

June 2022

Braman Foundation of Charities
presents

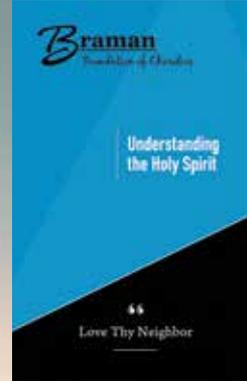
DISCIPLESHIP

A Devotional Magazine



Grow in Listening to the Holy Spirit

We dedicate this work to the soul that seeks the mountain top in a sea of mediocrity. To the one that has had a climb of this truth and seeks it always. You are the warrior that will overcome, the one that understands the true North and knows that Christ is the Pole Star of their lives. Press on, go deeper, and never ever stop.



bramanfoundation.org

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Discover how to grow in your relationship with the Holy Spirit with BFC's book, *Favorite Scriptures & Prayers*

Welcome

Welcome to June Friends!

Let's continue to "Love Thy Neighbor" to learn to commune with Christ. Let us study 1 John 3:18, Hebrews 10:24, Matthew 5:16, 1 Timothy 6:18, Titus 2:7, and James 2:17.

In 1 John 3:18 "Little children, let us not love with words or with tongue, but in deed and truth." In Hebrews 10:24 we read, "And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds." God through scriptures is telling us to move forward in Love through loving others through good deeds. In Matthew 5:16 "Christ says let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." Friends glorify God with your good deeds. Let your light so shine as Christ uses you.

In 1 Timothy 6:18 Paul instructs us to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share. All that you believe you own, or have is not yours. All and all you have is the Lords. Stop trying to hold onto what is not yours anyways. Grow in your generosity. In Titus 2:7 "In all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds with purity in doctrine dignified." Show your good deeds friends. Do not stop! Allow Christ to use you mightily in kingdom building.

Finally we listen to James 2:17. "Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself." So there you have it. Grow your faith, through stretching your talent, your resources, your time, and money! Remember it's not yours, Christ tests his disciples to see if they are ready to serve!

Dig deep to love others and serve. You can do this not in your strength but His!

Be ever blessed!

“Love Thy Neighbor”



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.”

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

An Excerpt from RWB Sermons

Our first and most natural instinct is to strike back in the same way a person has dealt with us. But again I say that Christ can help us to turn the other cheek, he can help us to use the practice of 'brotherhood' instead of the practice of an eye for an eye and a tooth for tooth. I can assure you that if you do use the brotherhood approach you will sleep better at night, you will have no regrets and the results will be more satisfactory.

From the day that the Samaritan traveler became the good Samaritan, wherever the Christian gospel has gone, it is by the exercise of love indeed of kindness that men have exalted themselves. This truly was the way of Jesus and it should be our way also.

Love With No Conditions

“He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him.”

- Hebrews 7:25

Some people have a prejudice against the word ‘save’. This word may be like an old coin that has been battered and become misshapen by rough usage, but nevertheless is pure gold, recognized by the dealer in precious metals. Let us not scorn the word.

“It is so easy to persuade men that the amount of forgiveness they can receive is measured by the quality of repentance they can offer.”

Christ is able to save. From what? Our text today suggests an answer to this question: it suggests that the saved man is moving toward God; the men who is not saved is moving away from God. The ultimate in salvation is being united with God. When the prodigal left home he was not saved; he was headed the wrong way; when he turned toward his father’s house he was on the road to salvation. There are many experiences that a man has when he is moving away from God.

Here are some of them. He is affected with a sense of guilt. There are all sorts of guilt, false guilt, repressed guilt, guilt that is a feeling of inferiority, guilt because you have not been true to yourself, guilt because you have not served well your fellow man, guilt because you have hurt God. The form that guilt takes depends much upon the nature of the person involved. When a man moves toward God, Christ lifts the sense of guilt. Christ is able to lift the burden of guilt. Movement away from

God is movement towards darkness. Day by day the lights go out. Candles of idealism sputter and fail. Men walk in the plume of failure, futility, and frustration. All things begin to lose their luster. Life itself may become a dark alley. Jesus is able to save a man from the oncoming darkness of despair, even death. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world”. He turns men to God by the attractive brilliance of his light. In movement away from God love diminishes and finally disappears. A man called upon a minister by night in despair because he was becoming loveless. “I do not love my children, I do not love my wife; I do not love my friends; I am becoming like a nut.” These were his actual words. To live in a loveless world is separation from God who is a god of love. Christ is able to restore love to a man’s heart.

Lost is a word that Jesus used to describe separation from God. Some men are lost like sheep that have wandered from the fold. Some are lost like coins that have fallen into a dark corner. Some men are lost because they have deliberately left the house of light and love and joy. “Lost” has been called the most tragic word in the English language. There are so many places where men get lost-lost in pride, lasting ambition, lost in envy, lost in greed, lost in their own obstinacy. Christ is able to reclaim the lost.

All sorts of things happen to us when we move away from God, in fact, nothing seems to go right. Problems and

conditions come to us and we have no one to turn to for help and guidance. We are actually alone and to be alone is a feeling that none of us enjoy. When we are moving away from God, I also believe that we imagine things are happening to us, our emotions run away from us and our thinking and conception of right and wrong have vanished. These are but a few of the experiences that come to men who are moving away from God.

What is this great salvation? It is much more than we have implied so far. It is often known as relief from bearing a great burden. A burden that is so heavy it holds us down and we are unable to rise above. It is walking in the light, which shineth more and more onto the perfect day. When we are in darkness everything is black, we cannot see where we are going. "We love because he first loved us." If we could only love one another as Christ loves us, all of the misunderstanding, all of the prejudices, all of the fighting, all of the wars in our world would end and this piece that we are all concerned about would finally come to pass. Love isn't necessarily the showing of affection by physical acts, such as kissing or hugging but it can be a concern that is so deep that it moves us to show our concern by some kind of action. Salvation is the prodigal's joy of living in the Father's house after experience as a swineherd.

Now the word "uttermost" becomes emphatic in our text. "To the uttermost", reads the King James version; the new English Bible says, "absolutely" and "fully and completely" writes J.B. Phillips. "To the uttermost", saved forever and ever, for this life and the next. "Absolutely" forgiven, our sinfulness is separated from us as far as the east is from the west. "Fully and completely" clean, like new fallen snow.

"Love with no conditions", this phrase

comes from Dr. Paul Tourmer's book, "Guilt and Grace". He writes, "in every age, men have projected precisely the same idea on God. They picture God as one who loves them only on condition that they are good, and who refuses them his love if they become guilty. Fear of losing the love of God— this is the essence of our human problem and of psychology. Even a person, who does not believe in God, trembles to lose his love. This false idea of God, still so widespread among his people is just what Jesus came to remove. He shows us that God loves us unconditionally, loves us not for are goodness or are virtues but because of our misery and guilt."

You don't have to know theology to accept the love of God through Jesus Christ. You do not have to agonize in repentance for your sins in order to receive this great salvation. You need not bring any merit of your own. You need bring no achievement, no accomplishment, no payment, no works, no service. Christ is able to save without these.

Is it not necessary for men to forgive others their trespasses against them, before God will forgive them? For we read in Matthew 6:14-15, "for if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your father forgive your trespasses". Will men who are moving away from God, children of darkness, on the road of lovelessness, do this?

This is the road they will take after they have turned, not before. Saved men will seek to forgive their brothers, not unsaved men. Christ is able to save to the uttermost, without conditions.

How is it possible for Christ to save us without our fulfilling certain conditions?

That is a question worth asking and worth answering, but that is not the point of his sermon. To know how Christ saves us is not a condition of salvation. He is able to save us without that.

Martin Luther, an impetuous man, driven to despair by the feeling of guilt, after vainly plunging into penances and mortifications, discovered afresh in his turn that salvation is not earned, but it is a gift of God, free and offered in advance to the sinner, and that it is sufficient to accept it by faith. From his cry of relief, the Reformation was born, like an explosion, at a time when the church was insisting on works, merits, and indulgences, all of which laid the cost of salvation upon man's own souls."

In the Old Testament story, when a plague of snakes had come upon Israel wandering in the wilderness, the people were saved from death by the serpents' stings by looking upon a serpent of brass set upon a pole. This is recorded in Numbers 21: 8-9, "And the Lord said to Moses, make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent, and set it on a pole; and if a serpent bit any man, he would look at the bronze serpent and live." Jesus referred to the story in these words, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

"Look and live", was an old gospel song that carried the message of the Old Testament symbol and the saving power of Christ.

Look and Live! It just doesn't seem possible. But all things are possible with God.

"Jesus is able to save to the uttermost."



Homeland
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**INSPIRED BY OUR BELIEF TO
"LOVE THY NEIGHBOR"**

In keeping with the prominent BFC mission statement to "Love thy neighbor," our products do just that. Our herbs, essential oils, cleansing products, and incense help in a subtle nature with your relationship with the Holy Spirit. Both herbs and essential oils help to restore you to a healthy mind and body. Incense and daily prayer can enhance your devotions and purpose driven life.

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Monday Nights 7:00PM - 8:00PM
Pray With Friends in Africa & India



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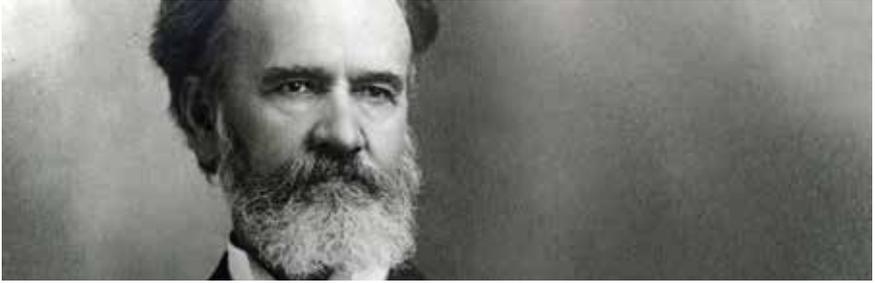
AT BFC QUEENSBURY FACILITY

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Email Moses Yongo For Your Invite: myongo82@gmail.com

A Daily Devotional

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

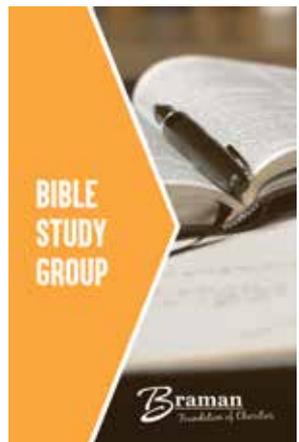
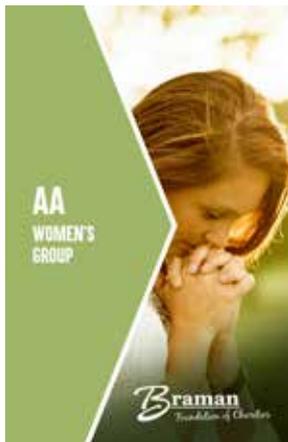
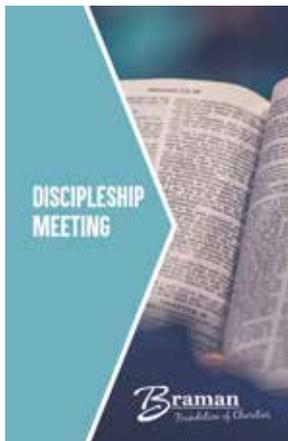
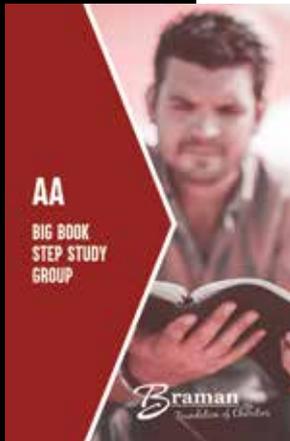


“Ye cannot serve God and Mammon”

- Matt. vi. 24

He does not say ye cannot very well serve God and mammon, but ye cannot serve two masters at all. Ye shall be sure to end by serving one. The man who thinks he is serving God a little is deceived; he is not serving God. God will not have his service. The devil will monopolize him before he gets through. A divided heart loses both worlds. Saul tried it. Balaam tried it. Judas tried it, and they all made a desperate failure. Mary had but one choice. Paul said: “This one thing I do.” “For me to live is Christ.” Of such a life God says: “Because he hath set his love upon Me therefore will I deliver him. I will set him on high because he hath known My name.” God takes a peculiar pride in showing His love to the heart that wholly chooses Him. Heaven and earth will fade away before its trust can be disappointed. Have we chosen Him only and given Him all our heart?

Say is it all for Jesus,
As you so often sing?
Is He your Royal Master?
Is He your heart’s dear King?



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

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.

RWB Sermons

Kindness

“Be, ye kind to one another.”

- Ephesians 4:32

We have a home with the husband and the wife are about to be separated, could this have been averted? Perhaps, a little bit of kindness, by a little understanding, by a little give-and-take by both parties. We have another home that is a nest of juvenile delinquents—students a delinquency tell us that most likely there was a lack of kindness, call it love, in the home. No family life of sharing ideas and thoughts, each one going their individual ways. No thoughts of Jesus Christ or Christianity.

We then have a group of Africans struggling any foreign country who break off their studies and return to their native land because their hosts were unkind. How far a little kindness would go toward the solution of racial problems in our own country and our world today. We need to put one another in the other person shoes before we start condemning and criticizing. Those who would become peacemakers in the world, even between nations, might well begin with the action of kindness in daily life.

This sermon is not a little homily or ethical talk about a virtue. Let us hope it touches the deeper issues of life and

bears upon our most serious problems.

First of all kindness is original in man. That may not seem to be true, but the clue to this statement is found in three (3) places. First, it is found in the dictionary—the word ‘kind’ is one that roots back, like so many of our good strong words, into Anglo-Saxon speech. It is allied to ‘kin’, the kin of kinsfolk. Pushing it back still farther, it is related in our Latin tongue to ‘natural’: natural, kindred, kindness. By the dictionary, we might say, “it is natural to be kind because we are kin.”

Second, we find it in the Bible. The ancient story in the first part of Genesis tells us that, “God saw everything that he made and, behold it was very good.” Surely kindness was an element in that goodness.

In the story that tells of the woman being made from the rib of man, we find Adam using words which are recognition of kind, “this is now bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh.” She is my kind. She is my kin. It looks like an expression of kindness. Does the Bible teach us that kindness was original in man? I believe it does.

Third, we can find it in a scientific treatise. Some decades ago the social scientist were seeking out the most elemental social phenomenon or act. One of these men turn their attention and of his students to “the consciousness of kind” as the first social phenomenon. Adam’s recognition of Eve, if you please. She is my kind, my kin—a short step to primitive kindness. Another word in the writings of sociologists was, “mutual aid”, inherent in kindness. These sociologists, apart from the farther discussion of their theories, did root kindness far back in the early days of the race. “Be kind to one another”—touches something elemental in ourselves.

Second, kindness is characteristic of God. If kindness belongs to the intrinsic nature of man, and if man is made in the image of God, it is reasonable to believe that kindness belongs to the nature of God

In James 1:17 we read, “Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, come down from the father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” The book of Psalms enters deeply into the experience of man. It gives expression to man’s experience of God’s kindness. Note the Hebrew word that is translated “mercy”, “steadfast love” and “loving kindness.” Is not “loving-kindness” the loveliest word in the English language? From Psalms 144:2 we’ve read, “Blessed be Jehovah, my rock—my loving-kindness.” Other passages from Psalms that are worthy of note, Psalm 36:7, “How precious is thy steadfast love, O God?” From Psalm 32:10 we read, “many are the pangs of

the wicked; but steadfast love surrounds him who trust in the Lord.” And from Psalm 51:1, “Have mercy on me, Oh God, according to thy steadfast love.” Kindness is natural with men, whether we sometimes think so or not. Kindness is original with God.

Third, kindness is incarnate in Jesus Christ. In kindness there are two factors—sensitivity and response. One can never be kind unless one is aware. Jesus noticed that the multitude was hungry. He was aware.

Just noticing is a divine act, catching the coming hunger before it has clutched at the vitals. Jesus made ventures in human relationships by his acts of kindness. He was not, “the glazed eye and the blunted heart.” How kind to women, to Zacchaeus, to Peter, to his fellow sufferers on their crosses, to the Roman soldiers at the foot of the cross.

Whenever Jesus spoke hard words to the scribes and Pharisees was it not because of their cruelty in placing heavy burdens upon others? He was protesting against unkindness. Unkindness mutilates life. We who know the story of Christ often forget or take for granted some things that are very impressive to those who have just received the Gospel. The kindness of the Master is one of these. It has been noticed on some mission fields, for example in untouchable or low cast Indian villages, that recent converts to Christianity are often more immoral than they were when they held by their old faith. They do not remain so, but how does one explain such a fact? It is simply that they have discovered the

kindness of Christ before they have been deeply influenced by the other ethical implications of love. Jesus it's to them like a soft hearted and lenient parent. If I fall, if I do this, he is good, he is kind, he will forgive me. And the new converts falls into sin. It is the kindness of the Master that has made its impression on their childlike minds.

Christ is the gift of God to the race. Christ is the character of God made flesh that man might see and hear and touch the kindness of God. From Titus 3:4, we read, "But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Savior appeared."

Fourth, kindness is necessary in the followers of Jesus Christ. If we are to be his disciples, if we claim to be Christians into live Christ-like lives, we must follow his example. Otherwise how can we call ourselves Christians. There is no halfway, you know. We have to go the whole route. We must take up our crosses, Jesus said, "If any man would follow me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." I can hear a man saying, "I'd like to see any man becoming kind in the midst of the competitive business life I live." Difficult? Yes. Necessary? Yes. There is no time that a man hates himself more, I suppose, then when he has been unkind. He has denied something elemental in himself. So this is the cross that many a man must take up when he follows Jesus Christ. He has to lift the submerged simplicity of kindness into dominance of character and of life

By his direct teaching Jesus places us under the necessity of being kind. He

extends kindness beyond kinship. "If you salute your brethren only, who do ye more than others? Do not even the Gentiles the same?" Kindness is more than "kin-ness." "If you love them that love you, what reward have you?" "Love your enemies." A cup of cold water is the symbol of kindness. It is by their kindness and their lack of it that the nations are judged. Kindness is more than the act of noticing something. We need to follow through and provide what is needed. Today too many of us become concerned and talk; talk about it but that is as far as it goes. We need to extend the hand of kindness to others and help provide them with love and kindness God would have us as Christians provide.

You know, it is easy to love those that love us. But how difficult it is to love those that wronged us, our enemies if you will. But I know this can be accomplished through prayer with our Lord and Savior. He will help us to soften our hearts, or rather open our hearts and genuinely feel love for them. For as Christians we cannot hate anyone. And besides our lives can be so much brighter if we can get along with everyone and be happy and gay.

"Brother" Bryan, of Birmingham, was held up one night on his way home. "All right" said the old preacher, "I suppose you want my money. Here's three dollars—it's all I have. And I invite you to church. I'm Brother Bryan, my church is just around the corner." The man began to protest, "I couldn't..." "But I want you to have it. I'm only sorry that you have to go to all this trouble.

Let's have a word of prayer: Oh Lord, bless this man. Bless his dear wife and two sweet children and his old father and mother. Forgive us that we didn't look him up and help him, what made him stand out here in the rain and hold people up. Good night brother" The next Sunday night there came in the collection three-dollar bills can together with the note: "Dear brother Bryan, I couldn't take your money."

Fifth, kindness is redemptive in the world. Catch the significance and the implications of 1 John 4:19, "We love, because he first loved us." He redeemed love in us. He showered us with kindness and the flowers and the fruits of kindness began to grow. So why shouldn't we shower others with it too. In a situation that needs correction, how often the method of attack is used and to no avail. Or we meet an issue with argument, and with no success. Some persons seek to dominate, lord it over, their fellows or family, with good intent. This too, unsuccessfully. How often the redemptive secret is found in being kind.

What is real good?

Order, said the law—court;
Knowledge, said the school;
Truth, said the wise man;
Pleasure, said the fool;
Love, said the maiden;
Beauty, said the page;
Freedom, said the dreamer;

Home, said to sage;
Fame, said the soldier;
Equity, said the seer.
Then within my bosom
Softly this I heard:

Each heart holds the secret,
Kindness is the word.
All sorts of problems in the world, family problems, community problems, racial and even international problems wait for solutions. Kindness purchases kindness in the world. Love purchases love. As Christians and followers of Jesus Christ we might and must try kindness.



June
2022

June 1, 2022

Wednesday

DO NOT FRET

*“Why art Thou cast down, O my soul?
And why are you disturbed with in me?”*

– Psalm 43:5

Friend, o friend in this world we will tribulations. Fear will surround us and dismay will knock on our door. Circumstance may seem dire. Darkness may befall us; yet you are an adopted son. You are part of a royal priesthood. It may seem that the suffering is unending yet God is in control. Temptation may seem constant, but press in. God is providing for you a way. A way through which His son has given you peace, love, joy and way out. Remember this is not your world. As a believer you have been given the solution to overcome this world. And in the end you will live in Glory. Yet while here press into Christ and be a overcomer. Exercise your faith and claim victory over the “mountains” that have snared you all these years. You are NOT the sin nature, you are not a fallen lot. You are part of the royalty of Christ. Put on your true nature in He that is greater than us all. Put on the inner man. Turn to Christ.

June 2, 2022

Thursday

OUR GOD IS A JEALOUS GOD

"A jealous God is our Lord."

– Nahum 1:2

It is your love that God protects, yearns for and is jealous when you put others, or idols before your love for Him. One of the great mysteries of this realm is the fact that: While God loves you and has sent His only begotten to forgive all your iniquities He CANNOT force you to love Him. Yet, once you do, once you ask the Lord in your heart He does so to completion. The Lord wants all of you, all your desires, all your hurts and all your cares. The Lord wants you to surrender all to Him and in turn the Lord will never forsake you. YET, when you place other desires above or between Him; the Lord is jealous. The Lord can be avenging. Do not put the world or things of this world above your relationship of the Lord. In fact, seek yea first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these "things" shall be added unto you.

June 3, 2022

Friday

KNOW CHRIST

"From Me comes your fruit."

– Hosea 14:8

You can do no thing separate from God, but that which dwells out of self. In the natural and to the world your works may seem good, righteous and well-intentioned ; yet it is not the best. When we yield to Christ, surrender into His grace we are given a deep abiding connection in which He uses us to love others. Then your fruit will blossom. The sweetness of your work is fragrant as the dew on a morning rose. Your work is done with little effort for He that is in you doeth these things. Your toil is not in vain. Therefore, press into the Lord and allow Him to work through you. For it is God who is the commander of your ship whether you believe or not. Soon you will leave this realm; of what power do you possess for you can not even control that fate?



June 4, 2022

Saturday

GO TO ANY LENGTHS TO FIND GOD

“And when they could not come nigh because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they dug an opening they dropped down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying.”

– Mark 2:4

Where is our desire to find God? Think of the trouble these people went through to get the poor, suffering soul in front of Christ. During each day; how much of your time is spend on seeking the Lord, in serving others in finding the Lord? If the presence of Jesus excited this fellow to use any means to be with Christ where is my effort to be in His presence? We know Christ is here. Is our faith taking us deeper in Christ, more abiding, more living in truth?

June 5, 2022

Sunday

LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE

“That you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world”

– Philippians 2:15

In today's society this is more and more on point. In a society in which whatever “feels right” you must allow your light to shine. Today our nation struggles as millions are never even exposed to the Gospel. You are called to be the light that shines in the midst of this perverse nation. How do you do this? Through love. Love that is infused through the Holy Spirit as you ask: “More of you and less of me.” Ask the Lord: “May Thy light shine through me as Thy wilt. Remove from me the iniquity that blocks off Thy light so that Thy light may shine through me.” Press in my friends and do not stop. Ask you will find. Seek!!!



June 6, 2022

Monday

DO NOT QUIT

“Be alert, stand your ground, be firm in your faith, be of courage and be strong.”

– 1 Corinthians 16:13

The landscape of America is changing rapidly. As a believer in Christ whether you are in a struggle of your own sin, a family members’ sins, or you are on the front lines in a ministry to help others overcome strongholds, the fact remains more than ever you must stand your ground. The message of repentance is the same today as it was when John preached it as the forerunner of Christ. Regardless if America legislates sin as a law you must carry on with a message of purity in truth and love. If you believe this will not effect you you are mistaken. Be on alert for our nation IS NO LONGER a Christian nation. Christians are seen as intolerant because most of us do not know the scriptures as we did decades ago. Families are being raises in an atheistic and agnostic environment. What was once sin is now an accepted lifestyle. Therefore, be strong, stand your ground and do not be lost in conforming to the standards of this world. You have been set apart. Carry on in love. Love is our code. Love is the answer. You can not convict others only the Holy Spirit can convict. Do everything in love, but be firm stand your ground.

June 7, 2022

Tuesday

THE WORD OF GOD COUNSELS

“With Thy counsel Thou wilt guide me, and receive me to glory”

– Psalm 73: 24

The word of God in scripture is the surest truth to counsel us. Many a believer say the hear counsel from God, or through the Holy Spirit yet their lives do NOT produce the fruit to provide the evidence that they are truly hearing. WE believe that many folks are hearing what they want to hear through self. Therefore, to take instruction from God’s word is the surest path to truth. And through this counsel you are received into glory. O how sweet the Lord is to the believer that believes and conforms his or her life to not what the world says, but to the guidance of the word of God. “ He who trusts in His own heart is a fool;” (Proverbs 28:26). Lean not on your own understanding. Trust in the word of God. You are deeply flawed. If not you would not be here.



June 8, 2022

Wednesday

ALLOW THE LORD TO GO BEFORE YOU

"I will go before you and make the rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars. I will give you treasures of darkness, and the hidden wealth in secret places....in order that you may know I the Lord God of Israel who calls you by your name that I am the Lord your God!!!!"

– Isaiah 45:2-7

We struggle to move forward in our own strength. We have set backs that cause us to question whether we are moving in the right direction. Over and over we see a fallen world and we think retreat. As we age we lose momentum. Yet recall Paul, he worked for the Lord all his days and never stopped. Paul was mocked, beaten, jailed over and over again and again yet he persevered. It is the Lord Thy God that can take your natural effort and make it super-natural. The Lord goes before you and opens doors and makes your paths straight. You are forgiven so do not allow the past to effect your present and yield to the mighty presence of the Holy Spirit that is ever-present. Step up in Faith and press in and look not to what you can do but rather how the Lord can move through you. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God. Stay with God and press in.

June 9, 2022

Thursday

WAIT UPON THE LORD

"Wait upon the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes wait upon the Lord."

– Psalm 27:14

Waiting is NOT the American way. In fact, even in general we want to take charge, get it done and move on to the next task. Yet as we examine our lives: How many times have you made a decision, only upon looking back realize it was a wrong turn and you continued down the path anyways? Sometimes what is good, that may seem right is not God's best. Think of that waste. And, of course, God can make our crooked paths straight, yet the heart ache, the stress of not waiting upon the Lord can be difficult. "Lean not on your own understanding but wait upon the Lord for He is your rock your fortress your deliverer, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my high tower." Waiting is difficult, however we just do not know what God is doing in the heavenly realms. Seek the Lord in all you do.



June 10, 2022

Friday

O LORD HAVE MERCY

“Be merciful to me, O God, according to Thy loving-kindness; according to the greatness of Thy compassion... Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

– Psalm 51:1,10

The most generous Christian, O Lord forgive my forgetfulness of Thee. As I go about my days I forget that I am to put on the new man yet I continue to run the show. O Lord forgive me as I forget to pray for my neighbor, as I am short of loving all. O Lord I am a wicked person with a heart that needs cleansing, O God. Father I live in this fallen world and though you ask me to live in this world but not of this world; I fall back into my ways of iniquity. Lord forgive my forgetfulness and help me to resolve through Thy Mercy and Grace to make the effort to increase my devotion in Thee. O Lord I pray for our nation. O Lord I weep over our hatred of one another. O Lord forgive us and show us the way back to Thee. O Father allow my life to be a life of humility and a life that is according to Thy will.

June 11, 2022

Saturday

HOW IS YOUR SPIRITUAL WALK?

“...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, also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.”

– 2 Corinthians 5:7

It is so important, as a Christian, to realize our lives are not our own. My life must be a reflection on what Christ has done through my transformation, not what I have done. For faith is knowing in the unseen that an event or circumstance will occur. Faith being: “The Substance of things hoped and the evidence of the unseen.” For what kind of faith do I have if I live only in the natural; what I see? For all people live in the natural mind. No rather; faith is expecting what I do NOT see but the hope planted in me. So, while here on earth all I do must be pleasing to Him. And the rest? Remember He sees all. So, ask yourself: Am I or have I exercised my faith or have I or am I living a life much like those of this world? Pretty important topic; for what I want to hear: “Good and faithful servant!” usness and all shall be added unto Thee.”



June 12, 2022

Sunday

OUR TRUE DEFENDER

“The breaker goes up before them; they break out, pass through the gate, and go by it. So, their king goes on before them, and the Lord at their head.”

– Micah 2:13

You will have enemies in this life, but the Lord has conquered them already. “Cheer up my fainted warrior” for the Lord is your fighter, the Lord has gone ahead of you. Your path is made straight that was once filled with obstructions. You need not fear death, for the Lord has conquered the sting of death through the resurrection of life and death overcome. O death where is Thy sting? Your sin has been rendered white as snow, therefore let not sin way you down. My friend your breaker has gone ahead and made a way where there once was none. O Praise the Lord for He is great!!! O Praise Him for He is righteous!!!!!! He is the defeater of any foe!!!

June 13, 2022

Monday

HEAVEN ON EARTH

“I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; and there will no longer be heard in her the voice of the weeping and the sound of crying. No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days... The wolf and the lamb shall graze together, and the lion shall eat straw as the ox; and dust shall be the serpent’s food. They shall do no harm in all My holy mountain.”

– Isaiah 65:19-25

There will be no more weeping. There will be no more brokenness. There will be forever bliss, a peace in which we never have experienced as the saints never age. Sin shall NOT reign in this place. All fear shall be wiped away. All joy shall be our lot for those that are the faithful. Poverty, famine nor blight shall be in heaven. No evil shall be fall us nor shall we be angered at none. This is the new heaven on earth in which the Lord Christ shall reign forever. We shall be as one, in peace, joy, contentment shall be our lot. O glorious day til Thy kingdom come, thy will be done. Let us comfort one another with these words.



June 14, 2022

Tuesday

PINE FOR JESUS

"I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love."

– Song of Solomon 5:8

The disciple that is in love for Christ is pinning for Jesus. Saying, O Jesus, O Jesus come to me O Lord. I seek Thee not in this world, but I seek Thee in the love I share with those that hunger for Thee. O Lord I seek Thee as a drowning man would for air. I seek Thee as a starving child for bread. I seek Thee as a Rose seeks the sun. O Lord O Lord show me how to find Thee in all persons, for I know that we are all made in Thine image, yet we seem to live in an illusion that you are not with us. O Lord O Lord teach me to go with in and on the altar of Thine Image there you are and shall always be. O Lord show me Thy path of righteousness.

June 15, 2022

Wednesday

SEARCH ME, O GOD

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see in me if there be any hurtful way in me; And lead me in the everlasting way."

– Psalm 139:23-24

Once you sincerely seek the Lord with the request above be prepared to be tested. This is, however, one of the ways to grow in your abiding with Jesus. This changes your heart and you will renounce the wicked ways with in you. Do this pleading, crying and on your knees. Seek Thy ways and let go of, renounce your ways of this world. Now it could happen all at once rendering you white as snow, yet we tend to hold unto this sin nature as if it is a way of life. Remember we were red like crimson and know you are white as the snow. Purify Thyself in the inner sanctum of Christ.



June 16, 2022

Thursday

HIS MERCY

"I will trust in the loving kindness of God forever and ever."

– Psalm 52:8

His mercy is forever and ever. Regardless of your sin, your failure, you're falling back His Mercy will always be extended to you. There is nothing little in God; therefore, His mercy is forever. There can be no end to mercy, for where is a sinner to go that has lost his way. And the righteous are proud as if the pride of life could extend their time here on earth. Therefore, once again: "How is that the spirit of a mortal be so proud." Soon you will disappear from this realm and then where will you be? You are here now and gone tomorrow, yet you play in this drama as if it is forever, yet as those before you they too are gone. How will you be remembered? His mercy extends forever. Therefore, go to Him and confess in your time alone and be free for His mercy is for you.

June 17, 2022

Friday

WORSHIP GOD FOR HE IS HOLY

"Give to the Lord Glory due to His name; Worship the Lord for He is Holy."

– Psalm 29:2

Who are we to take glory for our lives or our works? We are here today yet gone tomorrow. We are here to Glorify God is all we do. Let us give God the glory in all our works, in all our deeds. Yes, glorify God for He is and shall always be forever. You are but a memory that is fading in a short time. Therefore, how can the spirit of a mortal be proud? Give God the glory and magnify His name in all you do.



June 18, 2022

Saturday

SET YOURSELF APART

“Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide.”

– Genesis 24:63

Are you spending time in meditation, setting apart yourself from your life? This helps you to live nearer to God. We are better able to hear from the ever present Holy Spirit. Christ did this often. If Christ did this you ought too. Sometimes getting away on an annual retreat is useful. This is a break from your life. But meditation allows you to break daily from your life. It is so important to reflect upon our direction. The practice of hearing the still small voice within is so vital. This is God within you as you are made in the divine nature. So prepare to go to the altar of silence daily to practice the presence of God.

June 19, 2022

Sunday

KEEP PRESSING IN

“Oh that I were as in the past months.”

– Job 29:2

Sometimes you lament as you reflect that you are in a try spell compared to weeks ago or months ago. Perhaps your prayer life is stale, your devotion lacking. Maybe you are not studying scripture as you were or attending church and being devoted to worship. Idol worship: Something or someone of this world has become more important to your spiritual path. Remember God is a jealous God and a divided heart is of no good. Love the Lord with all your heart, mind and soul. What ever the issue my friend do not be satisfied in your current lament. Seek the Lord and ask: “Reveal to me my unrest, what have I allowed to separate me from Thee.” Then listen to the still small voice. Listen, repent on your knees and seek to abide more in Christ.



June 20, 2022

Monday

CHRIST IS OUR GLORY

“Christ who is our life”

– Colossians 3:4

Have you poured yourself upon He that is greater than us all? Christ who is our hope and glory. Surrender your sense of self and put on your new man. Commit your life and surrender. Christ is was and shall always be the begotten son within. Christ is the love of your life when all others are lost to this world. As the world crowds in on you devote your time to Jesus.

June 21, 2022

Tuesday

O HEAVENLY JOY

“And the city has no need of the sun or the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.”

– Revelation 21:23

A short description of heaven. Here on earth the angels bring us blessings, but in heaven we shall want no messengers from heaven but the voice of He that is greater than us all. Here we seek water from a well, a faucet. In heaven we will drink from the fountain of life. Here we contend with an aging body, decaying with disease. There we shed this earthly body and put on our heavenly body. O Praise Him!! Oh what a blessed time it shall be. Here we carry out through works what we believe the Holy Spirit has called us to do. In heaven we will worship the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords. O what a glorious place!!!!



June 22, 2022

Wednesday

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE IN GOD

And Jesus said to them, 'All things are possible to him that believes.'

– Mark 9:23

Jesus heals a deaf mute here in this instance; noting all things are possible. Why do you disbelieve? We serve the King of kings, the Lord of Lords. At any given moment God could end this drama. Learn to walk in possibility thinking and what if God did this or God did that. God is the God that can do all things, hear all things, be all things. Nothing is impossible in God. Exercise your faith and hope for what you do not see in the natural. BELIEVE!!!!

June 23, 2022

Thursday

ARE YOU IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

"The people who do know their God shall be strong."

– Daniel 11:32

Are you hearing from the Holy Spirit? Do you have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ? OR Do you doubt that there is a God that loves you, that knows your every thought? How much time are you spending in your devotions with God? Those that spend time apart from the world, in meditation, in prayer and in study of the Holy Scripture are strong in their faith. They tend to know how to exercise their faith that allows them to work above and beyond their natural abilities. Ask yourself: What is important to me? The world in which I live that here now and gone tomorrow or the kingdom of God that is was and shall ever be? Therefore, is what I am doing building the kingdom or am I selfishly going through each day satisfying the desires of self: Rooted in the lust of the eyes, the pride of life and the lust of the flesh? Your strength to overcome this world is from God. He is, was, and shall always be your true source.



June 24, 2022

Friday

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

Are 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 you 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.

June 25, 2022

Saturday

GOD IS IN CONTROL

“In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the council of His will.”

– Ephesians 1:11

If you have surrendered and confessed to Christ that He is your most High then of course you are saved, but more over you are part of His Royal priesthood. Your life is no longer your own. God will accomplish His purpose through you whether you cooperate or not. You have been bought by the blood of Jesus. This is what is meant by God working out His counsel of His will.



June 26, 2022

Sunday

THE WATER OF LIFE

And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let the one that hears say 'Come.' And the one that is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost."

– Revelation 22:17

Come to the Lord and drink from the Fountain of Life. Come and never be thirsty again. The Lord awaits and yearns for your return. Turn in ward to the Lord and say” O Lord O Lord my redeemer, my Savior, I love you, you and only you. Let your devotion to the Lord take you into the dept of His love. Let your love over flow to those around you, your family, your neighborhood. Be born anew. Rise up from your stupor and claim Him and drink the water that always refreshes your soul.

June 27, 2022

Monday

EXAMINE

“ So foolish was I and ignorant; I was a beast before Thee.”

– Psalm 73:22

Wow here is David in a confession admitting his foolishness, his ignorance before the Lord. Who am I not to confess as Him. To think that I have no sin; what of the dept of pride am I. That I am unable to confess. Is there such a deep level of unbelief in me that I dare not look with in? O Lord Forgive my ignorance as I am a pathetic sinner not worthy to be in Thy presence. O Lord take me deeper in my demise. O lord let me see myself as others do not as I am in my self.



June 28, 2022

Tuesday

YOUR DIVINE NATURE

“For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.”

– 2 Peter 1:4

God has granted us promises that are so sweet and precious that we shall be able to identify with our true OR divine natures thus escaping the lust of the eyes, the pride of life, and the lust of the flesh. From these are the root of all sin. Through Christ we have been granted the promises written throughout scripture for we are adopted into the Kingship. These promises allow us through the Grace and Mercy of the Lord to identify with our true nature. So Praise Him, be ever filled with AW and wonder for these promises hold true. Go deeper, abide more with Jesus. Escape this world and be in it but not of it.

June 29, 2022

Wednesday

DILIGENCE

“Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge...”

– 2 Peter 1:5-6

Take care that your faith is the right kind of faith. Faith not born out of self or a faith based in self, rather than your faith is rooted in Christ. This ensures that you are growing in Christ and the old self is going away. Now examine your life: Are you closer to Christ now than when you first where saved? Are you abiding deeper in joy, in the freedom from self? This is what is meant by giving all diligence. Remember to yield to the temptation of your old self. Do not allow that self to come back but be grounded in Christ. Go deeper and love greater.



June 30, 2022

Thursday

RESIST THE DEVIL

“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee.”

– James 4:7

The triune god of this world: The lust of the eyes, the pride of life and the lust of the flesh may not always be easy to flee. However, we must work to remain pure in heart, in mind and in our flesh. We can always flee a party, a reunion, a gathering in which ungodliness prevails. We can turn off a broadcast that end folks desire that is impure. Some may say that you are; “A stick in the mud”, yet as a follower of Christ you know to resist all temptation is your lot. Through Christ, His Grace and Mercy, you may depend on Christ to help you overcome; however, there must be effort on your part. Pride of life, the idea that somehow you are in control, that you produce such goodness in you is an illusion as in a moment your life may be snatched. How can the spirit of a mere mortal be proud? You are here now and gone tomorrow. Therefore, submit your life to Christ that you may be a vessel in which He uses to further His Kingdom.



*“I will trust in the
loving kindness of
God forever and
ever.”*

– Psalm 52:8

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 for more information.

The Practice of Brotherhood

“Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who doesn’t love does not know God; for God is love.”

- I John 4:7-8

The time has arrived went talk and debate about human brotherhood is not enough. The time has come for us to put our beliefs into practice. For we can talk all of our lives but if we never do anything about it we might as well have not talked at all.

Nor is there too much need to consider how we may practice brotherhood. We know how more than we do, and by this fact some of us may have very bad consciences. We may carry guilt that needs purging.

The purpose of this sermon is to relate some of the values of the practice of brotherhood. And these are not to be considered as values of expediency, but as values at deeper and more fundamental levels. The practice of brotherhood is a reaffirmation of our Christian faith.

It really declares our faith in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. The phrase falls completely and slightly from our lips. But talk and action are two different things. A handshake at the church door may express this Christian faith far more forcefully than the mere recitation of a creedal sentence by the pulpit or the pew. A kind word and its kind deed may be even more

effective.

Tradition gives us this story about one of the early saints. As he walked along the streets of his city, a beggar lifted his hands to him and asked for charity. The saint replied, “my brother, I regret that I have no coin to offer you.” Where upon the beggar, with tear-filled eyes, said, “but you have just given me the greatest gift you could have bestowed upon me. You called me brother.

The practice of brotherhood reaffirms our faith in the universality of Christ, who died for all man. His loves reaffirmed by the brotherly action of a single Christian at a definite place and at a particular time. Every man includes this man. The whosoever of the gospel includes the man farthest out.

Jesus Christ did truly die for all of us, regardless of our race or our creed. None of us can say that Christ died for me alone. If we do, we are reading something into his word for our own convenience. The practice of brotherhood in any land would give that land an honored name among nations of the earth.

A single instance of unbrotherly attitude has brought enmity toward another people into the councils of a nation.

Even a fictional deed of kindness, as in the Good Samaritan parable, has gone out into the world and given name to scores of houses of mercy.

If we are really Christians, which we claim to be, which principles of this country was established upon, then we must practice brotherhood to all people everywhere and above all we certainly need to straighten out the racial situation in our country before we try to convince other people in other countries that we really mean what we say we do. Don't believe for one moment that the people of other countries are not constantly looking at this racial situation, at how it is handled, what the results are going to be and whether or not we are going to settle it peaceably without bloodshed or violence.

There is no doubt about it, the practice of brotherhood will strengthen the country we love. Nor do we look at this as a matter of expediency. It may be expedient to take down the barriers between nationalities, race and classes but more fundamental than action for expediency sake is action because we hold in our hearts deep love for the country of which we are a part.

For pure patriotism's sake we might practice brotherhood.

Since we are a part of this country, which was originally founded on Christian principles, I'm sure that all of us want our officials of this country; all of us want the policies of this country to operate on the brotherhood principle. We certainly have to do more than talk about it. We have to show what we mean and believe in.

Above all we need to set a good example because we are one of the largest and most prosperous countries in this world.

We have enough know-how, we have enough natural and material resources to help other people, less fortunate than we are, all over the world. Of course to help someone means to give more than material things. We desperately need to bring the Word of God to all people everywhere because I believe once a person has heard God's word and really comes to know him he will want to make progress and improve himself, his family, his friends and neighbors and finally his country. Knowing and loving is basic to all things.

I therefore believe that we definitely need to practice brotherhood now. We have talked to long without enough action in what we believe.

Thus we would reassert the declaration that, "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Are not these words from our Declaration of Independence precious to Americans? Are they not a charter of rights for all men, all over the world of ours? The practice of brotherhood in our land would overcome many divisions and heal many hurts. By this we would become a more united and happier people.

The practice of brotherhood in our world would certainly overcome many of the difficulties that separate men today; I'm coming that cause wars and results in many lost lives. And I truly believe it is the only way to overcome the threat of communism in the world. If people really come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior we will not have to fear communism or any other kind of political tyranny. For Jesus Christ can set us free, give us liberty and

happiness that we have never known before.

"The eye can see a thousand things, a sunset cloud, a cardinal's wings. Would that the inner eye could find The bridge uniting all mankind."

The practice of brotherhood shows reverence for personality. Among resources, and one of the most important available to man of faith in their struggle to realize the ideal of human brotherhood, is that sometimes powerful, sometimes weak, but always in extinguishable and divine implantment in human nature—the veneration for that which is called personality. This is the common ground on which the most diverse may stand together; on this ground, if the issue is made clear enough, all kinds of men will stand with us. I believe the greatest skill is required in making clear the issue; and I believe that where Great skill issues, there will stand great numbers on the common ground, because of the irresistible power of this principle to move the human heart.

Let us remember that Discovery of personality is by some people and many persons a most recent experience. There our language is in which the equivalent of the English word has only lately appeared.

We show reverence for the personalities of others by the practice of brotherhood. By this they achieve dignity and ambition. By this they gain a love for freedom and seek their own advancement. By being a brother we make brothers.

I wonder if the Negro in this country really think this is a land of freedom and liberty, a land of opportunity and advancement? How could he feel this when for many years he has been held back and held down because people (us white people) did not like the color of

his skin? We figure he is different and less than we are. I wonder where our practice of brotherhood has been all these years? Apparently it has been in the talking stage with little or no action being spent since Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves. I'm sure that many people of the backwood countries of our world feel the same way the Negro in this country feels. Many of the larger nations including our own have used in these countries, actually exploited them, by obtaining their national resources for our own advantage; hiring the people to work for them in the minds, oilfields, etc., at meager wages because they did not know any better while we and other countries made money at their expense. Certainly we have not practicing brotherhood in these cases.

By the practice of brotherhood, we show reverence for our own personalities. We recall Booker T. Washington statement, "I will let no man drag me so low as to make me hate him." It must be a terrible feeling to actually have hatred in your heart for someone. I think perhaps rather than letting person affect you this way, it would be much better to actually come right back stronger than ever with the practice of brotherhood. In other words we have to turn the other cheek. I know this isn't always as easy as it sounds.

Our first and most natural instinct is to strike back in the same way a person has dealt with us. But again I say that Christ can help us to turn the other cheek, he can help us to use the practice of 'brotherhood' instead of the practice of 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for tooth. I can assure you that if you do use the brotherhood approach you will sleep better at night, you will have no regrets and the results will be more satisfactory.

From the day that the Samaritan traveler became the good Samaritan, wherever

the Christian gospel has gone, it is by the exercise of love indeed of kindness that men have exalted themselves. This truly was the way of Jesus and it should be our way also.

The practice of brotherhood reaffirms, not only the Fatherhood of God and the Saviorhood of Christ, but all that gospel which comes to us through the life, death and resurrection of Christ. Touch the gospel story at any point; it requires the immediate reaffirmation of actions in human brotherhood. If we believe in Jesus Christ and his ways, then we have to practice brotherhood. We have no other choice.

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season. I believe this can be tied into a brotherhood theme today.

Lent very often coincides with spring training for baseball players. The players gather in their various camps, located in warm climate. They start with running to loosen their muscles. Even a star player cannot afford to miss spring practice. So it is with Lent. It is the spring training of religion. Lent is a time for spiritual spring training, and, to mix our metaphors, a time for lubricating our souls. It is a time for resetting the gage in our spiritual spark plugs.

Jesus did not come to his mission unprepared. The 40 days of Lent are based on the story of Jesus is 40 days in the wilderness. He was tempted to misuse his power and he needed to make explicit his vocation as the one sent by God for a special task. The last week of Lent parallels Jesus' final preparation for his death. The whole drama from Palm Sunday to Good Friday is a pageant of preparation for the victory of the cross and the subsequent resurrection.

For us, also, Lent is a means of preparation for sharing in the resurrection power that comes from faith in Jesus as the Christ. First, we reaffirm our loyalty to God's will. Man's wholeness of being lies in God.

Without God, man is nothing. So we come to our second task, which is the realization of our own failures. Lent is the time for the emphasis on the acknowledgment of sin. Lent is a call to repentance, when we turn from our past way of life and see the power of the Spirit to help us to do better. Our third task is to seek forgiveness. So we turn to God. We confess our sinful motives and actions.

Then, this, is what Lent means: it is this special effort to be more devoted than ever before, more honest with ourselves and with God, and less central in ourselves. This takes time and effort. Lent provides the opportunity, but we must make the best of every moment of it.

Plus I believe we certainly need to prepare ourselves. We need to be right with God. First, before we can believe in and go out into our world in the practice brotherhood. I believe the Lenten season will help us to do this through Christ help. I also believe we must just stop talking about brotherhood and start acting.

"The time is now." Our heritage of Christianity, our love of democracy, our respect for human personality—these call us this day to the practice of brotherhood according to the gospel of Christ. And so we again approach this season of Lent, let us take advantage of the opportunity to preface ourselves for the one great importance test of practicing brotherhood in our world.

SPURGEON'S CORNER

“Help, Lord”

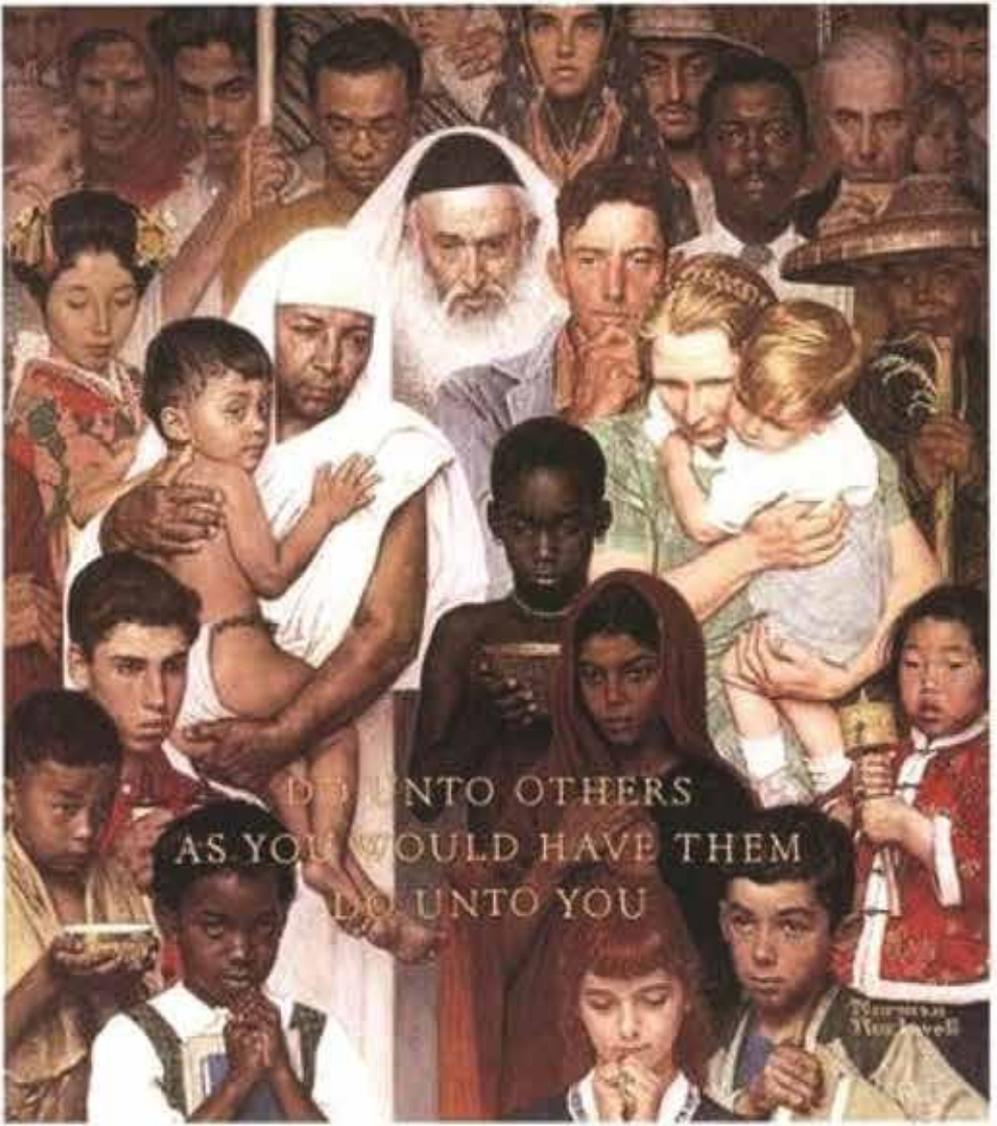
Psalm 12:1



The prayer itself is remarkable, for it is short, but seasonable, sententious, and suggestive. David mourned the fewness of faithful men, and therefore lifted up his heart in supplication—when the creature failed, he flew to the Creator. He evidently felt his own weakness, or he would not have cried for help; but at the same time he intended honestly to exert himself for the cause of truth, for the word “help” is inapplicable where we ourselves do nothing. There is much of directness, clearness of perception, and distinctness of utterance in this petition of two words; much more, indeed, than in the long rambling outpourings of certain professors. The Psalmist runs straight-forward to his God, with a well-considered prayer; he knows what he is seeking, and where to seek it. Lord, teach us to pray in the same blessed manner.

The occasions for the use of this prayer are frequent. In providential afflictions how suitable it is for tried believers who find all helpers failing them. Students, in doctrinal difficulties, may often obtain aid by lifting up this cry of “Help, Lord,” to the Holy Spirit, the great Teacher. Spiritual warriors in inward conflicts may send to the throne for reinforcements, and this will be a model for their request. Workers in heavenly labour may thus obtain grace in time of need. Seeking sinners, in doubts and alarms, may offer up the same weighty supplication; in fact, in all these cases, times, and places, this will serve the turn of needy souls. “Help, Lord,” will suit us living and dying, suffering or labouring, rejoicing or sorrowing. In him our help is found, let us not be slack to cry to him.

The answer to the prayer is certain, if it be sincerely offered through Jesus. The Lord’s character assures us that he will not leave his people; his relationship as Father and Husband guarantee us his aid; his gift of Jesus is a pledge of every good thing; and his sure promise stands, “Fear not, I will help thee.”



NORMAN ROCKWELL
“DO UNTO OTHERS”

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