

July 2022

Braman Foundation of Charities  
presents

# DISCIPLESHIP

A Devotional Magazine



# Worship Service

Thursday 7pm-8pm

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.



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

# DISCIPLESHIP

A Devotional Magazine

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# Welcome

Welcome!!

We are mid-year, now with this issue and in this issue we are going to explore the topic of self reflection.

Specifically. Let us look at Paul's writing in Ephesians 4:22, "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".

Grow in understanding that you play a role in your salvation. Get to work renouncing sin, bad habits, and that which is contrary to kingdom building.

Yet the facts are testament to this truth. Once saved, born a new your walk is just beginning. In the church we refer to this process as "Progressive Sanctification".

So again let us look at our lives in respect to our walk with Christ. Am I growing in my solitude with Christ? Am I renouncing worldliness? Am I on my knees in confession daily asking the Lord to reveal my sin nature that blocks me off from being used in His kingdom building?

Your 2022 is half over. Have you wasted countless hours watching TV, drawn into the illusion that politics is important?

Have you come to a deeper understanding that communion with Christ goes beyond simply reading your bible? It is a matter of your heart being molded into the image of Jesus, that is in you.

Are you understanding the importance of this commitment over all of your relationships? Christ wants all of you! All of your heart. Grow in the rejuvenation of worldliness.

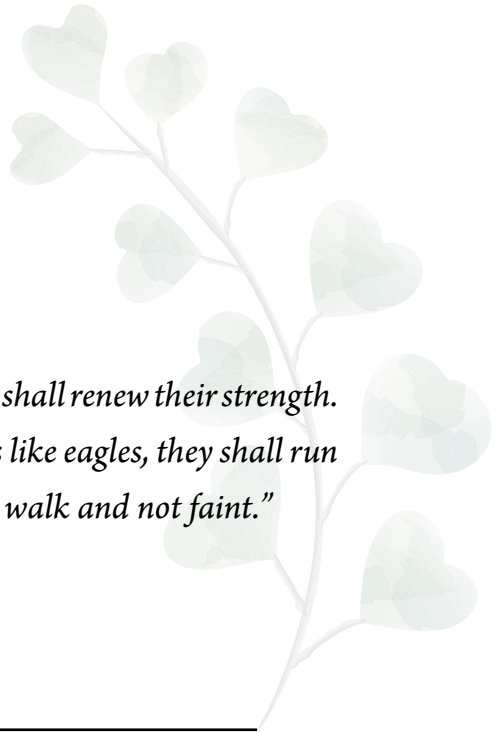
One day soon you will be faced with judgment and the questions will arise. How did God fulfill the commandment to love the Lord with all your heart, all your mind, and your soul? How about your neighbor and what about you? Remember even non-believers love their wives, husbands, and children.

Christ yearns for all of your attention. Grow in your relationship with Christ. Ask and all others will “fall into place”.

What are your self characteristics that are of no value to kingdom building and prevent deeper joy, conferment, peace and love?

In this issue as we continue with the RWB sermons series explore his writings that reinforce this concept of growing in Christ. Press into your commitment to love Christ, to overcome this world, and grow in the discipleship with Christ as He is yearning for you to do.

Peace,  
BFC



## The 2022 Scripture:

*“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.  
They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run  
and not grow weary, they shall walk and not faint.”*

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*BFC Devotional Magazine*

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# *The Sermons of Richard W. Braman*



We continue to share with RWB Sermons. In this issue we share on loving others, showing His love through others.

In these sermons we share love of others, love of Jesus, and love others as Jesus loves you. Let us grow in Love.

Continual Blessings

BFC

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## *An Excerpt from RWB Sermons*

*Truly accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior is the first step to becoming a Christian. If we don't progress beyond this point in our lives then we have lost everything that was gained by this commitment.*

*We have to grow spiritually because if we stand still our faith will not be strong enough to help us withstand the tragic incidents in our lives. Our faith will be like the seed that was sown in shallow ground with shallow roots that could not withstand the drought.*

# The Christian Home

*“God gives the desolate home to dwell in.”*

- Psalm 68:6

On April 10, 1852, an American citizen died in Africa and was buried in a lovely cemetery in Tunis. Thirty-one years later, an American warship brought his remains back to his native land. The funeral was held in his honor in the nation's capital. As the procession preceded down Pennsylvania Avenue all business in the city was suspended. The President, the Vice President, members of the Cabinet, Congressmen and Senators, Judges, officers of the Army and Navy and tens of thousands of citizens, rich and poor, stood with uncovered heads.

Why was such homage paid to this man? He had written some plays, the title of which are now nearly all forgotten. But in one of them there was a little poem. You have all heard it. You all love it. And because of that little poem, this man's dust was honored. The chorus runs like this:

Home, home, sweet, sweet home.  
Be it ever so humble,  
There's no place like home.

These lines by John Howard Payne touched a cord that vibrated in the hearts of millions of men and women the world over, a cord that vibrates today. For millions, the word “home” is the symbol of everything beautiful and good.

Their memories of childhood are rooted in the homestead, or in the cottage where they were raised. Thomas Jefferson once

said, “The happiest moments of my life have been the few which I had passed at home in the bosom of my family.”

Christians have long believed that the family home is intended to be a little corner of the Kingdom of God, a place where all the members of the family make well together through Christ.

The Christian home is made up of persons.

A person is not a thing. There are families in which the members treat one another as things are treated. They use one another as objects of convenience. The Muslim world has suffered severe criticism because of this attitude towards women and slaves. It is not unknown in Western homes.

There is a saying, “they fell in love with things; and when people fall in love with things, they are apt to fall out of love with each other.”

Such treatment of another is contrary to the Christian doctrine of the infinite and eternal worth of the individual. A person has intrinsic worth as one created in the image of God, redeemed by the love of God, and useful in the purpose of God.

The Christian family is made up of such persons.

The Christian home is also made up of communicating persons. There are families in which communication between

persons is not conspicuous. In them communication is for convenience, seldom or never for personal nurture or personal enjoyment, much less for strengthening the bonds of kinship and friendship. Often the home becomes a boarding house or rooming house, little more, and, of course, it becomes easy to change boarding houses.

In a Christian home there is giving and taking, sharing and mutual dependence, mutual sharing of thoughts, ideal plans, purposes. There is no lack of communication between the older wise generation and the younger generation acquiring new knowledge. Each appreciates the other. The members of the family are kinsfolk, but they also become friends.

Christian home is also made up of changing persons. A person can change. I can verify that from my own experience. That is one of the hazards and one of the glories of being a person.

How often in homes that are not really Christian, members of the family deteriorates and character. This sometimes happen in Christian homes. But in these never is the prodigal forgotten or forsaken. The Christian parent, brother or sister, is aware that the possibility is always there that the prodigal can change his mind and return to the Christian way. This is probably where a good many of us so-called Christians fail because we doubt that a person will ever change even in our own families. We apparently do not have enough faith in God, for we need to remember that with God all things are possible and that the Holy Spirit is always working in us and through us. There is always the hope that a person, regardless of how bad or wicked he may be, can and will change.

It was said of Jesus that he grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. Such a changing person was the Master, and such changing personalities are seen in

Christian homes. How wonderful to watch the member grow out of babyhood into childhood, through youth to manhood or womanhood, and even after stature has been attained, then into the wisdom and favor of true maturity.

The Christian home is made up of persons – real, communicating, growing persons.

Secondly, the Christian home has ideals. The family lives its life under a kind of critical principle which is its ideal. Together the members of the family know that attainment is to be made. There is tension and there is pull upward. Each member knows that he has not obtained what he should. The image of what he should be becomes his ideal. This situation is most wholesome.

This means that the Christian home is made up of free persons. The free person is not he who can do as he pleases. The free person is not he who can to smash the piano with a hammer, if he wishes; the free person is he who can play the words of Chopin or Mendelssohn with his fingers. He is free because he is under restraint.

Ideals are enabling restraints. They make for free persons.

Ideals bring happiness to the home and its members. There is much more happiness where John can play the piano than where he can smash the piano, if he wishes to do so. Happiness is not the child of license; it comes from the restraint of ideals. Ideals deliver the home from the vagaries and frustrations met in modern living. Ideals of honesty, temperance, purity, when planted in the home, bring forth the fruits of happiness in the lives of the children. Is there any greater happiness in the lives of parents to see this come to pass?

Ideals enable the family and its members to appraise correctly the values of life.



How much of personality development, growth in wisdom, and happiness depends upon knowing values! The good book on the living room table maybe more important than the new gadget in the kitchen or on the car. It is by ideals that the family problems concerned with television are solved. It is by ideals that the adolescent, as well as the members of the family, are kept under their own selfcontrol.

Ideals are not static. They change with the growing person and bring added growth. They are dynamic. They are the guidelines of life.

Constructive objectives of family living that should draw all members together are such desires as (1) that each family member be a free personality. Certainly all individuals do not or cannot have the same personalities and it's a good thing we don't. All persons do not like the same things or the same type of individuals and we shouldn't expect our children to like everything we do. We certainly shouldn't expect them to conform to us. (2) That they establish good techniques for airing on all sides of a question. Certainly when a family is planning anything, all sides of the question or subject being discussed should be investigated. Each member should be allowed to give his point of view and the other members of the family should be willing to listen. (3) That they build a fellowship that makes everything they do more rewarding because they work together. How rewarding it can be when each member in the family is free to give his own views and become a part of the family planning. The relationship that will exist will certainly be rewarding and the family will be held much closer together. They will enjoy one another's presence much more.

Dr. E. Everett Hale, American preacher

and scholar, wrote: "I have observed, with profound regret, the religious struggles which come into many biographies, as if almost essential to the formation of a hero. I ought to speak of these, to say that any man has an advantage, not to be estimated, who was born as I was, into a family where religion is simple and rational; who is trained in the theory of such a religion, so that he never knows, for an hour, what these religions or irreligious struggles are. I always knew that God loved me, and I was always grateful to him for the world he placed me in. To live with all my might seemed to me easy; to learn where there was so much to learn seemed pleasant and almost of course, to lend a hand, if one had a chance, natural; and if one did this, why, he enjoyed life because he could not help it and without proving to himself that he ought to enjoy it."

We should be quite shocked by a news dispatch from Winnipeg, in Canada, picturing a collapse of the American home. The headline read, "New Yype of Home Looms," and the subhead, "Architects Sees Disposable Kind as Home of the Future." Said Sir Hugh Cason of England to Winnipegians: "Planning of future cities may involve buildings that can be used for a while and then removed like disposable cartons. If the jumbling trend continues, buildings, including homes, instead of being permanent things, might become cartons— something that you use for now and then get rid of." So the standard invitation of tomorrow may very well be, "come over to the carton tonight."

The fundamental trouble is that the national confusion of the word "house" with the word "home". The words are not synonymous. When we sing, "Home Sweet Home" we do not sigh for a cute little ranch house or a split level creation or 18 room ark, but for a company of people with strong ties, a spiritual fellowship. The real menace of a disposable home is

that the home as well as the house may be disposed of. In many places the home as being disposed of. People are attempting to get along without what the “home” at its best really stands for. As a substitute they have contrived a room, which serves the purpose of a railroad station; it is a point of departure for innumerable destinations. An evening at home seems unthinkable these days; in some houses a child has barely learn to speak before he is pleading, “Dad, may I have the car tonight?”

We abound with better houses, but who would say that better homes are flourishing?

Thirdly, the Christian home is deeply and essentially a home of love.

By love Christian Grace is channeled into the home of Christian parents. They are in touch with the source of love. It is altogether possible that even before the home was established there was a solemn compact made that the home should be pervaded by Christian love.

Love becomes the community media of the household. Love is received; love is given. Love is transmitted beyond the doors of the home into the community. It is in love that the ideals of the home restrain and spur the members of the home.

When love is in the home Christ enters. His spirit is present. His values are known. His character is made the personal ideal. Into his will life is committed.

He becomes very real. He becomes an unseen but known Presence in the family circle. How about your home? Is Jesus Christ present?



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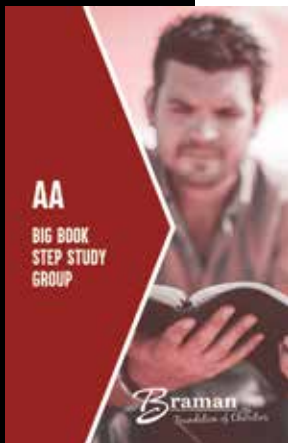
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## Weekly Meetings at Queensbury Facility

### LOCATION

**Braman Foundation of Charities  
Conference Room and Community Room  
49 Glenwood Ave. Queensbury, NY 12804**

Phone: (518) 636-5930

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

# Discipleship

Every Tuesday, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

In the BFC Defined Discipleship Training literature, we examine the state of the church in America today. We spend time with the teachings of the great writings of: A.W Tozer, Thomas A Kempis, & A.B Simpson. There is time spent on the effects of Christ centered meditation, its scriptures and the significance of purifying the ego. We discuss regeneration, salvation, daily repentance and coming into a closer relationship with our creator. Finally we speak on a lifetime of devotion to God and Christ. Recommit your life as a Christ follower and continue your journey.

# Worship Service

Every Thursday, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Starting in September 2021, 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.

# Bible Study

Every Friday, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Joining a small group is the best way to experience the incredible community here at BFC.

# Healing & Restoration

Every Sunday, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

As a brief history, we will explore the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Founded in June, 1935 the A.A. Program has helped millions recover from alcoholism. The essence and the backbone of the Program is the 12 Step Method. Healing & Restoration not only uses the 12 steps in a Christ centered format, it teaches CBT, meditation and has a focus on the body with nutrition and exercise.

# AA Meetings

12 Step Women's Group Every Wednesday, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Big Book Step Study Every Thursday, 7:30pm - 9:00pm

The purpose of this meeting is to help alcoholics fully recover by the studying, discussing, and practicing of the twelve steps as they are laid out in the Big Book. It has been our hard-learned experience that other methods did not work with us. Some of us have tried other methods and our results were disastrous, until we looked at the basic and simple approach the Big Book offers.

# *Growing as Christians*

Spiritual growth is a proper objection for all Christian people. I know that most of us like to think we are growing spiritually but I wonder how many of us really are. If we rely on the experiences we had years and years ago and don't have any new and recent experiences with God, then we probably are not growing as Christians should. We cannot grow unless we are continually dissatisfied with our progress. If we feel we are good people and have learned everything there is to know about God, Christ, our Christian religion, then I'm afraid we are standing still instead of growing spiritually.

Truly accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior is the first step to becoming a Christian. If we don't progress beyond this point in our lives then we have lost everything that was gained by this commitment. We have to grow spiritually because if we stand still our faith will not be strong enough to help us withstand the tragic incidents in our lives. Our faith will be like the seed that was sown in shallow ground with shallow roots that could not withstand the drought.

After a child is born we expect this child to grow physically and mentally over a period of time. In fact, if the child doesn't grow the way we as parents feel

he should, we become quite concerned and try to find the cause and a cure, if possible. Our spiritual growth as Christians is the same thing.

After we have truly accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and savior, we are reborn Christians and God expects us to grow spiritually over the rest of our life here on earth. He doesn't expect us to know everything about Christianity immediately.

There are many hindrances to spiritual growth. Pride is something that will hinder our growth. A man may feel that reading the Bible, praying to God, helping other people is a sign of weakness and this could prevent him from progressing in his Christian life. Some of us, probably a big percent of us, try to keep our Christian experiences to ourselves because we don't want others to laugh and make fun of us. Perhaps we feel that we would lose our popularity with our friends. Maybe in some cases we feel that others would think we are crazy. People sometimes do have a drastic change from their normal selves and people who know them very well could think this. However, if people ridicule us, and make fun of us, are they really our friends? Maybe we don't want to be different, but a Christian person is different.

They live and act differently and they enjoy life more fully than nonChristians. Another hindrance to our spiritual growth is always looking back to the old days and comparing them to what we know we should be doing. For example, I know that years ago it was believed to be that a Christian person had to be stern without a smile. Certain rules had to be observed. The ladies had to let their hair grow, they could wear no makeup. On Sunday afternoon after church, the whole family had to stay in the living room and remain quiet. Although I respect these people for their beliefs, I cannot believe that God wants us to act this way. I can think of no better way to turn young people away from the Christian religion than by observing rules like I have mentioned. I believe that all of these rules are outward acts and not necessarily a reflection on a person's actual beliefs.

Some of us say that our parents only attended church occasionally and they were good Christian people. Why should I attend church, I can be just as good a Christian at home. I believe that a person can be a good Christian without attending church, but I also believe that if a person is a Christian, he will be in church (if possible) worshipping God with other Christians and sharing his Christian experience.

Some of us keep so involved in church work that we don't have time to look at our own lives. Perhaps we feel since we are doing church related work we automatically grow in our own faith. Actually we have to stop once in a while

and take a look at our own spiritual growth. Growth is necessary because it is easy for us to think we have gone far enough.

We can compare ourselves to a tree. A tree has to be sound. The minute a tree stops growing, it has a tendency to get hollow inside.

In Philippians 3, Paul gives us some wonderful help to spiritual growth.

First, He puts spiritual growth in the framework of the crucifixion and the resurrection. Great Christians always live within a great framework. Paul tells us that he is not looking for "a righteousness based on law, but which is through a faith in Christ." Jesus tells the same when He said "The Son of God didn't come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it."

Secondly, Paul's growth is based on humility. "not that I have always obtained this or am already perfect," He says, "I do not consider that I have made it my own." Most of us have been taught that we should not be so proud of ourselves that we annoy other people around us. Generally, our actions speak louder than words. This kind of humility is different than Christian humility.

You feel it's only because of the greatness and holiness of God. If a person does not have a God, then pride tends to fill the person's life as a substitute. Humility is natural for those who believe in God and know His greatness; above all, we feel thankful to God for sending Christ into the world. I believe we should cultivate

gratitude, then humility will take care of itself.

Along with Paul's humility also went a great determination. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own. One thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and pushing forward to what lies ahead, I press on." "I keep going on," is the way Philippians translates the words. What kept a man "going on" like that, through endless hardship, persecution and imprisonment? Paul says that he grasps evermore firmly that purpose for which Christ grasped me. Quite often we think we are "holding on" with our human willpower and then we finally find out that a divine power is "holding on" for us. When our faith is such that we have to struggle to keep it, then we don't have very much. When we realize that Christ has taken hold of our life, with His firm grasp, we can almost never fall from that grasp.

This has a great deal to do with our trust in God, and not our own strength or virtue. If we are to grow in grace there will be times in our lives when we will have to make new decisions that stand behind the original decision we made. There will also be times that we will be ridiculed and criticized severely for the decisions we have to make, but we will know they are right because God has guided us. Someone has said G-R-O-W stands for "go right on walking". Spiritual growth isn't easy and there will be times when we feel very near to God and other times when we feel far away. Generally when we feel far away, an experience will

take place in our lives that will bring us back to God stronger in faith than we were before.

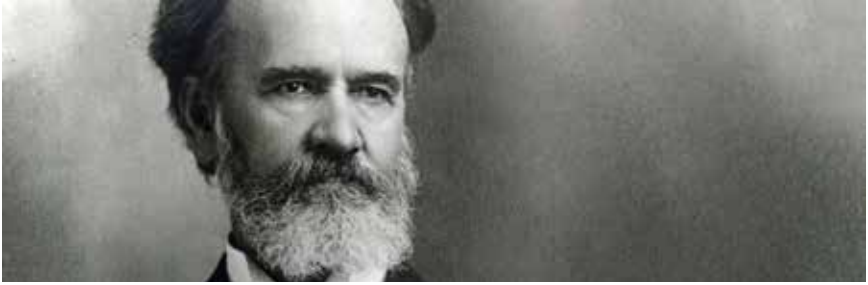
Paul gives us one step beyond growth that concerns maturity. Philippians translates it "all of us who are spiritually adult, should set ourselves this sort of ambition, and if at first you cannot see this, yet you will find that this is the attitude that God is leading you to adopt. " We can become so busy on the lower levels of life that we forget the importance of such things as private meditation, public worship, reading the Bible and other important books.

Character doesn't develop overnight, but builds over the years. The things most worthwhile are the things we wait for and work for slowly. There is a final piece of advice which encourages us to stand for what we know. Philippians translates it, "it is important that we go forward in the light of such truth as we have ourselves attained to it." This is the sustaining power of our own growing Christian experience. It is true that none of us has made all of the progress that we should have, but few us to have learned nothing. We should not grow too proud of our experiences, but we should not deny them either; and what we have learned in the past, we are to be guided by in the future.



# *A Daily Devotional*

*By A.B. Simpson, Founder of C and MA Church*



*“As the Hart Panteth after the Waterbrooks, So Panteth My  
Soul after Thee, O God”*

- Ps. 42:1

First in order to a consecrated life there must be a sense of need, the need of purity, of power, and of a greater nearness to the Lord. There often comes in Christian life a second conviction. It is not now a sense of guilt and God's wrath so much as of the power and evil of inward sin, and the unsatisfactoriness of the life the soul is living. It usually comes from the deeper revelation of God's truth, from more spiritual teaching, from definite examples and testimonies of this life in others, and often from an experience of deep trial, conflict and temptation in which the soul has found its attainments and resources inadequate for the real issues and needs of life. The first result is often a deep discouragement and even despair, but the valley of Achor is the door of hope, and the seventh chapter of Romans with its bitter cry, "O wretched man that I am," is the gateway to the eighth with its shout of triumph, "The Spirit of life in Christ hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

July  
2022



July 1, 2022

Friday

## GIVE ALL TO GOD

*“Be strong and let us show ourselves courageous for the sake of our people and for the cities of our God; and may the Lord do what is good in His sight.”*

– 2 Samuel 10:12

“Thy will be done.” For instance, when you wish, and mean endeavors to be well, and yet you remain ill then say, “Thy will be done.” When you undertake something, and the project does not go the way you thought it ought, say “Thy will be done.” When you do good to others and Thy repay you with evil say, “Thy will be done.” Or when you need to sleep but you are overtaken by sleeplessness say, “Thy will be done.” In general, do not become irritated when anything is not done in accordance with your will, but learn to submit in everything to the Will of the Heavenly Father.



July 2, 2022

Saturday

## GOD'S OWN POSSESSION

*"Having believed you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."*

– Nahum 1:2

**D**o you realize who you are in The Kingdom of heaven? We are redeemed and made whole and while we may not "feel" it here in this fallen realm; you are able to capture a glimpse of heaven at times. Yes, you are sealed in the inheritance of God. You are His own possession. You have given yourself to Him that is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Daily, on bended knee, remind yourself who you truly are and spend time with the Lord away from this world of distractions. That peace, the joy, the love is but a glimpse of your inheritance in Christ Jesus. This cannot be bought with any price. There is NO thing in this world that can equal such peace, love and joy. Praise Him!!! Stretch your arms high to the Lord!!! Give thanks!!!!!! Say I love you Lord!!!!!!

July 3, 2022

Sunday

## HIS GLORY

*"And you said, 'Behold the Lord our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire, we have seen today that God speaks with man."*

– Deuteronomy 5:24

**F**or those of us that have come out of deep poverty, the pain of addiction; a deep life style of sin; God's Glory has shown. Reflect on what you once were and now see who you have become through His Grace. This is God's Glory!!! Your troubles have enriched you with a wealth of knowledge to be gained by no others means. Your trials have been the cleft of the rock in which Jesus has set you, as He did with Moses, that you might behold His Glory. Praise God that we were not left in the darkness in the great affliction but rather you have been regenerated so that His Glory may shine through you.



July 4, 2022

Monday

## DO NOT BE FOOLED

*“Come now let us reason together, says the Lord, though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool.”*

– Isaiah 1:18

**D**o not be fooled you are a saint that was a sinner. Though you have sin you have confessed you are rendered pure. Identify with the truth not who you were as a lost soul. Grow in the understanding of the purity of the Holy Spirit. “I was once a sinner who was lost, but now I am a saint that has never given up.” A saint is a sinner that has never given up. Press in and know the truth: We are saved by Grace and by His Mercy we toil on, yet it is our effort that must be applied in our salvation. You are sanctified, in your regeneration, putting on the new man and shedding the old, yet you must press in and take hold of what belongs to you. Your true nature in Christ. Do not be fooled by this drama you can go all the way in this lifetime.

July 5, 2022

Tuesday

## WALK BY FAITH

*“For we walk by faith not by sight, we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore, whether also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.”*

– 2 Corinthians 4:7

**F**aith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of the unseen. We have hope in what we do not see. We have faith that we are going to heaven. We have faith in the hope of our future. Yet, of course, it is not seen; for what kind of faith is there when we can see what the future may be through our natural mind? No faith at all. We have faith in our God as we work within this realm in service to His Kingdom. We are kingdom builders in that sense. We encourage one another as we are believers in the same faith, this is a bond in which we are united as one people although in separate bodies. Let us carry on in this realm working unto the Lord, pleasing Him in all we do!!



July 6, 2022

Thursday

## MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO BE ANGRY

*Then God said to Jonah, “ Do you have good reason to be angry? Yes I have good reason to be angry.”*

– Jonah 4:9

**A**re you angry over your sin nature? Are you sick and tired of missing the mark? How much time to you reflect in gaining understanding of self, your down fall, your nature from the fall of Adam? Do you know what has manifested in your life from the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life? When is the last time you asked the Holy Spirit to reveal to you your sin nature that continues to shut you off from the spirit? Are you sick and tired of lacking power to be effective in other lives? Ask the Lord in your quiet time: “Reveal to me my lower nature that I continue to follow as if I am well and whole, yet I continue to do the things in which I do not want to do!!!!” Better yet BEG to have your life reformed. Why do you waste your days away in pride telling others you are well when in truth your life is filled with powerlessness to be effective for the kingdom. We are either saints to follow or emulate OR we are an example of what not to be. What are you?

July 7, 2022

Friday

## UNDERSTAND HOLINESS

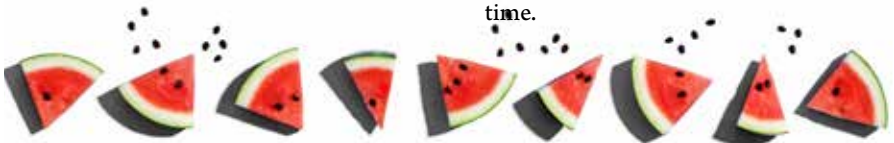
*“As obedient children do not be conformed to your former lusts, which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy one who called you, be holy yourselves also in all of your behavior; because it is written: ‘You shall be holy, for I am Holy.’”*

– 1 Peter 1:14-16

*“Thus you are to be holy to me, for I the Lord Am holy; and I have set you apart from the Peoples to be mine.*

– Leviticus 20:26

**H**ow do you become holy? Remember first of all you are adopted into the Jewish people; therefore, what God is speaking of in the first 5 books of the bible is for you. You have been adopted through your confession that Christ is your King. So, the world consists of the pride of life, the lust of the eyes and the lusts of the flesh. Get on your knees and confess your sin daily. These three are your sin nature, your self, your ego. There is nothing good in self. You are to put on the new self, (Ephesians 4:24). Confess and remember you are being sanctified so count it all joy as you put on your new self and discard who you were according to this world. Also remember this is not your world. Get at it and stop wasting time.



July 8, 2022

Saturday

## YOU WILL BE STRENGTHENED

*“And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal Glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.”*

– 1 Peter 5:10

**Y**ou must understand how your regeneration works in your life. If you have asked Christ to be your personal savior and confessed your sin to Him then you have begun this process of : “ More and More of Thee and less and less of me.” In other words you have begun this life of weeding out self, of purifying your self, your ego. There are tendencies within you that have led to destruction. These characteristics must go, must be pulled out like weeds in a beautiful garden. Many times this hurts, it is painful, however once you have evoked your sanctification the process begins and shall go on til your perfection in Christ Jesus. Stop fighting the process and be glad, be joyful as Paul explained in most of his writings. Thank the Lord that He is active in all you do.

July 9, 2022

Sunday

## GOD PROMISES

*“For all the promises of God in him are yes and in him. Amen.”*

– 2 Corinthians 1:20

**T**he promises of God are vast and hold true: He is our protector, our shield, our rock. God promises us a long and prosperous life. God promises us relief over fear, Anxiety, and worry. Freedom from addictions, deliverance from evil, financial provision, overcoming depression, deliverance from sin. Hope for the lost, and hurting families and friends, recovering marriage. Healing is a great promise in God and there are many others.

**T**hese promises are just some of the gifts from God to those who claim and call on God. To the level that you abide in Christ is the extent that these promises will manifest in your life. Have you asked the Holy Spirit into your life? Have you been repenting from your self? Have you asked God to be more and more of you and less and less of self? If you find your life lacking, then commit more and more in Christ. Go deeper my friends and know that God does not lie!!!!



July 10, 2022

Monday

## SERVE THOSE AROUND YOU

*“His mother said to his servants,  
‘Whatever He says for you to do, do it.’”*  
– John 2:5

*“Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the  
lepers, cast out demons. Freely you have  
received so therefore freely give.”*  
– Matthew 10:8

**T**he Lord was given to us freely. There is no greater gift than a life grounded in Christ. Yet where is your works in service to your fellows? Did not James write: Faith without works is dead!! Is not faith the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of the unseen? Action is needed my friends. Step into your God-given future and claim your birthright!!! Christ has asked you to serve therefore, let your life be a life of rendered service. His command to “Love Thy Neighbor” is needed now as much as then perhaps more. Ask and you will be led to your works. Yet how can you hear if you do not have ears to hear? Are you abiding in the Holy Spirit? If not change your ways and go within and REPENT!!!!

July 11, 2022

Tuesday

## FOR GOD IS LOVE

*“There is no fear in Love; but perfect love  
casts out all fear, because fear involves  
punishment, and the one who fears is not  
perfected in love. We love, because He first  
loved us.”*  
– 1 John 4:18-19

**L**ove is the essence of God. When we are deep within and have turned to the Lord there is a presence unspeakable, a wholeness that cannot be found in this world. In his presence is perfected love. Love that transcends any earthly encounter. Beyond feeling, beyond longing only being, fulfilled of an inner joy that wells up within. Knowledge that He that is in you is greater than he that is in this world. Therefore, let us love one another as God loves us. Let us not identify with this temporary world, rather go to Thorne of true permanence: God



July 12, 2022

Wednesday

## REGENERATION

*“Sanctify them in truth; Thy word is truth.”*

– John 17:17

Sanctification began when you confessed that Christ is your Lord. We refer to this now days as being “Born Again” OR Born a New”. Regardless your old self has begun a process of being removed and your new man is coming forth. This, of course, is a grace filled process that is the mystery through the Holy Spirit, however your effort is needed daily in this process. Continue to confess and seek forgiveness each day, each hour and on your knees at night before you retire. Your awareness will grow as you seek “More and more of Him and less and less of you”. Renounce thinking patterns that contribute to darkness, to negative feelings OR thoughts bring on a heaviness. These are of no value and weight you down on your spiritual path. Arise and Thank the Lord that this is the day the Lord has made and rejoice (Psalm 118).

July 13, 2022

Thursday

## THEIR FUTURE GLORY

*“And the glory which Thou hast given me I have given to them; that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them, and Thou in me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou did send me, and did love them, even as Thou has loved me.”*

– John 17:22-23

And so, as Christ is one with God the Spirit so too you shall you be as you move in and press upward to your high calling. You must know that within you is the Kingdom of God as you are made in the Divine Image. Now realize that Christ is a perfected being, without sin that He incarnated here to show us the way. That through Him we may know God; that we too are one in God as Christ is one in God. Yet this is our future Glory: Oneness of the Spirit of God. Ask yourself this: Are the daily activities that I am currently engaged in bringing upon this unification of oneness? Am I serving my fellow brothers and sisters; building the Kingdom, and loving my Neighbor? Remember your goal as a disciple of Christ: A life that is dedicated in serving God through building His Kingdom here on earth as well as completeness in Him, complete unification.





July 14, 2022

Friday

## YOUR LIFE IS NOT YOUR OWN

*“Or do you not know that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price, therefore glorify God.”*

– 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

If you have given your life to Christ, then He is your redeemer. Why do you believe you can run your life better than Christ; In other words: You pray, you seek, you struggle to have circumstances your way as if you are responsible for the outcome of your life? Who are you anyway? When are you going to let go? Your life is a mess, yet you continue to tell God what to do, to come along side of your life as you play God and manipulate the circumstances of your life. Why lie about this and stay in denial? Your life is a joke and truthfully who would want what you have anyway? You claim you have given your life to Christ, but in reality, it is only to look good to the few around you. No wonder so many believe Christianity as a “FAKE” religion. You are as hypercritical as they come.

Rather surrender daily and be inspired to build His Kingdom through faith. Exercise your faith in what the Holy Spirit is asking you to do: To love your neighbor as Thyself and to love the Lord. Let your life be a reflection upon that command!!

July 15, 2022

Saturday

## LOOK TO JESUS IN ALL YOU

*“...and let us run the with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of faith, who endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

– Hebrews 12:1-2

In all we do let us put before us Christ. Let us overcome self through relying upon Jesus. Let us love those around us, even when circumstances are difficult, by relying on Jesus. Let us overcome our sin through keeping our eyes upon Jesus. Let us rise and press into our high calling by relying upon Jesus. Let us surrender our all at the foot of the cross of Jesus. Christ is and shall always be the center of our lives. Let us celebrate our lives resting in the knowledge that He is the perfecter, He is the one that has gone before us, that He is on the throne that has redeemed us and that He is the one that has given us the freedom to break the chains of our bondage!!! Praise the one that is the lamb of God. Raise your hands and claim the truth of who you are in Christ Jesus!!! Say: “I am free!!!! I am Free!!!”



July 16, 2022

Sunday

## DO NOT BE YOKED WITH UNBELIEVERS

*"Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord, "And do not touch what is un-clean."*

– 2 Corinthians 6:17

**A**s a child of God, born a new and you have confessed that Christ is your Lord and that you believe in His resurrection from Death; then you are set apart. You are born of the Spirit of Christ and you are special. In this divinity you are given favor and mercy that others do NOT have as unbelievers. You are protected by the Most High, part of a Royal Priesthood a family of Righteousness. You are declared free from the bondage of: The lust of the flesh, the pride of life and lust of the eyes. Those that do not believe are not given this Favor, or mercy. They are subject to the Law of Cause and Effects. And as we are called to love them we are not to be yoked with them. This is one of several reasons why it is difficult to differentiate an unbeliever from a believer in America today. Our debt of spirituality is very shallow. In other words, as believers we do not live by the word. We accept sin as a way of life and in fact we live in sin and are not convicted of this life style of shame. And so, our lives are filled with distraught, discomfort and unending difficulty even though many say we are believers. My friends set yourselves apart. Stop doing that in which you know is wrong and live righteously. Stop being governed by the sin nature. Be like flint!!!

July 17, 2022

Monday

## BE ANXIOUS OF NOTHING

*"Look at the birds of the air, they do not sow, nor do they reap nor gather into barns and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth more than them? Observe how the lilies of the field grow, they neither toil nor spin... but if God so arrays the grass of the field which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown in the furnace will He not much more do for you?"*

– Matthew 6:26-29

**I**n your life there may be struggles about your future events. You may not believe an outcome to be in your favor. As you look back of past events that were difficult, yet they have passed, and all is well. It is unimportant now. View your current concerns as if they passed and there is no attachment to the outcome. It simply is, was and is done. Christ is saying that the birds of the air, the grass of the field is so arrayed, they are so beautiful and are so well taken care of that you need to know that you are so much more than those, yet you struggle in fear in anxiety of future events. Cast your life, your plans, your very essence at the foot of the cross. Surrender your essence in Thee. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. Strive to know Him more and more.



July 18, 2022

Tuesday

## SECURITY OF THE ONE WHO TRUSTS

*“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress, my God in who I trust.’”*

– Psalm 91:1-2

**T**rust in the Lord and He will make your crooked paths straight. It does not matter how low you have gone in your life, He forgives, and He promises protection. In this world that is ever-changing go to the one that is ever the same today tomorrow and yesterday. Learn to dwell in this shelter, spend time getting to know your Lord for He awaits the day that you walk with Him and you talk with Him and you call Him your own. Trust!!

July 19, 2022

Wednesday

## GIVE THANKS

*“It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Thy name, O most high; to declare Thy loving kindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness by night.”*

– Psalm 92:1-2

**I**t is sometime difficult in life. We identify with the world and its troubles and forget who we truly are in Christ. One of the best ways to overcome this boredom is to Shout Praises unto the Lord. To lift up your arms to heaven and just sing or shout unto the Lord. This helps create break through in the heavenly realm. Lift up your voice unto God and sing praises to Him who is creator of us all. God is an awesome God that loves you as you are and shall always be. There is No Thing that can separate you from this love as you have placed your faith in Christ. You have come to the Royal Throne of Grace. Grace shall continue to be upon you, in you and for you. Love the Lord with all Thy heart, Thy mind and Thy Soul!!!! Continue my friend until complete unification is done. You will know when you will know!!



July 20, 2022

Thursday

## THE LORD PRUNES YOU

*“For behold I am commanding, And I will shake the house of Israel among nations as grain is shaken in a sieve, but not a kernel will fall to the ground.”*

– Amos 9:9

**Y**ou are not your own if you have confessed the Lord Jesus as your personal Savior and confessed to Him your sins that through His resurrection you have been saved. Once you professed that as truth you have been bought for a price: His blood. Your life is no longer your own it is now Christ and you are part of His Royal Kingdom. Now the pruning begins. As His Disciple you are being shaken, yet not broken. You have been given stern instruction, yet He loves you. Every believer is precious in the sight of the Lord.; a Shepard would not lose one sheep; nor a jeweler one diamond; nor a mother a child; nor a man one limb of his body; nor will the Lord lose one of His redeemed people. We are preserved in Christ because we are His people.

July 21, 2022

Friday

## LIFE ETERNALLY

*“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish.”*

– John 10:28

**Y**ou ought never forget the truth of Christ’s word: I give unto you eternal life!!! Oh Christian it is contrary to every promise of God’s precious Word that thou shouldst not perish or ever be forgotten. “ The mountains shall depart and the hills be removed ; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall my covenant of My peace be removed .” Know and never forget this promise. How sweet it is: “ I give unto my sheep eternal life and they shall not perish.” This is His Promise, His Grace, His power, His Honor, His power, His oath and His Covenant. This is the life of the promise of those that are in Christ



July 22, 2022

Saturday

## TRUST

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not lie on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will make your paths straight.”*

– Proverbs 3:5-6

Perhaps in the natural what you are to do seems so unorthodox, yet you feel called to move forward. Your own understanding tells you no, yet you have committed this task in prayer and believe you are called. Remember the Lord is in you as you and is directing your paths. You made a commitment to the Lord and you are now being directed to move forward. Therefore, do not be afraid do not stop but trust and obey. The Lord is with you, move ahead. How did you think Noah must have felt? What about Moses? Or Joshua? You too must enter your promised land! Move forward my friend!

July 23, 2022

Sunday

## GIVE IT ALL TO THE LORD

*“I took my troubles to the Lord; I cried out to Him, and He answered my prayer.”*  
– Psalm 120:1

All your life: give to the Lord. The Lord awaits all of you. He sees as far as from the East to the West. The Lord knows all of you. Yet you continue to run your life as if it an unending drama. Reflect that soon you will be moving on then what? Why do you struggle so, delight yourself in the Lord, yield yourself to all and wait and watch as the Lord answers? For He knows your troubles and understands. Rather seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all else shall be added unto you.



July 24, 2022

Monday

## CHRIST HELPS THOSE WHO NEED HEALING

*“Why does your teacher eat with scum? When Jesus heard this, he said, ‘Healthy people do not need a doctor - sick people do.’ Then He added, ‘Now go and learn the meaning of this scripture: I want to show you mercy, not offer sacrifices. For I have come to call not on those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.’”*

– Matthew 9:12

**A**re you thirsty? Come and drink from the fountain of life. Are you tired of trying to measure to a standard of this world that brings no satisfaction? Then come to the foundation of life and drink from the one that has come not for the proud but for those that are in need. Are you too proud to confess of the need of a saviour? Come to the Lord and on bended knee confess and seek the fountain of Life. Jesus has come for you. He awaits your love.

July 25, 2022

Tuesday

## BE GRATEFUL

*“The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.”*

– Psalm 126:3

**D**o you ever get caught of up in current difficult circumstances and forget what the Lord has done? As if you will never get out of this trouble. Look at your past and reflect upon what the Lord has delivered you from. You are saved, sanctified, justified and protected. Yes, of course, we will struggle as we live in a fallen world. Yet here you are!! Be of good cheer my friend the Lord is with you!! Be of good cheer my friend the Lord has promised a great future for you. Be of good cheer my friend for you are a child of the Most High. You are the apple of his eye. He adores you and has made you perfectly in His image. You are rendered white as snow. Now get up and praise Him, Love Him and speak to others what the Lord has done for you!!!



July 26, 2022

Wednesday

## GOD IS IN CONTROL

*“There fell down many slain because the war was of God.”*

– 1 Chronicles 5:22

**S**tand up stand up for Jesus!!! The strife will not be long; This day the noise of Battle, the next victor’s song: To him that overcometh a crown of life shall be; He with the King of Glory Shall reign eternally. Remember you have given your life to Christ. The battle is His, yet you must continue to overcome self. Examine your life. Do you have influence over others? When is the last time you prayed with a fellow believer and the Lord used you to pray the sinner’s prayer with him or her? In other words, my friends more work is needed to root out sin. Ask God this: O Lord reveal to me the inner nature that continues to cause me to lack power in Thy Holy Spirit? O Lord reveal to me the work that is still needed so that I may be used by Thee? Be prepared for the answer and be prepared to repent. There is a war waging in the heavenlies for the souls of men and woman. Just observe the battle with your natural eyes here on earth. My friends allow the Lord to fight for you. Then you will gain greater strides in your salvation. Do not stop!!

July 27, 2022

Thursday

## PUT ON THE TRUTH

*“But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in Victory. O Death where is Thy sting.’” (Hosea 13:14)*

– 1 Corinthians 15:54

**Y**ou must learn your true nature, who you are in Christ is NOT perishable, ending or finitude. You need to go deeper, spend more time in prayer. Meditate on the truth, on God. Come to know that you are, were and shall always be an immortal being, made in the image of God. This is truth, and this is what Paul meant when He said we must put on the imperishable, the uncorruptible. Christ is your divine nature, and this is who you truly are when you move toward the light and are reborn. Stop praying hoping to get into to heaven, rather thank God and unleash the truth and gain power through the Holy Spirit. Grow Up!!! Get on with it!!! Stop wasting your time and get real and make a difference in your world!!!! Ever know that the Kingdom of God is not here or there, not up or somewhere else, but within you (Read 17:21). So, get on with your salvation knowing that you as Christ did; can change your world (Read John 14:12)



July 28, 2022

Friday

## RISE FROM YOUR ASHES

*“Come now let us reason together.’  
Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like  
scarlet, they will be as white as snow;  
though they are red like crimson, they will  
be like wool.”*

– Isaiah 1:18

Just as I am without one plea, but that Thy Blood was shed for me, and that thou bid’st me to come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come.” Charlotte Elliot March 18, 1789. Rise up my brothers and sisters for this is the day the Lord has made. You are, were, and shall always be made in the Divine Image of God. Within you have Royal Blood. Now as a saved, sanctified and redeemed sinner you have become regenerated, a new “MAN”, born anew with a renewed spirit. Now arise and take off the old self and be of good cheer. Do not identify with the lie, but know the truth of who you are in Christ. You have been bought for a price, your sins are wiped clean, you are free. Now go tell others, shout this from the mountain top. You are free, free, free!!! Indeed you are free!!!!

July 29, 2022

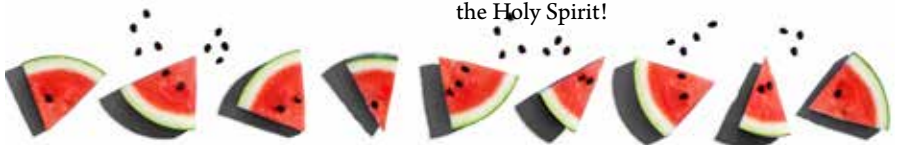
Saturday

## FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

*“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit,  
and the Spirit against the flesh.”*

– Galatians 5:17

Charles Wesley Hymn #450 Circa 1749: “From strength to strength go on; Wrestle, and fight, and pray, tread all the powers of darkness down, and win the well-fought day” Salvation began when you were saved, but the battle goes on through your regeneration. There are strong holds in your thinking patterns, you have generational curses in which you have inherited and which you have passed on to your children and thus your grandchildren. You may be saved and worked through a step program and found some relief; yet you still lack power to claim real VICTORY! You are and always will be, on this earth, fighting a battle with good VS evil. The evil within you that is being regenerated as you move more in the light and less in the darkness and a battle with the forces that seek to destroy you. You may only think you have won yet look at the destruction in your life now. Tarry on my friend, go deeper in Christ through repentance and overcoming your strong holds of defeat! Fight on!!! For God Himself is within you!!! You are made in the divine image of God now act like it and take on the full measure of Christ! My friend Die daily to self and be filled with the Holy Spirit!





July 30, 2022

Sunday

## BE CONTENT; RELY ON CHRIST

*“Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means and also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

– Philippians 4:11

It is Paul’s reliance on the Savior that causes his contentment. He knows he can rely on Christ in all he does. It does not matter his circumstance. And so too must we grow into a reliance on Christ for our every part of our lives. It matters little what you may perceive by the news you hear or read for this is the world and when you gave yourself to Christ you renounced the ways of this world. And too it matters little about your income, your own self for once again you have offered your life as a living sacrifice and your life is not your own. It is Gods. For truly a time will soon come when you realize you are not this body, nor live in this family or this earthly realm for that matter; and you will be whisked away. Therefore, learn to be content whatever you are in any circumstance. Paul was a perfect example of this state. He was grounded in Christ. Are you? Or do you continue to rely on self-making and manipulating your life as you see fit asking God to help you as if God is your puppet on your stage of life?

July 31, 2022

Monday

## KEEP YOUR MIND ON GOD

*“Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain you.”*

– Psalm 55:22

*“Thou wilt keep Him on perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee.”*

– Isaiah 26:3

Be anxious of nothing, those in which their lives are grounded in God. And yes, your mind can stay on God always for those that keep with God and spend time in His word and meditate on God. Those that repent of their separateness, of the fall of man from original sin from Adam. Yes, you can overcome “it all”, however you must be committed to discipleship. You must live a life of accountability. Go deeper in the Lord and understand this world in which seems so real will be gone as you move onward to the next realm in heaven. What you perceive as so real is ever changing, impermanent. So why are you so attached to what is not real, so many lost to sin, and many that live deluded lives of no existence of God? Keep busy with God and stop wasting your time.



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RWB Sermons

# Lifting the Level of Our Religion

*“For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

- Matthew 5:20

“And the heart of the eternal is most wonderfully kind.”

And what is our response to the wonderful kindness of God? It is intended that this sermon will help us to lift our religion to a higher level.

We might lift our religion out of and above the platitudinous. Platitudinous is the quality of being dull, insipid, trite, commonplace. Recall Job’s answer to the insipidness of his comforters. “Is there any taste in the white of an egg?” (Job 6:6) Religious platitudes are like a creeping plant in their affect. Stale religion is a stage in the process of religion growing sour.

“Insipid” is a good word to look at. The Church of Christ started in the world with a cutting edge to its truth. It came into the Roman life of the first century with a message so peculiarly different from the standards of life then current that it literally turns the world upside down. Then as it grew it became more reasonable, more sane, more strategic—in a word insipid. The glory and radiance had departed. So today the church has nothing to give but a weak sevenfold “Amen” of blessing on the standards of

the world, if it has no skills revealed of alarm against the forces, which prey on human life, it is a mere bankrupt. If it has nothing piercingly Christian to say about the issues of the day, it is merely echoes in resonant, pious tones the safe generalities to be heard, everywhere thought throughout the land, what good is it? “Insipid”—a good word to look at, with a question in our hearts, “Lord is it I?”

First of all in lifting the level of our religion let us consider prayer. We might lift prayer out of the commonplace. The common place is immature, grooved, narrow prayer. Some adults still pray a “now I lay me down to sleep” type of prayer. The Lord’s prayer becomes as grooved as words in a phonograph record, requiring no thought in the utterance. Some prayers are too narrow. Several generations of students at Drew Theological Seminary will remember the prayers of Prof. John Faulkner. He began a chapel prayer, “Oh Lord, you ought to have seen the New York Times this morning.” One student remarked, “If the Lord was a little sleepy this morning, I’ll bet Uncle John woke him up.” On another occasion Dr. Faulkner prayed, “Now, Lord, there are three ways

to fix up this matter (outing them), and I hope you'll take the third way."

Some of us have really never learned prayer only as a last resort after everything else is failed. And then we become disturbed when God doesn't seem to answer them. Jesus Christ taught us to pray, "Thy will be done," not "my will." First of all, I believe prayer has to be a daily art, not out of habit, but because we feel the need and desire within ourselves to converse with our Lord. Each of us needs to spend a few minutes each day in silence with God and we have to learn to be still so that we can hear him talk to us.

We definitely need to lift our prayers out of the commonplace so that they do have meaning.

Second, let us consider our giving. There is virtue in regular giving. But the habitual and regular may become the enemy of spiritual growth and a larger usefulness. A conference leader of youth told the group about the spiritual thrill he had as a young man when for the first time he put a \$5 bill on the collection plate at a church service. The next Sunday morning there were five, five-dollar bills on the plate at the conference service.

Quite often our giving becomes a habit. We know that we are expected to give and we place our usual amount in the collection plate. But we really do not give because we have a feeling of gladness or because we want to. Little do we realize that everything we give to God's word will be returned to us a thousand times.

I know this to be a fact and to be true. Where is the pastor who does not know a person whose low morale would be lifted by putting a few extra dollars in the offering plate next Sunday morning?

Many have lifted their sights and save themselves from the deadly grooves of meaningless habits by the practice of stewardship. In our giving and the amount we give, I feel we should consider and remember one thing; that we would not be able to give at all if it were not for God, for he gives us everything we have. The least we can do is to give back a small part of what he has given us.

Third—the amounts and way we serve our Lord should be considered. Many of us possess talents, that God has given us that we never use. We say that we cannot do something because we have never done it before or because it has never been done. Regardless of how little talents we think we process, the Lord has use for each individual. Many of us should stop and think of how much time we actually spend in this kind of service. I'm sure we would be surprised for very few of us extend ourselves too much.

In our Sunday school, for example, wouldn't it be wonderful to have a surplus of persons that would be willing to teach a class? How many times have we started Sunday school on Sunday morning, having to double up classes because we didn't have enough people available to teach?

If the Lord absolutely demanded of us that we should spend at least one hour per week in his house, do you think this is too much to ask?

Why is it so difficult to get people to work for the Lord and the church? And why is there constantly a shortage of men going into the ministry? Perhaps the answer to these questions is that not enough people have actually experienced God in their lives and therefore do not have the sense of devotion that is needed for them these kinds of service. Perhaps we all need to ponder these questions and

answer them in our own consciences.

Next let us consider worship. Halford Luccock once made a plan for what he called, “divine disorder” in the church. He called for church services with some spontaneous movement of the spirit in them. He wrote, “I dread the announcement on the bulletin boards, ‘Service, Sunday morning at 11:00 AM as usual!’

Isn’t that what is the matter with us—too much as usual?

Some of you think since the pastor called on us, we had better go to church today, to pay back his visit. I’ll say this, that regardless of how many calls a pastor makes, the people will not come to church if they don’t feel within themselves the need for worshiping God in his house. I hope people don’t come to church to merely please the pastor.

Fifth, let us consider morals. Remember the words of Jesus, “except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, yes shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.” The Pharisees had religion all right, but it was expressed in platitudinous words and stereotypical actions.

There is much insipid morality; afraid-your-go-to-hell morality, code morality, alms in-the-market-place morality, Jack Horner morality. There is always a possibility of a little more of the extra-mile variety, also of the turn-the-other-cheek, love-your-enemy, and secret-service varieties. Perhaps we should start living what we say we believe, showing what we believe by the lives we live.

What would you say is the most deadening experience a human being can suffer, one that takes the light

radiance, power out of life? What in your opinion takes “the first fine careless rapture” from us? Many people have discovered that it is the wrong they do in their lives, for which they have not sought forgiveness, made restitution, nor forgiven themselves. Guilt is the greatest of all depressants to enthusiasm. So if you have anything like that pressing on your mind, your conscience, your soul, get it off; cast it away. And you will rise like a bird, and life will be so exhilarating and thrilling that you will not recognize it. “For in him we live and move, and have our being.”

We might respond to the love of God by lifting the level of religion from the dull and deadening to the enthusiastic.

Religious enthusiasm once saved a nation. W. H. Fitchett, in his book, “Wesley and His Century”, describe the moral landscape of England in the early days of the 18th century: “England was exhausted of living religion. It was black with wickedness. It’s ideals were gross. It’s sportswear brutal; the public life was corrupt; it’s vice was unashamed—religion was for the most part morally impotent—it’s suffered from Arctic fog and was frozen with Arctic chills.”

Dr. Fitchett then asks the question, “What saved England?” He answers, “a spiritual revolution saved the people.” Faith was rekindled. How did that come about? By enthusiasm! One man’s religion glowed in his heart until it burst into flame—another man’s heart caught fire—the flame was contagious until England was saved.”

“The spark of heaven falls—who picks it up?” The love of God comes down upon us—who responds? Ha pitiable the person who never responds with enthusiasm! How dead the person who has never rooted for the team! Have

you never been lifted up to the seventh heaven of delight because the Cause had won a victory?

Why should we not get into God's big game? Why be like the children in the market place who refused to play either wedding or funeral? Does God's intense enthusiasm for you leave you dull and blasé?

How uninteresting things became when they are routine and we have no enthusiasm for what we are doing. We definitely need enthusiasm in our religion, the way we live, the way we provide service, the way we worship and the way we play, otherwise eventually we have lost everything we have gained. In response to the love of God we might give our religion open and empathetic expression.

We recall Donald Hankey's phrase, "Inarticulate Christians", the words applied to many.

Some are fearful of exposing their religion because they do not want to be thought of as hypocrites. That's good as far as it goes. God defies hypocrites. But why not be honest? There is hypocrisy of understatement, as well as hypocrisy of overstatement. Why not be honest? Acknowledge with gladness the goodness of God in your life. There is plenty to acknowledge.

We can give open expression by means of speech, manners of life, consecrated service. A great minister described the church she was serving as "clogged by a glut of un-utilized grace." How wonderful if we asked questions would open the valve switch let the grace of God flow through.

The president of a men's club in a certain church announced to the group before

him that he was determined that the club should do more than eat dinners. He outlined plans for service on a higher level. Why not use your Christian religion, talent, enthusiasm, to lift some worthwhile organization to a higher level of action and morale? Why should a group meeting in the church be dull and stupid? Eating meals and conducting parties are not adequate expression of the lives of Christian men and women. Give expression to your religion where you are. We need not seek some distant field.

Our testimony will inspire the group morale of the church and the home. Let us give expression to our religion so that our community may be salted. Where is the community that doesn't need the salt of Christian men and women and salty salt at that?

Giving expression to our religion becomes a factor in saving the world. It needs saving! The scientist will not save it, only God will save it, and that through our prayers, our witness, our Spirit-inspired ideas, our spirit and powered deeds. We must be about that business.

Regardless of how unimportant as an individual we may feel we are; how you and I and every individual lives his life have a definite influence in our church, in our homes, our community, our nation and our world.

More should have been said about all this being in the nature of response to God's love. We love because God first loved us. We rise above the platitudinous, kindle enthusiasm in our hearts, give expression to our religion experience, only as we give response of our lives to the marvelous love of God. Let us now begin to truly lift the level of our religious practices.

## SPURGEON'S CORNER

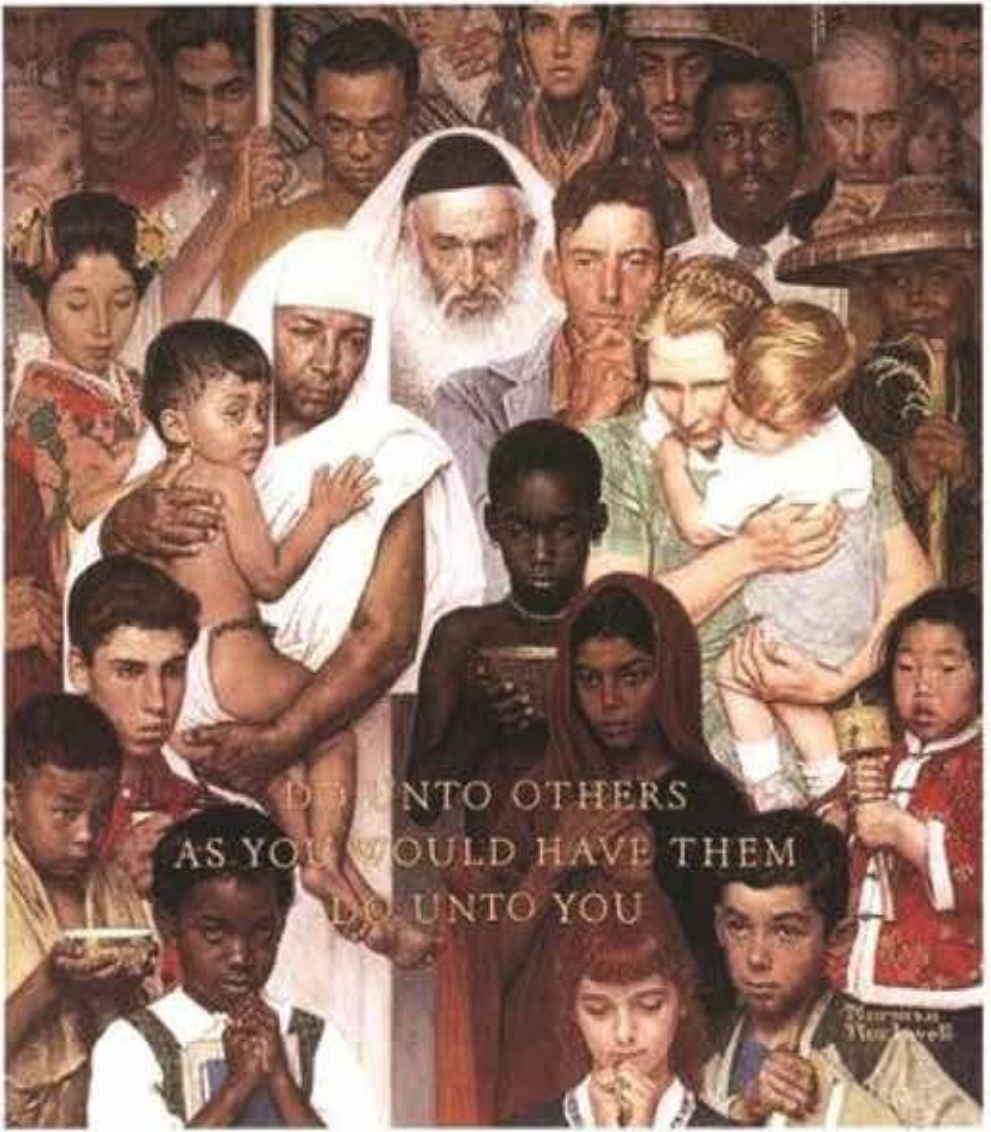
*"All that the Father gives me will come to me."*

*John 6:37*



This declaration involves the doctrine of election: There are some whom the Father gave to Christ. It involves the doctrine of effectual calling: These who are given must and shall come; however stoutly they may set themselves against it, yet they shall be brought out of darkness into God's marvelous light. It teaches us the indispensable necessity of faith, for even those who are given to Christ are not saved except they come to Jesus. Even they must come, for there is no other way to heaven but by the door, Christ Jesus. All that the Father gives to our Redeemer must come to Him; therefore none can come to heaven except when they come to Christ.

Oh, the power and majesty that rest in the words "will come." He does not say they have power to come, nor that they may come if they will, but they "will come." The Lord Jesus by His messengers, His Word, and His Spirit sweetly and graciously compels men to come in, that they may eat of His marriage supper; and this He does not by any violation of the free agency of man, but by the power of His grace. I may exercise power over another man's will, and yet that other man's will may be perfectly free, because the constraint is exercised in a manner accordant with the laws of the human mind. Jehovah Jesus knows how by irresistible arguments addressed to the understanding, by mighty reasons appealing to the affections, and by the mysterious influence of His Holy Spirit operating upon all the powers and passions of the soul so to subdue the whole man, whereas he was once rebellious, that he yields cheerfully to His government, subdued by sovereign love. But how shall those be known whom God has chosen? By this result: that they do willingly and joyfully accept Christ and come to Him with simple and unfeigned faith, resting upon Him as all their salvation and all their desire. Reader, have you come to Jesus in this way?



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

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