

Perhaps that’s what is wrong with America today. We have gotten used to our corruption, gambling, immoral behavior that we do not want it changed. We want God to leave us alone and we certainly do not want anyone reminding us of what we should be doing.

What does our daily or weekly paper say about the place in which we live? Oh, I don’t mean specifically Fultonham or Middleburg, but one general area. We have only to look at stories of murders, divorce, moral corruption that will suffice to suggest

that Crete and Fultonham or our general area, though separated by centuries, are neighbors under the skin.

Paul writes to Titus, “There are many insubordinate men, empty talkers and deceivers.” A famous politician set the pattern a generation ago when he told a rally of precinct workers, “Promise everything I” The modern world certainly is not without empty talk.

We have all known and probably still know people who do a lot of talking but they have no action and deeds to back up their talking. In business, especially, we find plenty of such people. Oh, perhaps, they advance on their jobs for a time until finally someone catches up with them or until they get into a situation they cannot talk themselves out of. It really is bad for a group when the majority of them are talkers instead of doers.

When Paul got around to the religious people of Crete, he said, “They profess to know God, but they deny him by their deeds.” It was a harsh indictment, but no doubt it was true. If Paul were here, he might be as severe with us.

It is hard to tell what he might say about us, but, to some greater or less degree, what was wrong in Crete is wrong also in Fultonham. What was defective on the Mediterranean island is defective also where we are.

We all profess to be Christians, at least we associate ourselves with the Christian Church. But what about our daily lives? Our business deals; are they on the up and up? Do we show concern for our neighbor who is in trouble and needs our help? Are we afraid to speak up for what we know is right while the wrong keeps going right along its merry way. How much, actually, do we give to God’s work, our time, talent and money? How about our families, are we letting them grow up by themselves because we are too busy being important on our community?

Oh, we can go to church on Sunday, when something else doesn’t interfere. We can put our measly offering in the plate but do those acts make us true Christians? I doubt very much if anyone will get into heaven with just those two acts.

Crete was a miserable place when Paul left Titus there “to amend what was defective.” The “liars, evil beasts and lazy gluttons” of the place no doubt made life miserable for the young man just beginning his ministry. But Titus preached the gospel and rested his case in the hands of God. How he fared, we do not know, but in recent years excavators have uncovered the ruins of a great cathedral on the island of Crete, testimony to the fact that there were those on the island who joined with Titus in the task of “amending the defective” in the name of Christ.

After painting a grim portrait of the Cretans, Paul might have shrugged his shoulders and said, “What will be, will be,” as if Cretans, being disreputable, were doomed to remain as they were. Paul might have adopted the theme of a contemporary play and said indifferently, “Human beings never have changed and never will.”

That I dare say, is our contemporary mood. We are disposed to think that people are people and there’s nothing ‘much to be done about them. But the problem of human nature is not insolvable. That is the testimony of Christian experience all through the centuries. Human nature can be changed by the powers of Jesus Christ changing the heart of human personality. Look at Paul himself. How he prosecuted the Christians and actually worked against the Christian church but one day God chose him to be one of his major apostles and his life and personality was immediately changed.

When we ourselves had tried to convince someone that Jesus Christ is the way and the light of the life and he refuses to listen, we

can still pray for truly God has does answer prayer. No one regardless of how helpless he may seem to us is actually hopeless. Christ performed many miracles while here on earth this earth and he is capable of the same today.

This was Paul's hope in Crete. It is our hope for us here in Fultonham.

God only knows what an impact we might have on our own town and community and on our nation if we had the courage to share our faith with others. Our silence too often suggest we are quite willing for others to ruin themselves in their own way. We seem like a part of "the carefree multitude" with nothing to believe in or to make life significant and meaningful. Paul, however, cared profoundly for the Cretans, despite the way they lived, regardless of their sins and spiritual failures. He had heard Christ call in the midst of the careless crowd, and as a responsible follower of his Lord he resolved to do what he could.

Actually, the Gospel message is one we need to get across to people. The Gospels light up the truth that the world is not changed by big events and mighty issues so much as it is altered by the small events and unimportant people in everyday life. The Kingdom of God reaches into the life of the world in the dedicated teaching of the schoolroom and in the spiritual concern of the salesman making the rounds of his customers. It is in the mood of Andrew Jackson, lawyer and judge, saying: "Do what is right between these parties that is what the law means." It is in the gentleness of mothers revealing in their lives the meaning of their faith so that children learn by example. "The Kingdom of God cometh not by observation. Neither shall they say, go here or go there, for the Kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

Others outside the church are watching us. They want to determine the difference Christ makes in our lives and whether

they want to become a part of it. It's very important and necessary that we are Christians always and not just on Sunday.

The simple truth is that Christians belong where things are "out of joint." "Amending the defective" is the high calling of the follower of Christ. Professor Hawking of Harvard wrote that putting things to right is, "life's ultimate objective."

By the light of the cross, we are beset by a deep feeling of disquietude with things as they are, while at the same time the feeling of the wrongness of things is a spiritual challenge. On one hand, Christ makes us aware of the defective, and on the other he drives us in quest of power to "amend the defective." The more we are in touch with the Spirit of Christ the more we are aware of and troubled by the gulf between what is and what might be.

Complacency and indifference are tokens of our separation from Christ while concern is evidence of our fellowship with him. He stirs us with "divine discontent" that is an impetus to action.

Paul seems to be saying to Titus and to us: you belong where things need to be set right. If there is racial conflict in your community, you belong there to speak in the name of Christ. If there is conflict in your business, you are where you belong as a Christian. "Blessed are the peacemakers." You belong where there is responsibility to be assumed and where courage is needed. God wants you to be part of the solution to what is wrong, not part of the problem.

Will Rogers said it the time of a disarmament conference after the First World War, "there is only one problem at the disarmament conference- human nature." And of course that's what's wrong with our world today as it has been in the past. There was always someone who wants more than his share. He has to be greedy.



Obviously if life's objective is to set right the things that are wrong, we are constrained to become involved in situations of potential conflict.

During the Civil War Lincoln was vastly troubled by the avoidist tactics of General McClelland. The cautious general kept his army spick and span and thoroughly trained, but he would never risk it in a major encounter with the enemy. He sought by every conceivable means to avoid battle. General Grant, however, involved his army in decisive struggle. After he had met a temporary defeat, Lincoln responded to criticisms of Grant by saying, "I can't spare this man. He fights." Paul was not an avoidist. He set his course on obedience to what he called "the heavenly vision" and he was not disloyal to it. He engaged in battle not with fists or swords, but with the spirit. He challenged what was wrong and struggled in the name of Christ for the truth that makes men free. He would not be silenced. He would not cease from serving the Lord in the human arena.

Thank God, there are those like Saint Paul in every generation who do more than move with the tide of the culture. They succeeded in transcending things as they are, thereby altering them. They take their stand beside one who went about doing good, speaking the truth, challenging entrenched evil until he was crucified between two thieves. Their Lord put his trust in God the Father and faced Good Friday in the certainty there would be an Easter dawn. Truly God has put us here to "amend what is defective" as Paul did with Titus on the Isle of Crete. Put your faith and trust in God and you will be able to stand up and speak for things that are right without fear.

# Worship Service

Sunday | 10am

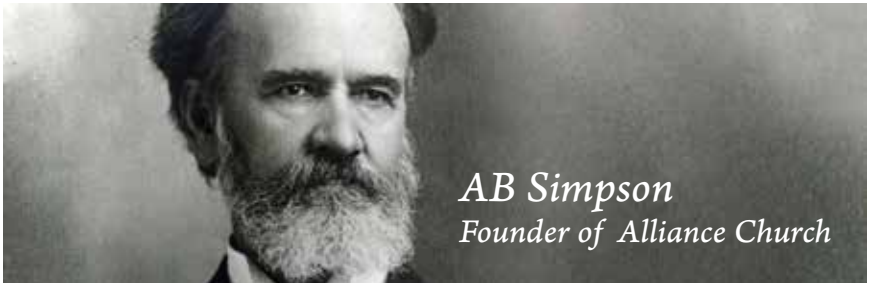
At The Holy Comforter

Our worship service is a time to meet to praise, worship, pray to God and receive a teaching (sermon) based on the Bible along with a weekly communion.

**11-13 Davies Place  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12602**

Email [info@bramanfoundation.org](mailto:info@bramanfoundation.org) for more information.

# *A Daily Devotional*



*“As ye have received Christ Jesus so walk in Him”*

- Col. ii. 6

It is much easier to keep the fire burning than to rekindle it after it has gone out. Let us abide in Him. Let us not have to remove the cinders and ashes from our hearthstones every day and kindle a new flame; but let us keep it burning and never let it expire. Among the ancient Greeks the sacred fire was never allowed to go out; so, in a higher sense, let us keep the heavenly flame aglow upon the altar of the heart.

It takes very much less effort to maintain a good habit than to form it. A true spiritual habit once formed becomes a spontaneous tendency of our being, and we grow into delightful freedom in following it. |Let us not be ever laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, but let us go on unto perfection; and whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same things. |

Every spiritual habit begins with difficulty and effort and watchfulness, but if we will only let it get thoroughly established, it will become a channel along which currents of life will flow with divine spontaneousness and freedom.



Grow in  
*Understanding Devotions*

*In this book, explore and understand the meaning of true devotion. Grow in understanding of the commitment to the Lord and learn how to renounce the world. Go deeper in Jesus!*

**Braman**  
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An Understanding of Devotion,  
Confession, Self Reflection  
& Repentance

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# Centering Your Life on God

*“Every human life has this much in common with a circle; it must have a center if it is to be true, a point around which everything revolves, something that ties all together, coordinates, its manifold activities and interest, Something that keeps it from going off in all directions at once, from dissipating its energy so that instead of being channeled they are spilled on the ground like a bucket of water, spread over the earth with no intention or result. Unlike a circle, however, a human life does not always have a center.”*

-Acts 5:29

What is the center of your life? It is yourself? It is not to be wondered that there are thousands of completely self-centered people in the world. They are invariably miserable, and very seldom do they know why. For most people who are self-centered do not know it. Everyone else knows it, but they do not.

With everyone pushing toward a goal they have set for themselves; it is easy to become self-centered and actually think that you yourself are the only person that matters in this world. Really, this is what is wrong with our world today. It is made up of self-centered persons who come first before anyone else or anything else. We are concerned for us first and no one else.

Is your work the center of your life? The man or woman who says, I live to paint pictures, I live to teach children, I live to raise a family, is infinitely better off than the man or woman who says I live my own life in my own way. Moving always from this center, he moves outward, beyond his

own immediate needs and interests, to concerns that will never let him rest.

Renoir was one of the French painters of the 19th century who did magical things with flesh tones. He is among the giants. He started as the son of a tailor, and it took him a long time before he realized his ambition and became one of the great painters of France. When he was in his sixties, his hands became so crippled that they could no longer hold the brush, “with brushes strapped to his hands,” writes a commentator, “He continued to paint. He was not to be denied the work that was life itself to him.” So, a man’s work can be the real center of his life.

Or is God the center of your life? What does that mean? That may stutle or stew some of you - even the thought of it! To suggest what it means. Let me take you back to what happened in the lives of the followers of Jesus after he had been killed, and ascended. The followers were forbidden to speak about him in public or to do anything, which might attract

# Having a problem with alcohol or drugs?

**Wednesday & Friday 7pm**  
*Women's AA Meeting*

*Located at the Conference Center Room  
49 Glenwood Avenue, Queensbury, NY*



attention to him. They did it, nonetheless. Their lives became centered in God, whom they met in Christ. Those lives then had a range that they never had before. There was serenity about them that enabled them to meet anything that came their way without panic. They had confidence that was far more than bravado. They had peace and power. They had what every man has who creates his life in God, life from the deep and from the heights, in the world yet beyond the world.

The followers of Jesus went right on talking about him and working in his name. They were arrested; they were put in jail. By hook or by crook, by prison guard or by guardian angel, they got out of jail, and when the authorities went to find them, they were not there. To their amazement they found them in the temple.

When they took them back into the court

to put them on trial and then in prison, Peter stood up and said, "We ought to obey God rather than men." That gives you some idea of what it means to center your life on God.

What is life's central fact? God is the central fact. In our existence; apart from him nothing much matters.

"The universe owes its origins to him, was created by him, and has its aim and purpose in him" I know you say it was easier for those first disciples to follow Jesus, to place their life in God. It certainly is not easy for us today to center our lives in God because there are so many other things that we tend to substitute for God.

How can people like us hope to experience anything like that? How can 20th century Americans ever think of centering their lives in God?

No one can tell you exactly how, but begin with some real experiences of God, no matter how slight it may be. No matter when or how this sort of experience comes to a person the essence of it is - and there are things, of course, that we speak about with the greatest hesitation - the essence of it is always the same. It is always a sense of Presence, protecting you, fortifying you; sometimes making great demands upon you, which stir you out of your lethargy, your complacency, and your routine ways of life; always strengthening you. Your life, with its many limitations is invaded by a Life that is infinitely greater than yours, like great seawaters rushing in to fill the little eddies of your life. It is always an experience comparable to the tide coming in, bringing new energies, new visions, new hopes.

You may say, I have never had any experience like that. If you have not, you certainly cannot contrive it; you cannot produce it. But my guess is that most of you have had an experience like that. Though you may not have recognized it. You may not have identified it. You may not have known exactly what it was when it happened. It does not always come in the traditional figures, and not always in the conventional language of religion.

My guess is that you have had somewhere along your way, perhaps more than once, some minor ecstasy, an experience in which you have been carried completely out of yourself, an experience in which you have been, so to speak, invaded by powers infinitely greater than yourself and for a moment, at least, have felt yourself resting in a center that is eternal. Begin with that.

I know that most of us have, at some time in our lives, had the experience or feeling within ourselves that there is a power greater than man that is looking over or protecting us. If you have ever taken a

walk in the woods and really stopped long enough to appreciate what surrounds you, you cannot help but realize that truly God has created everything. I am sure many of us have wondered about what kind of a world this would be if suddenly God stopped looking over us. All of us have had a personal experience in our lives where a tragedy or serious accident has been avoided, and it seems miraculous to us that it was prevented.

Many things happen in our lives that we cannot explain. And many of these things are not bad, they are good. Recall one of these experiences and begin with that.

Remember it, go back to it, cultivate it. That is what you do with a human relationship. If you meet someone in whom you recognize greatness or stature or any kind, and feel yourself drawn to him, you may not see him all the time, but you remember him. You think about him, you keep the lines of communication open.

You try, as you grow in the relationship, not to do anything that will displease him, not to do anything that will violate the relationship that exists between you and him. Even when you are not thinking about him, he influences you because he has become a part of you.

On a much larger and vaster scale, of course, you do the same thing with God. You meet him as the disciples met him in Christ. For them God and Christ are inseparable, as indeed they are for me. The two are inseparable in Christian experience.

I know from my own experience that God is just waiting to help you. He wants to. There is not a catch to it. It will not cost you anything. I also know that once God does help you, you will start to rely on him more and more. Before you make

a decision, you will ask God to help you make it, and he will. Finally, the more and better you come to know God, the more he will be with you, regardless of where you go and what you do, you will take God with you. And you will take God into all your dealings. This, I believe, is how your life can become God centered.

Let us get back to this experience you had in your life, that perhaps you thought was insignificant. However small a fragment of this experience may come to you, you cultivate it. You go back to it, you remember it, you search it out, you feed it, you think about it, you keep the lines of communication open, and you try to do what you think God wants you to do. Even when you are not thinking about him at all, you will find that he is with you, as an invincible Presence, Spirit, who is influencing you, strengthening you, and enabling you to do things otherwise impossible.

Here is a God centered prayer: "Give me a pure heart - that I may see thee, a humble heart - that I may hear thee, a heart of love - that I may serve thee, a heart of faith - that I will abide in thee." Truly, God is willing to give you these things if you want them if you let him.

Many people have said to me that they do not feel that it is Christian to pray to God and ask him for things for their own lives. They say we should only be praying to God to help others. Most definitely we should be asking God to help those that need help, and we should be helping ourselves. But how else can we talk with God if we do not pray to him. How can we become better persons if we do not ask God for his guidance? He and he alone knows what is best for each one of us. He can give us strength – courage - faith, love and understanding that no human can possibly give us. We should always pray that, "thy will be done," "not our will." Actually, if we

turn our lives over to God completely, our worries will be over if we live according to God's will. And regardless of what we are called on to do whether it seems impossible or not, God will help us to do it. We need to have faith in him and then these impossible things become possible. This is how your life can become centered in God. And it really isn't a dull life, it isn't a life without happiness and joy, it is a full life and the best kind of life you can live.

What is the center of your life? If you have no center, you are lost. If the center of your life is yourself, you will be miserable and, in the end, alone. If the center of your life is your work, you will be happier and more useful in the world. But if the center of your life is God, you will have the joy and peace that passes a man's understanding. And you will be living a life that is full of satisfaction. Let God become the center of your life and note the change.

# WHY DOES FEAR RULE YOUR LIFE?

Learn to memorize the most powerful scriptures in dealing with fear.

*“For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love, and self control.”*

*2 Timothy 1:7*

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*“Behold God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and song, and He has come my salvation.”*

*Isaiah 12:2*

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*“Do not fear, for I am with you, do not anxiously look ahead for I am your God, I will strengthen you.”*

*Isaiah 41:10*





# January/ February 2023

January 15, 2023

Sunday

## The Lord Will Deliver You

*“For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the fowler. He will cover you with His pinions and under His wings you shall find refuge.”*

– Psalm

**Y**ou do not have to “go it” on your own. He that is greater than us all is ever guiding you, your paths and in time of trouble will protect you. Recall who Christ is in your life. You surrendered your life to Him; therefore the Holy Spirit is ever upon you guiding you, protecting you and watching over you. For though a weapon may form against you it shall not prosper. You will be protected,. Now believe and be anxious of no thing, but in all things through prayer and supplication make your requests be known to God. For He is and shall always be watching over you.

January 16, 2023

Monday

## Christ Understands Your Malady

*"I have exalted one chosen out of the people"*

– Psalm 89:19

Christ was the chosen one and exalted as He knows our struggles. Christ walked the road of temptation, weakness and disappointment. Jesus understands and identifies with your weariness as you struggle with others through the pain given through self. He understands your poverty yet detests your pride. Christ does not identify with your superior attitude of others through: gender, race, family origin, economic status, or your superior education. Yet He loves you as you are, as wayward as you are and ineffective. Take courage my friend. Though your life may be difficult and the road may be weary He is the one that is carrying you. His are the footprints you see on the road through your river Jordan!!! Carry on cross your Red Sea and press into your destiny in Christ!!!

January 17, 2023

Tuesday

## Have You Lost Your Connection?

*"I sought him but did not find Him. I must seek Him who my soul loves....Have you seen Him whom my soul loves?"*

– Matthew 6:33

My Dear friend we all lose our "connection" to the Lord. It is vital to reconnect as soon as possible. Perhaps there is sin that has yet to be confessed and cleansed that is cutting you off from the spirit. Is there an illusion in your mind that you are not good enough for God. Remember Christ cares for each sheep that has gone astray. Are you reading the scriptures? If not study and seek answers and you will be connected. The bible is the living breathing word of God. Christ is your dearest friend. How is it that you lost connection? Is it the world and the works there of? The business of the world will choke out the Holy Spirit. My friend remember your life is not your own. You have put on the new Self which is in Christ Jesus. Your life is His. Relax and let Him in control.

January 18, 2023

Wednesday

## Your Sin is Forgotten

*“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, But One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

– Hebrews 4:15-16

**D**ear friend you worship a King that understands your sin nature and the ravages there of. Therefore, go to His throne for there is no sin unforgivable, mercy is available to you. You need to, on bended knee, go before the Throne of Grace and seek forgiveness. For there is no reason to carry your burden. It is this burden that holds you back, weighs you down and keeps you anchored in the “things” of this world. My friend this world is not yours but rather a play ground to teach us to come home to our true place in God. Go then to His Throne and cry out and confess that which burdens Thee. AND be forever free!!!!!!

January 19, 2023

Thursday

## The Lamb of God

*“And I looked and behold the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion.”*

– Revelation 14:1

**B**ehold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. Christ redeems Thee from ravages of sin in this world. Christ is still the answer in removing your sin. In America many have forgotten through pluralism, that Christ is the head of the church. There may be many paths, however none remove sin and open the door of heaven to you. It is the redemption through the shed blood of Christ that renders you white as snow. “Though your sin be like scarlet it shall be as white as snow.” Behold believe in Christ and you are cleansed.

January 20, 2023

Friday

## The Lord is With Thee

*"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be worried about your life, for I am your God... Do not fear; I will help you!"*

– Isaiah 41:10-14

**I** will help Thee!!! This is the same God that shed His blood for you. The same God that takes away the sin of the world!!! Now our God is telling us not to be afraid for He is with us, protecting us and directing our paths. Do we not believe? Why do we hold back? Do you have plans that you are not moving forward with because you are afraid? Press in my friend and make it happen as God is opening a door that no man can close. It may seem impossible in the natural yet exercise your faith and watch what happens. God will meet you at the desires of your heart. If you are obedient to Him, His word and His ways!!

January 21, 2023

Saturday

## You Are Christ's

*"And you belong to Christ and Christ to God"*

– 1 Corinthians 3:23

**Y**ou have been adopted into the Kingdom through your decision to seek Jesus. Yes remember this fact. God has shed His blood for you. This is a personal relationship you develop through seeking Him in all you do. My friends go deeper in your relationship with Christ and seek Him all!!! All for Jesus!!! All for Christ!! You are forever protected. praise God. Lift up your arms in praise. Shout this from the roof top. The Lord is now, was and shall always be your firm foundation that is built upon this rock!!! Say I am Christ's!!!

January 22, 2023

Sunday

## Are You Listening to Your Inner Voice?

*“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control.”*

– Galatians 5:22

**W**e have a voice that we listen to, that all of us hear. A voice that speaks to us that is filled with love, joy, peace. A voice that tells us that we are loved. That we part of a greater whole that is anchored in Christ. Is this the voice you are hearing? A voice that tells us that we can love others, that we do have a heart for the lost, the poor and the sick. This voice is calling to us daily to expand our influence of loving one another. In praying for each other.

January 23, 2023

Monday

## A Broken Heart

*“The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart.”*

– Psalm 51:17

**H**ere we speak of our heart as our essence of who we are. The all in all. Our being. This is not a spirit of being broken down, weak and hurting. Rather it is this ability to abandon one's self for the larger Spirit of God to enter in. To allow through surrender to ask forgiveness and to experience wholeness in God. This is the broken spirit. This is God at work in us as us. In my prayer life am I telling God or directing God what to do or am I surrendering to His way to what He shall do through me? Am I a willing vessel to seek His ways to do His will? Or am I running the show?

January 24, 2023

Tuesday

## Trust in the Lord

*“Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart.”*

– Psalm 37:4

Let us not lean on our own understanding, but yield to the Lord above us all. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, mind and soul and lean not on your own understanding. Commit your ways to the Lord and He will make your paths straight. Are their seeds planted in your heart to start a new project, to begin a new, to start over and yet you delay!!! Have you committed all your plans to the Lord? If so, what are you waiting for? Move forward!!! Step out in faith, “Faith being the Substance of things hoped for and the evidence of the unseen.” You must step up and out for your plans to take root. These ideas are not in your mind by accident. If you have prayed them up and have had others pray with you and you are still inspired then move forward!! Do It!!!

January 25, 2023

Wednesday

## Let Us Give Thanks

*“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.”*

– Psalm 118: 29

It is so good to have a loving God that forgives regardless of our sin. It is so good that our God loves us. Sometimes our world is so difficult and we are unable to understand the darkness that persists. Yet we can give thanks to our great God that sacrificed it all for us. That through Him we are given life eternal and there is no way we can earn this gift but that we can only love others. Let us give thanks for the greatest commandment is to love our God To love others as we love ourselves. This is the greatest command, this is what our world needs now is to love. To love one another when we do not want to, to love others when we are called to and love ourselves when we seem to live a life of self destructive behavior.

January 26, 2023

Thursday

## Judge Not

*“Do not judge lest you be judged. For in the way you judge you will be judged; and by your standard of measure it will be measured to you. And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye and you will see clearly”*

– Matthew 7:1-5

In America there seems to be a pervasive attitude throughout the land. Whether in politics, race, gender, religion there seems to be a very critical attitude. We seem to be filled with a spirit of pride. That somehow my way is best and must prevail. This spirit is very critical, damaging and separates us not only from one another but from God. It is so important to remember that we are all part of God’s plan and that it is so vital that we just give others a break. Regardless of where we are in life we can always extend our hand in love. We can see ourselves as others see us and realize that we are part of a whole. Many of us are struggling and need a helping hand. Try to see others as God sees you. God loves us all for we are all His creation. After all why are you here? Grow in love.

January 27, 2023

Friday

## Do Not Conform

*“Do not be conformed to the standards of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind....”*

– Romans 12:2

Regardless of what the world is doing around stay with your core spiritual principles: Mainly to Love the Lord your God with all your heart to love your neighbor as yourself. Fear may grip the land but do not buckle. We are overcomers. We have a great God that is protecting us and is watching over us. Our God goes before us. Remember to pray!! Pray for our nation!!! pray for our world!!! pray that we love!! Pray that we endure!! Pray for people in elected office!! Pray my friends Pray!!! Pray for our people!!! We are one nation!! We are one people!!! Love my friends Love!!

January 28, 2023

Saturday

## Be Still

*"Be still, and know I am God."*

– Psalm 46:10

**W**e are made in the image of God. This is who we are. We are at our core LOVE!!! All that is needed is to acknowledge this truth, to turn inward to this spirit and ask to receive, seek forgiveness and Repent of the ways in which we have separated ourselves from our true God. Ask!! Receive!!! This is simple. Go within and seek first this truth, you will be set free. Know that God is was and shall ever be within you. God is NOT something to look for in a church building, in a temple, a mosque, no God is within each of us manifesting as us. He is within each of us!!! Go within and find this peace!! Do not worry, do not be anxious, simply go within. Seek yea first the kingdom of God. Ask the Lord to reveal to you those impediments that are blocking you from the sun light of the Spirit of God and He will answer. No one can know God for you better than you. God is waiting, to dine with you, to sup with you, to be in relationship with you. There can be no other relationship of more important than this. He is was and shall always be your friend. So turn within and ask!!!! You are Loved.

January 29, 2023

Sunday

## Peace

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, PEACE, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and selfcontrol."*

– Galatians 5:22

**I** must allow peace to reign in my consciousness. Peace is not an attribute of the ego but of the Spirit. For this Spirit to manifest in me as me I need to turn towards the Holy Spirit and yield to it. I need to confess that as self I can not manage my life on my own. That I need a Savior to guide me and to protect me, to open doors that no man can close and to make my crooked paths straight. This yielding, this surrender purifies the self and allows the Holy Spirit to manifest in me and through me. In fact the more I seek this interior living the greater does the Spirit manifest in my life. Therefore, one of its attributes is PEACE. Peace comes to the one that is filled with the Holy Spirit. Peace is what we so desperately need in our world. However this peace must begin with me. First in myself, then in my home, then in my little world around me. I need to repent, renounce the attributes of ego: selfishness, envy, jealousy, anger etc. by asking for forgiveness and through asking to grow more in the Spirit.



January 30, 2023

Monday

## Love All

*"For the whole law is fulfilled in one word,  
" You shall love your neighbor as yourself"  
– Galatians 5:14*

The Law is considered the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. This is the Torah. Throughout the writings of Paul we read that the law is complete in Love. In fact Christ tells us the all the Law and the Prophets are fulfilled through Love: Matt: 22:36-40. Therefore, let us Love!! So Love is the answer: Love God, Love my neighbor and Love of one's self. We need to accept each other, to love ourselves. To try not to compare but to identify that we are all made in this Divine Image. All are equally loved with regard to Gender, Race, economic status, education etc. God loves us equally. Therefore, if God loves us all equally who am i to reject one for not living up to my standards. Who am i ? All over our land we are struggling with this concept; To love!!! There is a stress in our land greater than ever. Let us try in our little worlds to love. If we can do that then our greater world will be at peace. Love!!!

January 31, 2023

Tuesday

## My Body is Not My Own

*"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are NOT your own."*

– 1 Corinthians 6: 19

We are called here to take care of our bodies. We are not our own but rather the Holy Spirit that dwells within us as us is in dwelling. Do I realize that to carry out my salvation that there is much work to be done ? Do I realize that my life is not my own? Do I care to know what is meant be Kingdom building? Yes we are called to carry on in our work to build the Kingdom. We are called to eat right to live righteously, to live a long life, to care for our bodies and to accomplish much!! Not that this work is for our own, but rather we were bought with a price. Did you not know that Christ died for our sins? Therefore who am I to not strive to care for my body? Who am I not to Love one another? My life, indeed my body, is not my own. I belong to Christ. Is my life a refection of Christ's love? Or am I here to satisfy an ego driven life?

February 1, 2023

Wednesday

## Let Go of Your Sin Nature

*“Forget the past, do not recall to mind the former things, behold I am doing something new. Now it springs forth; can you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and bring rivers in the desert.”*

– Isaiah 43:18

**A**re you a child of God, forgiven from your sin nature? Are you confessing daily and growing deeper in your regeneration, your salvation? Then do not recall the sins of your past. Reconcile to all those in which you harbor resentment and lack of forgiveness. How are ye able to walk in love if you walk in bitterness toward others that have wronged you? Why do you play this weak-willed victim mentality? The Lord has commanded you to be strong and courageous, to be not afraid; to walk in love, give in love and forgive in love. Ask the Lord to reveal the reason why you are not experiencing the full measure of His Grace. Then listen and obey. The spiritual path is a path of discipline, the road less traveled. This is the path that does not conform to the standards of this world.

February 2, 2023

Thursday

## Our Great God

*“I will go before you and make your crooked paths straight. I will break in pieces the doors of bronze that block you and cut asunder the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ...I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I gird you, though you do not know me, that men may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other”*

– Isaiah: 45:2-8

**T**he There is nothing greater than our God. Money, work, my life, this world pales to our God. It is this power that can overcome any problem, any limitation, any struggle God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob. The God of Christians, Muslims, Hebrews, Hindus, the God of Buddha. Who am I to deny such a vastness? Oh Lord help our unbelief. Today when faced with decision, when filled with fear, when resentment enters in let me call on you. Today as I smell the flowers and enjoy your creation let celebrate you. Today when I deny your love let fall to my knees and repent and call out” “You are my great God and Great is Thy name” Amen.

February 3, 2023

Friday

Rejoice!

*"This is the day which the day Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it"*

– Psalm: 119:24

**R**ejoice!!!! Today is the day!!!!  
Today is are only day!!! Love the  
Lord!!! Love your neighbor!! Love  
yourself!!!!

February 4, 2023

Saturday

Is Christ Working in You?

*" And I am sure the he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

– Philippians 1: 6

**L**et us praise God for the work that He has done with in us!!! Let us be grateful as followers of Christ that He will continue to work with us until our day of returning. We know that He is was and shall always be the One that we turn to, that we surrender to and that we yield our will to. It is our great God that controls the seas, that has made the rolling mountains that at anytime may with draw this world into Himself. When will I realize that I am here today and gone tomorrow? That although I may think my life so important in an instant it can be gone on this earth!! Have I loved? This is the work that Christ is doing in us. Christ is teaching us to Love Him, to Love others and to love ourselves. Am I following Christ? Do I hear the inner call?

February 5, 2023

Sunday

## Pressing Towards the Goal

*“Not that I have already obtained this... but I press on to... Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but the one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and strain- ing forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”*

– Philippians 3:12-14

**I**t is so obvious throughout Paul’s writings that he was on a mission with few distractions. Before his conversion he killed and many Christians and had many imprisoned. Yet Christ used him anyway!!! What forgiveness. Paul was able to move forward, forgetting what lies behind, and be useful in building the kingdom. A man who murdered Christians. He repented after his conversion on the road to Damascus. The Lord used him mightily. If the Lord used a man like Paul I am certain He would use many of us. Press on ward to the upward call in Christ. Repent, give your sins to God and ask Him to use you in your world. Stop dwelling on what is WRONG or what you have done or limitations you may have and move forward!! Get on FIRE!!!! There is much work to do for our Kingdom!!!! Time is wasting!!!! GET UP AND GET GOING!!!!

February 6, 2023

Monday

## God is Within You

*“Being asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God was coming he answered them, “ The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, ‘Lo, here it is’ or ‘There’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you”*

– Luke 17:20-21

**H**ow many religions have for centuries looked for the sign of God coming? How many pray to a God in a belief that He is not within us. Here Christ is telling us that God is within you. That you have and shall always be made in His image. In Genesis 1: 26 “Moses writes,” Let us make man in our own image...” Once we have made this inner decision to be born again we have that connection and are reunited to this truth. Stop trying and instead ease into this truth that you are made in the image of God. That you can understand this truth by just asking, by seeking , by going with in. God is within you. Yes we sin. Praise be to Christ that He has gone before us to rectify us to God. So repent and go deeper. Repent and know you are Love. Repent and love your neighbor. Repent and love God. Repent and love yourself. So just as suddenly Christ tells us that Love is the answer to all Scripture, ( See Matt 22:36), He tells us in the above scripture that God is with in. Another vital verse.

February 7, 2023

Tuesday

## God Goes Before Us

*“No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper; and any tongue that accuses you in judgement you will condemn. This is the heritage of the Lord, And their vindication is from me.”*

– Isaiah 54:17

**I**t is not my world but the Lord's. This is not my life but the Lord's. Allow the Lord to go before you and fight all your battles. So many times I believe that I am in control or that I must make this or that happen. As if somehow I can direct the Holy Spirit to set my agenda. In America we have courses in teaching self-will. MY WILL BE DONE. Constant self-improvement to improve upon that which God has made. I need to be more humble. Less Pride. Less in charge and to be led and inspired by the Holy Spirit. I must ask the Lord to go before me, that I must yield to most inner tendency to direct the Lord in what to do. When did I decide what is best for God? When did I become the director? Again and again I am reminded that I came in this world with nothing and I will leave with nothing. My life is here today and gone tomorrow. What is most important is: Did I Love!

February 8, 2023

Wednesday

## A Psalm of Fearless Trust in the Lord

*“The Lord is my Light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread... My heart will not fear; Though war arise against me, in spite of this I shall be confident. one thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to meditate in His temple. For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; In the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock!!! And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me... And I will sing for joy and I will offer sacrifices, yes I will sing PRAISES to the Lord.”*

– Psalm 27

February 9, 2023

Thursday

## Trust in the Lord

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”*

– Proverbs 3: 5&6

**H**ow many times, as we look back, can we identify plans that we have made, yet these plans did not manifest into reality? As we think about those plans: Of those plans is it great that these plans did NOT occur? In other words how much better is your life now? Remember you surrendered to the Lord. He is Lord over your life. Therefore the Lord is opening doors and closing doors whether you know it or not. The Lord is making your paths straight. This is part of our salvation. Praise Him! We must learn to cooperate more and more with the Lord through daily surrender of self. Let go and allow your paths to unfold with little effort. This is a higher and much easier way to live life. Remember you invited the Lord to be “LORD” of your life. Do not be surprised as His power is at work in you and on your behalf. REJOICE!!!!

February 10, 2023

Friday

## No Fear

*“Thus says the Lord to you: ‘Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God’s...’”*

– 2 Chronicles 20:15

**M**any times, we may feel called to move forward with a project or a thought. Yet we hold back and hesitate. We may say to ourselves: “What if I fail?” “What if I go broke?” or “What will they think of me?” Ask yourself the question and stop and listen: “Is this idea or action or plan from the Lord? Or is it an impulsive action through self? Now wait and listen. Do you feel the inspiration to move forward? If so, do it knowing you have committed this plan to the Lord and the Holy Spirit has inspired it. Remember the Greatest Command: LOVE!!! If what you’re doing is about love and your inspired through thoughtful prayer and reflection then move forward, commit the plan to the lord and Trust!!!! Let go and Let God!!! Your life is not your own.



February 11, 2023

Saturday

## Continue to Love

*“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”*

– John 15:12

Christ continues to ask us to Love one another. We hear this even in the media today that we need to love one another. Yet many of us cannot love as Christ loved us because America is no longer a Christian nation. Is It? What is this love that Christ refers to in so much of his messages? Where does it come from and do you experience this love in your life? This love is a divine love possibly the love a new mother would have for her new-born. A love that has no condition. This is love that is inspired from the divine. I love you regardless of who you are, what color you are, what race, what creed, a non-believer or whatever. This is a love that goes way beyond family boundaries. This is how Christ loves us today. A love filled with forgiveness, understanding and true caring. We all yearn for unconditional love in our lives. Am I walking in forgiveness? Have I let go of bitterness and resentment? Is fear dominating my consciousness? Am I my thinking of others and how I may help them?

February 12, 2023

Sunday

## He Cares

*“Casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.”*

– Peter 5:7

Regardless of where you are, what you have done or where you have been we serve a God that cares that loves us without condition. There is none that you can depend on like Christ. Think about this: Even your most intimate relationship your wife, your husband, sister, brother, mother, father or friend will leave you someday. However, Christ will never leave you, forsake you or let you go. Ask and Seek. Cast all your burdens at His Cross. All your burdens. Let your security be rooted in the presence of the Holy Spirit. This journey is short. You were in the Spirit before you came here and soon you will return? Do you know where you are going? Did you know that this realm is only a small part of your journey? Get acquainted with Christ now. He will soon be your best friend. For you came here with nothing and soon you will leave with nothing. Ask this question: “Why am I here?” Wait in silence and listen for the answer. He cares.

February 13, 2023

Monday

## Pray For One Another

*"Therefore...the prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*

– James 5: 16

**L**et us pray for one another. Whether friend or foe, whether male or female, whether rich or poor, whether democrat or republican, pray. Pray for those you really do not like and ask for blessings in their lives. Pray for those that persecute you, those that have harmed you and those in which despise you. Go beyond your world and pray for your local government leaders, your state leaders and finally the leaders of your nation. Pray for those that are sick and those that are suffering. Pray for those of us filled with pride and those among us that are homeless. Pray for a changed heart and a renewed mind. Pray! Pray! Pray!

February 14, 2023

Tuesday

## Let Heart Be With the Lord

*"The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation."*

– Psalm 118:14

**M**aybe right now you're struggling. Perhaps you have been given a bit of bad news. You may have been given really bad news. Your life is stable. Your happy. All the bills are paid. You're saving money. Kids seem well ETC. Regardless of your circumstances praise the lord. If your depressed praise the Lord!! Lift your hands and shout to the Lord: "I love you Lord!!! I thank you for my life and I thank you for this day." If circumstances are well give thanks!! It matters little what are circumstances are for IF we are established in a right relationship with the Lord we turn to the lord and give thanks for He is our salvation and our true source of goodness. For soon some of us are leaving this realm. Are you ready? Again, I say, "We came in this world alone and will leave alone. All the homes, the cars, the family difficulty, the education, all the stuff that occupies our minds will not mean a thing. Get acquainted with the Lord!! How am I loving others today!!!





February 15, 2023

Wednesday

## Come Home

*“Return O faithless sons, declared the Lord; For I am a master to you, And I will to you unto Zion.”*

– Jeremiah 3:14

The Lord is always waiting upon our return. Those who have left the fold have returned to the world. Those who have based their worth on worldliness. Those of us that measure ourselves and judge ourselves through comparing to one another. The Lord is saying to us, “Come home I will take care of you. I love you. Regardless of what you have done. Repent and come home.” Is Christ the lord over your life? Or do you still run the show because “things” seem to be going well? Perhaps you suffered an abuse and “Blame” God. Remember He is waiting. Whenever you are ready He will be there. Give your life to Christ and if you did back slide just come home. It’s okay. Repent.

February 16, 2023

Thursday

## God is on Our Side

*“ If God is for us, who is against us?”*

– Romans 8:31

Know that if you are struggling, depressed, in a valley or you just are up against a wall, God is there for you. God is all in all, omnipresent. God knows of your struggles yield to Him. Do not forget that God loves you. Perhaps you are learning a lesson and struggling with it. God allows these difficulties. Yield to Him, come home. He is ever waiting with arms wide open. God loves you. Perhaps you are struggling with relationships and are hurt. Give this to God and remember if God be for us who is against us. God is was and shall ever be. When you are alone and lonely, crying and afraid, sick and in bed, or joyful on top of the world, God is there for you. God is your best friend. God is!!!

February 17, 2023

Friday

## Courage

*“Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be discouraged for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*

– Joshua 1:9

**T**he spiritual path is not a path for the pathetic and weak. We must recall that we do not dwell in this body as this body; only that this body is an instrument that we use to express through in this earthly realm. Do not get used to this body nor think this realm is home. You must come to the realization that you are a spiritual being made in the likeness of God, passing through here. For some reading this now you will soon shed this earthly body and move on into the next realm. This is a naturally occurring event. Death of the physical body is not death but rather an opportunity to experience your heavenly home. Do not think now that heavenly realms are the end of your salvation. No! There will be continued work there also. Did not Christ say, “In my house there are many rooms therefore I go to prepare one for you.” Therefore, I say to you NOW: get acquainted with God!!! Stop wasting time and get down to the business of knowing your true nature. Stop worrying about what you shall eat, your home, your car etc. Where are your priorities? Be Strong!!

February 18, 2023

Saturday

## Put Away the Old Self

*“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 truth.”*

– Ephesians 4:22-24

**G**rowing in our relationship with the Lord we are seeking to shed those tendencies, the strongholds, the character flaws and shortcomings which block us from being closer to the Lord. In other words, we are seeking a deeper relationship in Love. Love of God, our neighbor and self. Yes even self for we are made in His likeness. However it is usually a form of selfishness rooted in self-centeredness that must be shed to further our progress. This is a yearning to have more and more of Godliness and less and less of self. Seek to overcome and ask to grow closer. Say, “Help me Lord to grow closer to you and show me how to overcome these tendencies which impede my true nature in you.”

February 19, 2023

Sunday

## God, Our God is blessing Us

*"God our God blesses us. God blesses us.  
That all the ends of the earth may fear  
Him."*

– Psalm 67

**I**t is strange how most of us continue to run our lives separate from God. We use God, worship Him in a church, temple or mosque, yet we ignore the blessings God is trying to yield to us. How often do we go about our business of each day not asking or seeking God to guide our thoughts, govern our actions, and help with our troubles? We identify with the problems of life, walk in the difficulty, then tell those around us what a challenging time we are having in life. It is our own fault that we struggle, ignoring the blessings of life and not seeking the riches of our God. We must learn the Divine skill of asking and seeking God in all we do. He can supply Thee with all Thy needs always. We have not because we ask not. We lack because we expect lack, limitation and identify with the evil and darkness about us. Remember God is all in all and seeks to bless us in all forms always.

February 20, 2023

Monday

## Through Christ Death Holds No Power

*"That through death He might destroy  
him that had the power of death."*

– Hebrews 2:14

**F**riend, rejoice for in Christ death has lost its power. You are but a blink of the eye in the seat of Christ. In one moment you face your demise and in another you are awake in eternity with your King. Are you ready? What unconfessed sin do you ignore? Do you realize that Christ has forever destroyed the power of death for those who are in Christ Jesus? For others who is to say? But for you the follower of Christ you will be in eternity. Oh Death where is Thy sting!!! Absent from the body and present with the Lord. The curse of death has been forever destroyed!! Rejoice my friend rejoice!!!

February 21, 2023

Tuesday

## The Veil Has Been Removed

*“Behold the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.”*

– Matthew 27:51

There are several lessons gleaned from this scripture. Christ’s shed blood removed the veil of the temple making God accessible to all who through Christ believe. The law, the day of atonement, was destroyed as Christ had come to fulfill the law. The annual ceremony was thus abolished. There is no longer a “holy of holiness” in the temple. Christ had torn wide open the temple veil for all to see. Our bleeding Lord has held the key “for no man shutteth what He hath opened.” Let us thus enter in with Him into the heavenly places, and sit with Him there til our common enemies be made His footstool.

February 22, 2023

Wednesday

## Christ Likeness

*“Not that I have already obtained this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”*

– Philippians 3:12

We continue to press into God through our relationship in Christ. Not that this is a perfected relationship that I am perfect in Christ, but that I know that I am to strive to be like Christ. In that God may use me in that striving to be as a humble servant like Christ. Christ is our Lord. Daily we move deeper in this relationship saying: “More and more of you, Oh Lord, and less and less of me.” Daily surrendering from this worldliness and tendencies that draw us away from our relationship with He that is greater than me. Not that we will ever be Christ, but that we take on Christ’s qualities of love and humility. Be thankful for this relationship.

February 23, 2023

Thursday

## The Lord God Our Protector

*“Those that live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.... If you make the Lord your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, no evil will conquer you... The Lord says, ‘I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me I will answer; I will rescue them in time of trouble. I will reward them with a long life and give them my salvation.’”*

– Psalm 91:1-16

**O**ur Lord God is always with us, ever protecting us, ever making our crooked paths straight and always providing a way when we may see no way out. Yes, the nature of this drama is to overcome the separation of our God. We must first seek the Lord and learn to abandon self, to dissolve this selfnature and put on our true nature. Yield to the truth who you are and follow the example of our precious Jesus knowing that God is ever protecting us.

February 24, 2023

Friday

## Christ Likeness

*“Not that I have already obtained this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”*

– Philippians 3:12

**W**e continue to press into God through our relationship in Christ. Not that this is a perfected relationship that I am perfect in Christ, but that I know that I am to strive to be like Christ. In that God may use me in that striving to be as a humble a servant like Christ. Christ is our Lord. Daily we move deeper in this relationship saying: “More and more of you, Oh Lord, and less and less of me.” Daily surrendering from this worldliness and tendencies that draw us away from our relationship with He that is greater than me. Not that we will ever be Christ, but that we take on Christ’s qualities of love and humility. Be thankful for this relationship.

February 25, 2023

Saturday

## The Lord God Our Protector

*“Those that live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.... If you make the Lord your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, no evil will conquer you... The Lord says, ‘I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me I will answer; I will rescue them in time of trouble. I will reward them with a long life and give them my salvation.’”*

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February 26, 2023

Sunday

## The Lord God Our Protector

*“Those that live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.... If you make the Lord your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, no evil will conquer you... The Lord says, ‘I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me I will answer; I will rescue them in time of trouble. I will reward them with a long life and give them my salvation.’”*

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February 27, 2023

Monday

## Christ Likeness

*“Not that I have already obtained this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”*

– *Philippians 3:12*

**W**e continue to press into God through our relationship in Christ. Not that this is a perfected relationship that I am perfect in Christ, but that I know that I am to strive to be like Christ. In that God may use me in that striving to be as a humble a servant like Christ. Christ is our Lord. Daily we move deeper in this relationship saying: “More and more of you, Oh Lord, and less and less of me.” Daily surrendering from this worldliness and tendencies that draw us away from our relationship with He that is greater than me. Not that we will ever be Christ, but that we take on Christ’s qualities of love and humility. Be thankful for this relationship.

February 28, 2023

Tuesday

## Christ Likeness

*“Not that I have already obtained this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”*

– *Philippians 3:12*

**W**e continue to press into God through our relationship in Christ. Not that this is a perfected relationship that I am perfect in Christ, but that I know that I am to strive to be like Christ. In that God may use me in that striving to be as a humble a servant like Christ. Christ is our Lord. Daily we move deeper in this relationship saying: “More and more of you, Oh Lord, and less and less of me.” Daily surrendering from this worldliness and tendencies that draw us away from our relationship with He that is greater than me. Not that we will ever be Christ, but that we take on Christ’s qualities of love and humility. Be thankful for this relationship.

The BFC Ministry Is Moving Forward!



**HOLY COMFORTER**  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Sunday 10 AM**

**11-13 Davies Place  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601**



# SPURGEON'S CORNER

*"They did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year"*

*-Joshua 5:12*



Israel's weary wanderings were all over, and the promised rest was attained. No more moving tents, fiery serpents, fierce Amalekites, and howling wildernesses: they came to the land which flowed with milk and honey, and they ate the old corn of the land. Perhaps this year, beloved Christian reader, this may be thy case or mine. Joyful is the prospect, and if faith be in active exercise, it will yield unalloyed delight. To be with Jesus in the rest which remaineth for the people of God, is a cheering hope indeed, and to expect this glory so soon is a double bliss. Unbelief shudders at the Jordan which still rolls between us and the goodly land, but let us rest assured that we have already experienced more ills than death at its worst can cause us. Let us banish every fearful thought, and rejoice with exceeding great joy, in the prospect that this year we shall begin to be "for ever with the Lord."

A part of the host will this year tarry on earth, to do service for their Lord. If this should fall to our lot, there is no reason why the New Year's text should not still be true. "We who have believed do enter into rest." The Holy Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance; He gives us "glory begun below." In heaven they are secure, and so are we preserve in Christ Jesus; there they triumph over their enemies, and we have victories too. Celestial spirits enjoy communion with their Lord, and this is not denied to us; they rest in His love, and we have perfect peace in Him: they hymn His praise, and it is our privilege to bless Him too. We will this year gather celestial fruits on earthly ground, where faith and hope have made the desert like the garden of the Lord. Man did eat angels' food of old, and why not now? O for grace to feed on Jesus, and so to eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan this year!

# Grow in your Daily Walk

*All of us grow in deeper understanding with Christ  
as we grow in solutions with Jesus.*

*Daily Reflections helps you grow in reflections  
with a daily theme for each day.*

*Grow in understanding. Be quiet and see a  
deeper relationship with Christ.*

*“Behold, I knock at your door, open  
up and comesit with me.”*

*Christ is asking you to be still and know I am God.*



[bramanfoundation.org](http://bramanfoundation.org)

# Sign up now!

Receive our monthly Inspire email as well as a weekly update email. Visit our website and submit your email to get started.

# Inspire

A Monthly E-Commerce Newsletter  
by Braman Foundation of Charities

&

— The —  
Mid Week Message

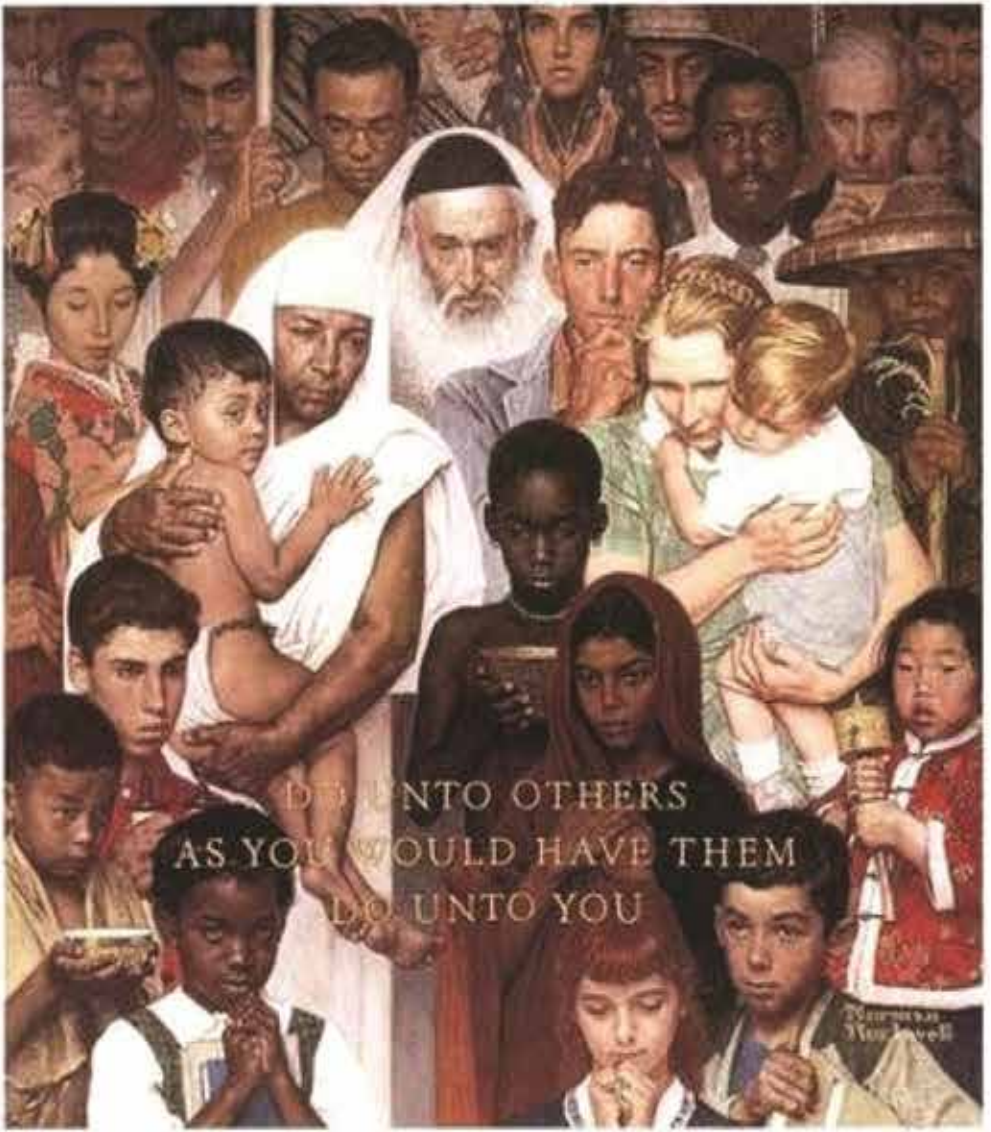
Visit [bramanfoundation.org](http://bramanfoundation.org)  
Follow us on social



The screenshot shows the 'Inspire' newsletter layout. At the top is the Braman Foundation of Charities logo. The main content includes a Thanksgiving greeting, a quote from 1 Corinthians 13:12, a 'Thankful' section with a quote from Psalm 92:1, a 'Gratitude' section with a quote from 1 Thessalonians 5:18, and a 'Thankfulness Leads to Witnessing' section with a quote from Philippians 4:6-7. There are also images of a Thanksgiving card and a group of people. At the bottom, there is an 'Inspirational Quotation' section with a quote from 1 Corinthians 10:31 and a footer with navigation links and social media icons.

“Lord, I thank you that no weapon formed against me shall prosper and every tongue that accuses you in judgment will be condemned. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their vindication is from me, declares the Lord.”

Isaiah 54:17



**NORMAN ROCKWELL**  
**"DO UNTO OTHERS"**

**Braman**  
Foundation of Charities