

November 2022

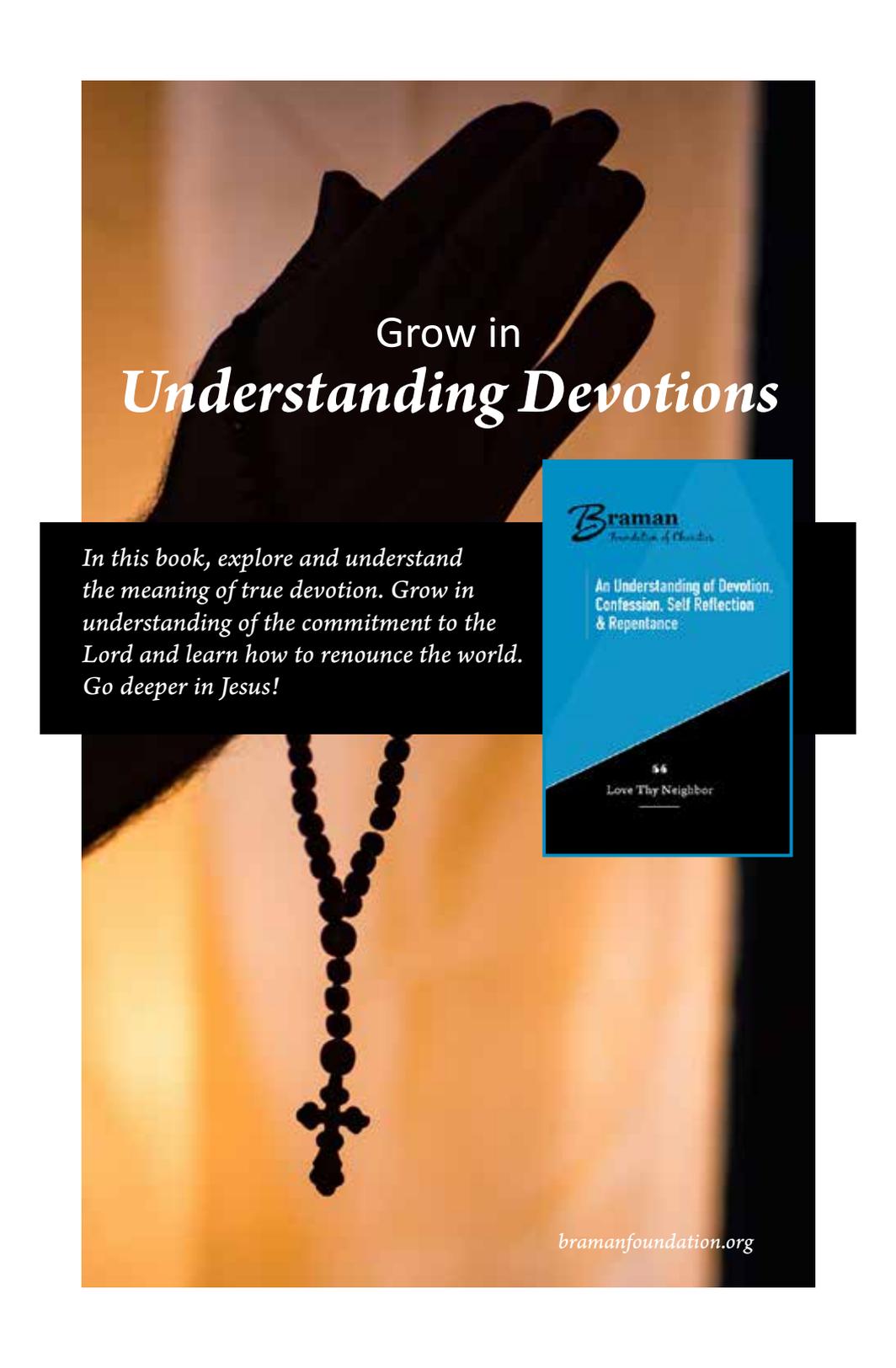
Braman Foundation of Charities
presents

DISCIPLESHIP

A Devotional Magazine



*Sermon
on the
Mount*

A background image showing a hand in a prayer position with a rosary hanging from the fingers. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a contemplative atmosphere.

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

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

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Love Thy Neighbor

DISCIPLESHIP

A Devotional Magazine

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A Daily
Devotional

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Welcome

Welcome to November!

As the beauty of the fall foliage fades in the Northeast we welcome the tradition of November. We are so grateful for the Love of family, Friends, the warmth of the seasons fire and all the supportive relationships. Thanksgiving, a time, a season , a tradition to look forward to in love, joy and laughter.

Yet, for many of us, we struggle through these times as we recall the family brokenness, the bitterness and hurt and pain. We know, of this pain. Even though we may have forgiven, the sting is still with us. And so we lift our neighbors up in prayer and in love to help Heal and bring peace into a time that is a struggle for so many. In America there seems to be a tension, an apprehension that times are not good. Yet below the surface we know God is , was and shall always be in control. And so it is with you, as all are made in His image. And in that image we possess the ability to love, to forgive, to overcome self-centered fear and to be ever joy filled, even in the midst of difficulties.

Friend, pray for your neighbor and reach out to love and be free from the bondage that holds so many of us back to walk in freedom. The Lord is yearning for the unity of His spirit to manifest in each of you so that His church can truly make a difference in those that are struggling to know His love, his ways and His peace. So in the tradition of Thanksgiving express your gratitude through reaching out to others, to the one that is around you that is starving for love, peace and joy. Allow your innate nature to express through you the truth of Christ: That He was, is and shall always be love.

In this issue we continue to explore the writings and sermons of RWB. Here we continue the study of Christ great work: The Sermon on the Mount. Think of how Christ must of felt as He came into the realization of who He is, Who He was and what he shall be! The Immanuel!

CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE!

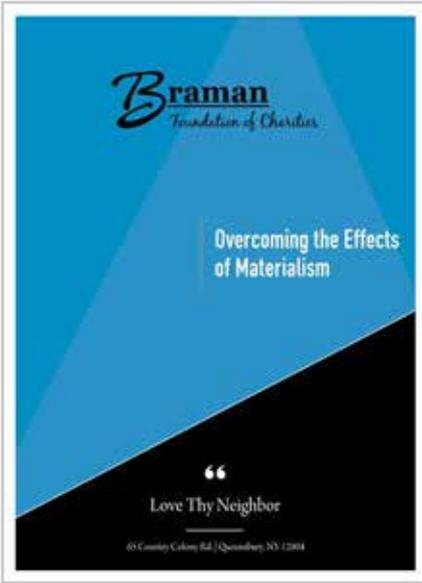
Sincerely,
BFC

BFC Devotional Magazine

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BFC, Inc.

Editors
Francis Crandall

Art & Design
Matthew Cummings



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- » *Human secularism*
- » *Materialism*
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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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Look At Your Own Faults

Matthew 7:1-5

“Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.”

“And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.”

Whatever judgment one gives out, the same will he attract. In this passage Jesus enunciates that cause-and-effect mechanism of the karmic law as a sort of moral threat to those who mercilessly expose the faults of others, that their own faults similarly will be brought into the light of harsh scrutiny. In the same spirit in which one judges others, the divine law judges the censurer—motivation, as well as the action itself, is an integral part of the cause-effect equation.

Punishment or reward is not imparted by God either as an act of vengeance or of special favoritism; good and evil results are the reflex outcome of good and evil actions. Since even God does not judge anyone’s actions, having delegated that function to the impartial law, by what right do small-minded humans presume to do so? Those who are already judged

and automatically sentenced by the law for their misguided actions do not need to be criticized or condemned by anybody else. A person who misuses his free choice and opens himself to evil effects needs sympathy instead of criticism. It pleases God when He beholds a spiritually fortunate individual trying to rescue an unfortunate brother who is being torn by the talons of the effects of bad actions. When He sees a soul helping another soul out of the entanglements of misery-making, He extends mercy and all-forgiving blessings by which the sympathetic soul finds himself free from many of the effects of his own direful effects.

By the operation of the same cosmic law, to judge others cruelly is to attract malicious criticism upon oneself. If one peddles the weaknesses of others, the

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divine law will mysteriously bring about the publicity of his own private faults. One who is tempted to cast aspersion on anyone else should first ask himself: "Am I without error?" Judge ye not others; judge and change yourself first.

Cruel speech and behavior have their origin in cruel thoughts. If one is constantly unkind, it means his mind is a harbor for unkind thoughts. According to the psychological law of habit, the more one gives mental space to mean thoughts the more he will accustom himself to being mean-spirited, exciting and angering others by his unconscionable behavior, and thereby attracting unkindness to himself.

Hence, it is insidiously undesirable to

entertain judgmental thoughts about others under any circumstances, lest such inward ugliness become an intransigent habit of meanness. He is foolish who makes himself nothing but inharmony from all sides. He is truly wise who knows when it is right to speak and when it is better to remain silent.

There is a great deal of misconception about the ideal of being nonjudgmental versus one's duty to speak the truth. Discrimination is necessary.

The ideal of being nonjudgmental versus one's duty to truth

Suppose someone confides to a friend:

"I am going to let loose in John's room a rattlesnake. Now don't you tell him!" Is it not the duty of the friend to inform John of the danger? Those who abide the evil of human snakes become like them.

"Judge not, that ye be not judged" does not mean that if one overlooks the crimes of other people, his own illegal activities will be excused. It is contrary to human law for one to conceal knowledge of the felonies of others, such as robbing or murdering. One who does is held liable for helping criminals to evade punishment.

Likewise, "condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned" is not meant as a promise that obliviousness to others' faults somehow frees one from the sentence of one's own. What Jesus meant is that one who is sympathetic to his fellows will attract the sympathy of others and God. If John tries to help Judas extricate himself from the miseries resulting from past evil actions, by giving him succor and guiding him to the path of righteousness, then according to the law John will attract some advanced soul or souls who would help him escape having to endure the full burden of his own recompense.

"For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged." "What truistic of self-serving, wise or ill-advised. The law of cause and effect, as articulated by Jesus in these verses, dictates that if one is used to judging others with kindness, and with the selfless motivation of being helpful, he receives in return the same treatment from Truth, which secretly and judiciously governs the eventual outcome of all potentialities. The divine law is thus seemingly kind or cruel in judging a perpetrator further or greater crimes. The

purpose of judgment should be curative only and not the revengeful retaliation of anger. To punish wrongdoers just to satisfy wrath, or in order audaciously to hurt them or bring them to ridicule, or for another other wrong purpose, is evil.

Cruel condemnation makes one forget that the sinner is but an error-stricken child of God whose divinity is eclipsed temporarily by ignorance. No one should be called a sinner; nor should anyone think of himself as a sinner. Hate the sin but not the sinner. The critic should treat the errant as he would hope to be treated for his own sinful mistakes. Those who are wrong do not need scornful kicks; they need a firm but loving hand extended to them. It is purposeless to rub the salt of acerbic criticism into others' character wounds. Give unto the erring the healing salve of proper sympathetic advice and appropriate support for any effort toward reformation. Give love to all, the only panacea that can redeem the world; that is the clarion call of Christ.

When one does not condemn others but tries to help them with love, then God's laws, being conscious forces, will treat that caring person likewise. "With the same measure that ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." One who forgives others who have wronged him will attract forgiveness unto himself. One who forgives others who have wronged him will attract forgiveness unto himself. One who gives mental and material help to others with a heart overflowing with kindness will find the same coming back to him. This is the law of action applied to human hearts: that whatever one feels for others remains vibrating in the ether, attracting a return, measure for measure, of sympathies and kindnesses. The giver

of negligible love receives negligible love; the greathearted giver will find the fullness of love coming back to him, now or in the future—despite any appearances to the contrary. Even if one's noble actions are unrecognized by one's contemporaries, the law of action unerringly insures that they will be recognized by God in this life or the life beyond. Good actions, like good treasures, once stored in the mind may remain unused but are never lost. The karmic reward is there for the soul to use when the necessity or opportunity arises.

In telling man to forego uncharitable faultfinding, Jesus spoke primarily against sanctimonious judgment of human frailties— in particular, sexual immorality, which often grips otherwise virtuous persons despite their willingness and intention to follow the injunctions of person's faults to the degree that he has been kind or cruel in estimating the discrepancies of others.

Jesus' words do not signify that it is wrong through constructive criticism to warn an innocent person or a slightly immoral individual of the habit-forming dangers of continuing bad actions. It is all right to help a brother avoid a painful tumble into the same ditch of error into which one has fallen. To warn others about the hazards of evil, based on one's own bitter experience, is good if it is done in private with the sole desire of saving them from impending misery. To criticize others is hard enough on the recipients without hurting them— to no good purpose—by exposure, gossip, or malicious taunting. Self Appointed critics and informers have no right to expose others' faults publicly; it is a sin against God who dwells in the temple of the error- stricken as well as



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in the righteous. The stricken individual should be offered help in the form of wise counsel if such is requested, or in the form of the better example of one who is victorious over himself, or if totally belligerent he should be left alone to find his own spiritual remedy. In any case, one should never tell other people their faults in public—or even in private if they are unreceptive to being helped, unless it is positively one's duty.

Right way to give correction and help others reform themselves

In a family, it is the responsibility of the parents to guide and correct the children's behavior, but there is no need to criticize in front of the whole household. Similarly, to those who approach a guru-preceptor for help in improving themselves, the teacher generally speaks candidly but privately; and those in his spiritual family take such correction in the spirit of love and respect in which it is given. Just as a human mother wants her children to be clean and upright in demeanor before others, so is the Divine Mother wanting Her devotees to be spiritually decorous and cleansed of unbecoming traits. If jealousy, touchiness, unkindness, selfishness, are not excised from one's nature, they fester like boils and attract the flies of biting criticism from others. It is better that the psychological operation be done at home, or by the guru in the ashram, with kindness, love, and the highest interest of the "patient" uppermost in mind.

Some normally healthy persons habitually have little or no sex desire due to past-life moral habits; but that does

not necessarily make them saints, for they may in other respects have a very wicked, insincere heart. Conversely, some otherwise very good individuals struggle day and night against the sex compulsion due to bad karma of past lives, or to inflammation or irritation of the nerves in the sex region, which may be caused by congestion of toxins in the system. Such sufferers should consult a physician, follow a healthful diet, and practice the technique of life-force control given by a true guru who has mastered every passion within himself and can teach the art of control by sublimation.

A man who can match his will power against sex compulsion and win, and who can convince the mind that the peace and moral virility of the transmuting power of self-control is greater than sex indulgence, is a heroic conqueror of his lower self. A man who is innocent simply because of lack of exposure to temptation may harbor weakness and succumb when a sudden enticement arouses his dormant sexual instincts. Once stimulated by thought or action, sex is the most enslaving mortal habit and the most difficult sense desire to be controlled, regulated, and subjugated.

Jesus knew that some immoral persons, though mentally desirous of ridding themselves of their carnality, are extremely weak in resisting temptations of the flesh. He helped such persons by wisdom and love, and taught against increasing their troubles by unkind criticism and condemnation.

Persecution, gossip, commands, and taboos cannot remedy moral errors. There would be much less hypocrisy in the world if instead of tongue persecutions, persons were taught from childhood

moral remedies, such as methods of self-control, right living, and proper hygiene, before they become the victims of evil through bad company and worldly influences.

The spiritual and psychological dangers of gossip

Gossiping about the moral weaknesses of others is a wicked spiritual crime. It breeds hypocrisy in social and individual life. How incisively Jesus made his point when he said: “He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone.” One who occupies his mind with an unholy interest in the moral weaknesses of others actually rouses and stimulates his own sleeping prenatal baser instincts.

Gossip, even among well-meaning friends, never has a favorable effect on the person talked about; it ruffles him, makes him mad, steeped in despair, ashamed, and strengthens his intractable behavior. There is a proverb that says: “The person who has lost one ear goes through the village at the side, showing the villagers his one good ear and hiding the lost ear. But he who has lost both ears goes through the center of the village, because he cannot hide his disfigurement from anyone.” Any person whose moral errors are unduly exposed becomes desperate and shameless, like the man who lost both ears; he flaunts a devil-may-care attitude and makes no effort to be better. When persons lose face as a result of gossip about their faults, they also lose the desire and incentive to change. (Of course, in rare cases, just the fear of exposure and publicity keeps some people good.)

A small weakness in a person, once publicized, tends to grow in notoriety—if not in fact—proportionate to the attention given to it. Worldly minds are morbid; they thrive on sensationalism and often distort the faces or exaggerate the words of others, or repeat them out of context with no charitable consideration of pertinent circumstances. A psychological defect common to most human beings is to repeat negative reports about the faults of another without having first given the accused person a chance to disprove the allegations.

Never be drawn into psychological muddles. My Master used to say, when anyone would approach him confidentially with some supposedly scandalous disclosure: “If it is not something I can repeat to everyone, I don’t wish to hear it.” If someone has a grievance about another, or thinks he knows a secret about him, he should confront that person directly, or keep silent, rather than maligning the alleged wrongdoer for the love of gossip or impelled by an uncontrolled habit of indiscriminate talkativeness.

Gossip seems to act like a stimulating tonic. Those who crave this titillation should satisfy that lust by loudly publicizing all the private sins they themselves have committed. They would find such disclosure unendurable even for one minute! A person who himself cannot stand such scrutiny should not in any way rejoice in exposing others. To reveal the moral weaknesses of others and bring to them senseless discomfiture is not the way of the wise.

Unscrupulous sensationalism is typical of many Western newspapers; they are

uncharitable in their attitude because they are not healers of immorality, but rather scandalmongers. A spiritual crime is committed by journalists and publications that love to pickle gossip or to spice up reporting in order to sell more papers by catering to the degraded taste of gossip-loving readers.

*Be not inwardly critical of others;
practice healthy self-criticism*

Internal criticism is the malignant twin of verbal criticism. To seethe silently with critical thoughts is very foolish, creating disturbing vibrations that affect one's inner peace and are a subtly unpleasant effluence affecting persons around him. It is best to clean the mind of such negation. To be constantly judgmental is a sad misuse of man's God-given capacities of intelligence and discrimination. The wise person observes neutrally, allowing no acrimonious feelings to distort his perceptions of truth.

To critique one's fellow beings in a spirit of intolerance or gloating over their faults is to call forth God's judgment: "In the light of My wisdom, I find no mortal perfect; and if I were to judge according to human standards of criticism, everyone who breathes My air of maya would be found wanting."

"Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye," said Jesus, "but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?" Man's task on earth is to keep busy expunging from his own consciousness the original temptation inherited from Adam and Eve. It is a psychological and metaphysical error to

spend time in pointing out the mental dirt in others instead of cleaning out the dirt in the mansion of one's own soul. The would-be reformer of others' behavior must live wisely himself before he can accurately discern how to plant wisdom in the lives of those persons prone to misdeeds.

Critical people lack humility and therefore cannot themselves take criticism. Self-elected judges of others quite conveniently forget to scrutinize their own inner weaknesses. They think that they are all right because they magnify the faults of others to lessen the magnitude of their own. It is insidious to hide behind such a misconceived mental smoke screen. Insincerity and hypocrisy mar the character of one who does not care to overcome his weakness, yet professes hatred for such weakness. If he delights in tearing apart persons who sugar form the same personality flaws he possesses, he is a sadist and a coward, hiding his own defects behind sneers of criticism.

The irony is that unscrupulous people who love to castigate others about their faults usually possess the same faults themselves. Whatever annoys a person most in someone else may often be found festering within himself. Because such persons cannot look honestly at themselves without devastating feelings of guilt, they find satisfaction in scathing others to vent their frustration and snidely hide, sometimes even from themselves, their own reprehensibility. There are short-tempered people who themselves cannot stand anger in anyone else; those who are greedy, but cannot abide greed in others. Some people have bad social manners, yet disdain lack of decorum

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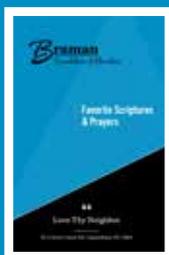
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Favorite Scripture & Prayers

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



Understanding the Holy Spirit

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



An Understanding of Devotion, Confession, Self Reflection & Repentance

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

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in boorish persons. One renounces the moral right to chastise others about the self-same faults that haunt oneself. There is little effect in a liar admonishing a liar; or in a confirmed immoralist passing judgment on immoral persons.

One who presumes to correct manifestations of ignorance in others should with equal zeal excise all ignorance from within himself. When one has acquired wisdom he will better perceive how to remove ignorance from the lives of those he wishes to help. Action and example will speak louder than words. That is why Jesus said: "First cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

The example set forth by Jesus is to change oneself. As one saint of India said: "Wanted: Reformers—not of others, but of themselves."* As one changes himself, others around him are also changed. The salutary effects of this law can be seen in the transformed and transforming lives of all great masters.

To make a habit of analyzing people is spiritually profitless; and it also makes the critic unpleasant company. It is better, as Jesus taught, to become like little children: guileless, calm, humbly sincere. One who mentally dissects and analyzes the botanical properties of a flower misses a full appreciation of its beauty. But one who focuses on how beautiful that flower is, allowing one's intuitive feeling to respond to its pure essence, enjoys fully its loveliness.

There are times, of course, when it is prudent, even necessary, to use discrimination to find out the character

of a person before entering into a close relationship or exchange—either personal or in business, and certainly before giving one's trust to one who purports to be a spiritual teacher. Otherwise, one should simply appreciate the gardens of flowering good qualities in human souls, leaving the tending of unlovely egoistic weeds and withered plants to those responsible for those fields—unless one is a qualified and duly commissioned spiritual gardener.

Effective analysis of one's associates requires clear-sightedness with some intuitive perception. Persons of emotional nature, without a ballast of wisdom, are likely to be prejudiced by undependable feelings, precluding objective appraisal. Intellectual types are equally susceptible to misunderstanding; owing to the activity of their hypersensitive imaginative rationalization of every nuance of behavior, they often impute wrong meanings to others' motives and actions. Such persons should balance reason with empathy, understanding that every individual life is difficult, complex, and as deserving of sympathy as their own. It is human nature to make broad allowances for one's own mistakes and shortcomings; certainly similar tolerance and understanding should be extended to others.

One should not open himself up to just anybody or everybody to critique his behavior or character. The opinions of those who are not qualified to criticize, especially those who carp and condemn in order to create disharmony or simply for the perverse pleasure it affords them, should be little noted or ignored altogether. There are two ways to disarm undeserving critics: to be

abjectly indifferent to them, or to be lovingly indifferent to them. The latter is better. If one has the fault of which he is accused, no matter the source of accusation, he need not blatantly announce or confirm the disclosure of his fault, but quietly and positively remove it from within himself. If the accusation is false, he should vehemently deny it, without argumentation and without being wrathful or disturbed. It is not necessary to let anyone know about one's private faults or past failings, except if someone is qualified to give help in cases where outside intervention is needed. Psychological privacy of one's thoughts is a God-given privilege; why supply "ammunition" that might fall into the hands of unconscionable persons who enjoy misusing such information?

To conceal one's faults that harm no one but oneself is not hypocrisy so long as one tries sincerely and mightily to rectify those flaws and thus save himself from the crucifixion of condemnation and spiritual impotency. How many young people would have matured into better adults if society had not forced hypocrisy on them as a way of getting ahead. Hypocrites take pleasure in their gains acquired by posing as virtuous when they are not. Such people feel no repentance and never try to reform. They love the accolades they receive by deceiving others about themselves.

Only the sincere, kind, wise, and perfectly balanced individual is fit to assess the virtues and vices of others. But Truth and God only, the Faultless Omniscience, can judge with absolute fairness. Man's judgment is conditional. God, who shares no base passions with man, is the Sole Impartiality in judging what

is right. In His compassion, He never criticizes anyone openly—only silently, through one's conscience. The voice of an unstified conscience is louder than words, more penetrating than sermons of human reformers. God criticizes His erring children through their reason, through their sense of moral judgment, which is instinctive, and confirms it through their conscience.

Introspection is a wonderful mirror in which to judge oneself. And even more accurate than that mirror is one's reflection in the mirror of a wise man's mind, or that of one's guru. In India, the masters undertake the guidance of a disciple only if that person is willing to undergo the discipline required for spiritual transformation. It is of utmost benefit to see oneself in the light of the wisdom of a master, to strive to measure up to the standards of his precepts and ideals. One who corrects himself according to that clear-sighted appraisal will find himself magnetically attractive and widely influential; and, most importantly, pleasing in the sight of God. It was this flawless mirror Jesus held up to his disciples. His words of wisdom expressed the perfection of soul qualities as the criteria to gauge their reflection; his divine example inspired their aspirations to become that perfect soul-image.

To be able to stand criticism is a mark of spiritual strength. It is weakness to allow resentment to conquer one's feelings when criticized. To be able humbly to stand the barbs of criticism, just or unjust, and to make continuous effort to improve one's attitudes and behavior when criticism is justified, will make one a saint.

WHY DOES FEAR RULE YOUR LIFE?

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

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

2 Timothy 1:7

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

Isaiah 12:2

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

Isaiah 41:10



November
2022

November 1, 2022

Tuesday

LACK OF POWER?

“Truly, truly I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father.”

– John 14:12

Throughout the ages there are reports of the works of true healing and miracles. One must ask the question: Why are not the works manifesting today in the church in America? Why are we not multiplying the loaves and the fish? Why are we not healing the blind? Why are we not curing those that Is 2017 really any different that AD 12? Are there sick, demons possessed? Is there not the blind, the lame and the injured? Why, if we claim we are followers of Christ; are we not healing as Christ did or Paul or Peter? Why do we lack power to really change people’s lives? Ask the Lord and wait for His still small voice to answer within. are afflicted and tormented mentally?



November 2, 2022

Wednesday

CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

“I have been crucified in Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

– Galatians 2:20

Paul in the passage is NOT saying he has surrendered his life in Christ. Nor is he saying that he has decided to give his life to Christ. That he is really going to make an effort to Follow Christ. This is the dying of self. The deep, deep desire to be one with Christ through the utter death of self. This is the way in which we can see the real power of the Holy Spirit. This is the why our churches have little power in changing Peoples’ lives: Our churches lack power. We lack power. We are not one with Christ. We are still operating out of self or the flesh. You may say that; “Yes, I will be in this body here on earth and never be able to be one in Christ.” Yet this is exactly what Paul did. He died to self. He crucified himself through the melding of oneness in Christ.

November 3, 2022

Thursday

CHRIST YOUR KING

“Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.

– 1 Corinthians 1:31

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ within me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ at my right hand, Christ at my left. Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks to me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me. ST. PATRICK Jesus is our all in all. There shall be none higher. Just call on His name and you shall be saved. For Christ is God incarnate, a perfect being that overcame this world and shall ever be present in this age. Let all you struggle with, all you cry over, all your pains, all your hurts be given to Jesus. He is, was, and shall always be our true redeemer. Christ is your best friend that always forgives and is always yearning for your love. Don’t forget: Jesus awaits your devotion!



November 4, 2022

Friday

LOVE THE LORD

"I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore, I have drawn you with loving kindness."

– Jeremiah 31:3

Oh, how the Lord loves us. God incarnated on this earth for HE loved you so. The Lord yearns for us to love Him, to seek Him, to surrender to Him. Oh Lord Oh Lord how I love you so for you are my great protector, you are so majestic, you go before me as the Lord of Lords and make our crooked paths straight. Oh Lord of Lords how we love thee. Let us love the Lord our God with all our heart, our mind and our souls. Let us love. You, you only you, Oh Lord. You are the one that shall always be, Oh Lord we yield to you. Oh Lord we thank Thee!!

November 5, 2022

Saturday

NEVER STOP LOVING

"Do everything in Love."

– 1 Corinthians 16:14

Throughout all the scriptures we are commanded to love. We are to love those that persecute us, those that despise us, those that hate us, and we are to love those in which the Lord has given us to discipline. Little needs be said concerning our enemies, however to release the fear, the hostility and hurt from the one that attacks you is freedom so sweet. So, we forgive those, and we ask the Lord to show us how to love them. In that true sincere request, we become freed from the bondage of unforgiveness. Those in which the Lord has given us responsibility (Spouses, children, employees etc.), it is vital that we love them. In many instances there are paths in which they take that is destructive. Put with love we gently correct. We are not to ignore the responsibility in which the Lord has placed us. Therefore, let us love all in all of our lives, no matter where we are or what we are to encounter. LOVE!!



November 6, 2022

Sunday

YIELDING

“Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one you obey...”

– Romans 6:16

In yielding to a habit, we may say, I can handle this? This has no control of me. Yet it is this illusion that I am in control of my mind or self, yet have not ask the Lord to rule my life, that we suffer in. It is the notion that somehow, I am in control and can overcome any sin, stronghold, or habit on my own. Yet over and over we know this is not true. On our own we cannot overcome self. We must yield to the one that has come to save us: Christ.

November 7, 2022

Monday

PUT OTHERS FIRST

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind, regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interest, but also for the interests of others, have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus...”

– Philippians 2:3-6

Today in our culture it is so important to set the example of a follower of Christ and put others needs before your own. Why? This is the way Christ was when embodied here on the earth and it is a command to “Love Thy Neighbor.” In this passage Paul stresses the fact that God incarnated in the form of a lowly human as Christ and even went to the cross to pay the penalty for our sin (Read through verses 6-9 in chapter 2 of Philippians). If God so did this, we in turn can continue to love others by putting them first. Pray more for those that you know are struggling, lend more money and love others. Let your life be a living testimony through service to others. You will never be able to outdo God. Keep loving, keep others first, and sacrifice.



November 8, 2022

Tuesday

STAY CLOSE TO JESUS

"If you abide in my word then you are truly disci-ples of mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free."

– John 8:31-32

The Braman Foundation truly promotes study and memorization of the Holy Scriptures. Why? We fight a spiritual battle daily with the Holy Spirit being our greatest advocate. The Word is spiritualized through the actual Spirit of God. The words are alive and can penetrate any situation with power (Hebrews 4:12). Knowing the word deep down allows you to abide in Christ. As you abide you are released of self. Self is our greatest enemy and we must learn to overcome self. Love is another deep and penetrating process that purifies self. A life time of study and memorization purifies your heart and equips you for the spiritual battle in which we are engaged. Spiritual power is gained by the one that continually affirms the word in their mind and heart. In addition, as you are used more and more in the Kingdom greater protection through Grace is given in which limits your setbacks. As you become stronger a confidence is grown not in self but in He that is in you, which is God. There is less and less of self and more and more of the Divine manifesting in your life. We must read scripture night and day and speak the word over our lives, our loved ones and our neighbors. This will renew your mind and transform your life.

November 9, 2022

Wednesday

MORE LOVE

"If I speak with tongues of men and angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and the if I have faith, so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I bestow all my worldly goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing... And now abideth faith, hope and love; these three; but the greatest is love."

– 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Our struggles are rooted in our lack of love. Christ has shown and commanded us to love Him, love ourselves and to love our neighbor. Through- out the scriptures we read this but nowhere is it stated more clearly than: Matthew 22:36-40. Our works and all we do for our Lord should be an inner calling to answer this command: To Love. Ask yourself: Do I realize that every person I encounter is loved by God? Do I honor God within each soul that I meet? Do I understand that it matters none whether the soul in front of me is rich, poor, black or white, filled with sin or righteous and pure? All are made in the divine image of He that is the greatest of all. Therefore, we must learn to love one another. It is through love that we learn to answer this call. Pray that you love others more deeply and pray for those in which you struggle to get along. Pray for their lives, their families and pray that you love them no matter what they are or do. Pray that you love those that oppose you and persecute you. Pray that you love those that steal from you. Love more. They will know you by your love. A true follower of Jesus loves as He loves you. No Conditions.

November 10, 2022

Thursday

CHRIST IS WITH YOU

*“Do not be afraid; nor discouraged”
Romans 8:37 “In all these things we are
more than conquerors through Him who
loved us; Christ Jesus.”*

– Deuteronomy 1:21

*“Nor anything else in all creation will be
able to separate us from the love of God
that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

– Romans 8:39

In our lives we will have trials and many difficulties. Fear is always lurking in our midst. We have set backs and we have this tendency to give up and just stop moving forward. Yet we know the Lord has planted seeds within us to fulfill, to conquer and achieve. Regardless of our stature in this life. And some of us have created a mess in our lives that even make our road more difficult. Regardless of the circumstances keep close to God. Spend more time in the word and fight the good fight. Let your life be absorbed in Christ knowing that He is your protector, your true north, that He does make your crooked paths straight and He is with you always. So, claim your victory and inhabit the land that has been stolen from you for you are more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus!!

November 11, 2022

Friday

THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

*“They were hungry and thirsty, and their
lives ebbed away. Then they cried out to
the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered
them out of their distresses, and He led
them forth by the right way.”*

– Psalm 107:5-6

*“Blessed are those who hunger and
thirst for righteousness, for they will be
satisfied.”*

– Matthew 5:6

If your house is in order the Lord will respond, however if your house is not, then seek a deeper relationship with the Lord and ask: Why do I lack power to overcome my sin? Why am I not making a difference in other's lives? Search for righteousness in your life through deep heart felt repentance. Daily, on your knees, ask for forgiveness from the sin nature in your life. Then know that you are a new creature in Christ. That Christ is your mediator. That Jesus goes before you to make straight your way. Seek a deeper relationship with Him. Then you will grow in wonder and power through the Holy Spirit. Yearn for what is right, yearn for our people to change. Then go out and make a difference for the Lord.

November 12, 2022

Saturday

LET LOVE RULE

“For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, ‘you shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

– Galatians 5:14

Again, and again Paul is asking us to love one another. Later in chapter six he is asking us to, “bear one another’s burdens and thus fulfilling the law.” Paul frequently quotes the law because he was an outstanding Pharisee. Paul knew the word and was a devout Jew. Yet Christ used Him to spread the Gospel even though He stoned and murdered early Christians in the first few decades after the resurrection of Christ, the early church. Paul always comes back to love of God love of our neighbor and love of self. He does this because Christ told us that in Matt 22:36 that Love is the greatest commandment. Examine your life and ask these questions: Lord what is preventing me from loving all? Why is my love disposed on only my family members and those in which act and speak like me? Ask this: Lord reveal to me those in my heart that I repel from and do not show acts of kindness and do not Love? Finally, Lord show me the inner contempt I have towards myself that prevents me from loving myself. Then listen within to the Holy Spirit. A revival cannot begin if we individually cannot love. Repent of the ways of this world and turn toward Christ; go deeper. Do not stop!!!!

November 13, 2022

Sunday

BE KIND

“Be kindly affectioned to one another with brotherly love...”

– Romans 12:10

As followers of Christ it is important/vital to have love in your heart always. From this love affection and kindness flows. The Lord is asking us to be kind to one another regardless of the difficulty. Revenge, fear, anger, retaliation is not of the Holy Spirit. In fact, we must examine our hearts daily to be sure we are protected from such darkness. Ask the Lord to reveal to you, areas in your life in which you hide unforgiveness and pain. Sometimes we are in denial of this darkness and it manifests in our lives mentally through Depression or physically in forms of Cancer. If your life is filled with animosity towards others or a specific person then pray for the overall wellness of that person. In this process you will be released from the cycle of dysfunction and darkness. Gently ask the Lord to show you how to love your enemy and be at peace. In the end, if your heart is right then kindness will show wherever you are for kindness is a “fruit of the spirit”



November 14, 2022

Monday

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

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

– Isaiah 1:18

It is through the power of Christ’s shed blood that we are truly saved, not our will to ask to be saved. It is the love of Christ that paid the penalty for all our sins that we are rendered white as snow. It is in this mystery that God sent His only Son that cast His life for us all that gives us true freedom. This is no one higher, no one in which can be our true mediator. Let us Praise the King of Kings; The Lord of lords. Praise the Lord for your freedom, for in this one deed 2,000 years ago we have been declared: “White as snow”. Raise your arms to the sky and Thank the Lord. Regardless of how you may feel right now declare: “This is the day the Lord has made, and I will rejoice and be glad in it. “You are an eternal being that has taken on this body in which you temporarily reside. Do not think this is your home for you were, are and shall always be an eternal being. Now you know your residing place with God through the power of Christ’s shed blood! Be yea glad!

November 15, 2022

Tuesday

DO YOU LOVE CHRIST?

“I will gladly spend and be spent for your souls. Whether I am loved by you more or less.”

– 2 Corinthians 12:15

Paul’s love for Christ is evident throughout His writings in the new testament. If you love me feed my sheep. As we grow closer to Christ through repentance and seeking Him we are filled with the love of Christ. This love is passed on to those in which the Holy Spirit uses us to influence. Think back in your life and reflect on those that greatly influenced you to be like Christ. Are you now passing on this great spiritual message of love through Christ? Is Christ using you? Regardless of your struggles or where you are you can influence those around you through abandoning self. Grow in the love of Christ and you will change others’ lives. God will use you as an instrument of peace. Continue to seek the Lord and ask to abandon your life. More and more of you Oh Lord and less and less of me.

November 16, 2022

Wednesday

CHRIST HAS GIVEN US FREEDOM

“The son of man came to give His life as a ransom for many.”

– Mark 10:45

“In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His Grace.”

– Ephesians 1:7

There is no other way but through the redemption of Christ that we are saved. It is our unification in Christ that we are whole. It is through His sacrifice that we can be free from the bondage of the fall of man. It is through Christ, who shed His blood for all that we are released from our own sin. It is through Christ, that the curse of generations that have been upon us, through our father's sin that we are truly free. We cannot earn this freedom, we must only confess, and turn to Christ and accept this freedom. We cannot earn this through deeper study of scripture, through a deeper commitment in meditation or through any works in which we may serve others. This is the essence of why Jesus Christ walked the earth. God incarnate shed His blood for all of mankind. It is done. Now tell others of this GREAT NEWS!!

November 17, 2022

Thursday

CLAIM YOUR VICTORY

“But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumph and through us spreads and makes evident the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere.”

– 2 Corinthians 2:14

“Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!!!”

– Psalm 105:3

The Lord is always on your side. Whether you are struggling or are on a mountain top rejoicing or somewhere in between Christ is always with you. Providing that you have asked Jesus in your heart; to be your savior. Christ is always going before you to make your crooked paths straight. Shout for joy for this the day the Lord has made!!!! This is the LORD'S DAY. Now go into this day and leave your burdens at His cross. His yoke is easy. He will take all your cares of this world. Allow this to occur. The Lord is bringing you success. Now yield to He, that is in you and greater than us all. You were, shall always be made in the Divine image of God. You are His creation; the apple of His eye. You have sought the Lord and turned toward the light; therefore, you are saved, you have formally been accepted into the Royal Family. Now rejoice!!!! Go and spread the good word and love others.

November 18, 2022

Friday

COMFORT

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all of our affliction, so we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

– 2 Corinthians 1:2-4

In this life we will suffer affliction. We will have struggles as we identify with self. As we struggle with fear, with pride, with sorrow. God extends mercy to us even though we do not deserve such mercies. For although we are made in the divine nature of God we have been born in sin in a fallen world. Therefore, we will suffer regardless of our race, our heritage, our education or economic status etc. Thanks be to God that we serve a God that loves us, extends His mercy to us and comforts us freely.

November 19, 2022

Saturday

THE GOD OF ALL

“Bless the Lord, all you angels, mighty in strength, who performs His word, obeying the voice of His word. Bless the Lord all you His hosts, you serve Him, doing His will. Bless the Lord, all your works of His, in all places of His dominion; bless the Lord, O my soul.”

– Psalm 103:20-22

Our lives are here today and gone tomorrow. The grass withers and the flowers fade but the word of the Lord stands forever. We worry yet as Christ taught: Look at the lilies of the field they neither toil nor spin and the birds of the air they neither sow nor gather yet the Lord knows each of them: Are not yea not more than the lilies of the field for they are here today and gone tomorrow, they worry not. Caste all your fears on the Lord and He shall make your crooked paths straight. Let not your heart be troubled rather open your heart to the Lord and He shall enter in. The majesty of our God, Lord of Lords, King of Kings and yet He loves each of us, knows each of us and yearns that we turn back and grow in His Spirit. That we unite in Him and do all in the name of the Lord!



November 20, 2022

Sunday

ARE YOU AWAKE?

“Awake oh sleeper and arise from the dead and Christ will shine on you.”

– Ephesians 5:14

Many of us, as we age, lose our enthusiasm for life. Dreams we had as children and young adults just fade away. Some of us settle into a life, that while is not bad, we just do not live up to the dreams we had in our younger days. This is unfortunate because for many these are the seeds that the Holy Spirit planted in our hearts to fulfill. The Lord is telling us to take the initiative, to wake up and get going and get a passion for your life and for your dreams. The lord will meet you, but you must make an effort and keep on striving to overcome the tendency to give up. The lord is calling for you to be strong, courageous. Do not worry or fear but be bold and move forward.

November 21, 2022

Monday

ARE YOU SINGING PRAISES?

“This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This the day the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Oh, Lord, do save, we beseech Thee; O Lord we beseech Thee, do send prosperity.”

– Psalm 118:23-25

The verses in the Psalm above has a tradition: That Jesus and His disciples chanted these verses unto the God frequently. Is your walk with the Lord Dull? Have you no passion for the Lord? Lift up your voice and sing unto the Lord. Even if you do not feel like it, do it even more. Praise the God that has given you life. Praise the God that is loving you despite who you are and were. Praise God that He is making your crooked paths straight. Sing a new song!!!! Even if you’re up against a wall, praise the living God, the giver of life, your very breath the essence of who you are is Christ in you. Lift up your voice and sing unto the Lord. For yes this is the day the Lord has made!!! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!!!



November 22, 2022

Tuesday

WALK WITH GOD

“That you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His kingdom and Glory.”

Are you walking with God? In all you do; is your life a reflection of God shining through you? Ask yourself these questions. Ask God to reveal to you the areas in which you come short. Ask for strength to overcome past hurts that are have led to unforgiveness. Spend more time in repentance seeking forgiveness. Pray for those that you have not forgiven. You shall overcome. Anything that blocks you off from walking worthy with the Lord must be nailed to His Cross. Give Him all of you and He will transform you from Glory to Glory. Give your life to Christ. He will answer all!!! As your walk grows in Christ you will not only be transformed; others around you will be also be done.

November 23, 2022

Wednesday

LOOK UP UNTO GOD

“Lift up your eyes on high, and behold He that hath created these things, the one who leads forth their host by number, He calls them by name; because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power. Not one of them is missing.”

– Isaiah 40:26

Where is your focus? Are you seeking God in all you do? Do you see the power of God throughout nature? Are you caught up in your work? Going from task to task thinking you are serving the Lord, yet lack power? Ask the Lord to reveal to you His power and His might through the things, the vastness in nature. Grow in this power of God. Many of us lack power in our prayer life. Our intercessory prayers go on answered because we lack power. We, at times, are caught up in the task and forget that we are following a great God who at any moment can with drawl us from creation. Be in awe of God and His creation, its vastness and power. Try to not allow your service work to become idol worship. WE must try to be “ Poured out like wine & and broken bread” in which the Lord can naturally use us. Continue to be in awe.



November 24, 2022

Thursday

ARE YOU EXHAUSTED IN YOUR SERVICE?

“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might to increase power.”

– Isaiah 40:28

Ask yourself: Am I tired and worn out in my service for others? Is my service grounded in a sense of urgency of the Lord Or do I do service in my own strength? Am I seeking recognition in my service work? Am I serving in the Lord’s strength or my own? Remember: “That those that wait upon shall renew their strength, they shall mount up on wings as eagles they shall run and not become weary; walk and not faint.” If grounded in the will of God and not a sense of self-will; the Holy Spirit will strengthen you; as if poured out like a drink of water. The Grace of God will be poured into you the more you feed His Sheep and care for His Lamb. Therefore, if you are always stressed out or exhausted perhaps you are not serving He that is greater than He of this world but are serving self. As you know our world is filled with those seeking their own agendas. Ask.

November 25, 2022

Friday

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR SANCTIFICATION?

“May the God of peace sanctify you completely...”

– 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Are we prepared to be truly sanctified? When we ask this, we are seeking and asking that all those tendencies all the ungodliness to be removed from us. This, of course, is not going to be easy. On our own we are unable to purify ourselves; this is only accomplished through complete and utter surrender. There are ways in us that must be removed for the Lord to prevail in our sanctification. Yearn for this process to take place. Place yourself in His arms completely, all of you and all your life. Know that He is ever calling you into a deeper and deeper level of discipleship. A oneness that can only occur through His Grace. Expect the difficulty this brings for its very nature is contrary to the “things” of this world. And do not stop in this inner yearning for completion. You will know when you will know the work is complete. Remember this is NOT an accomplishment of your will rather a relinquishment of your will. Go deeper.



November 26, 2022

Saturday

OVERCOMING FEAR

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear...”

– 1 John 4:18

Love is the essence of God. And Christ has come as the perfect incarnation of God for the redemption of the world. Therefore, let us be filled with the love of Christ. Let us cast all our selves upon Him who is was and shall always be. This spirit of fear woven throughout this fabric of existence can be overcome through complete surrender in Christ. Let not the “things” of this world be your concern; rather allow ALL your cares, concerns and burdens be poured out on this altar of Christ. Grow in your devotion in Him and allow His Spirit to penetrate ALL of you. Complete surrender. Your life is not your own. Allow the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit, to enter in every area of your life. Then you will truly understand the essence of “Love Thy neighbor.” Forget your life and walk in true humility and love.

November 27, 2022

Sunday

THE LORD IS WITH YOU, GO FORWARD

“I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous... Only be strong and very courageous...”

– Joshua 1:5-7

Whatever you are facing know the Lord is with you wherever you go. In fact, commit these verses to memory for as you continue to serve the Lord in all you do you will be faced with trials and difficulties that will cause you to retreat. Remember the Lord is always on your side. However, you must be striving to live according to His ways of righteousness and love. Continual repentance of your sinful ways and a purifying of self. Daily die to self and seek the Lord in all you do. The Lord will always be with you. Remember you are and shall always be made in His image. It is this fallen nature in sin that we become deluded from the truth. Stay close to the Lord and He shall make your crooked paths straight. Be sure you are walking and talking to the Lord. Make sure the Lord is your best friend.



November 28, 2022

Monday

ARE YOU BEING REFINED?

And I will bring the third part through the fire, refine them as silver is refined; And test them as gold is tested. They shall call on my Name, And I will answer them; I will say they are my people and they will say the Lord is my God."

– Zechariah 13:9

Have you gone through a process of difficulty in overcoming your sin nature? Have you felt the hand of God testing you into a deeper relationship with Him? If you have asked to have those tendencies removed that separate you from Him then you have, are currently or will soon be, going through some testing throughout your salvation. This is the boiling away of your sin nature. Similar to the burning away of dross in the refining of gold and silver. This is the process of regeneration. Do not mistake your difficulties as something you did wrong; no rather stay repentive and allow grace to lift you through any trial you may be in. This is the meaning of refining, your sin nature is being removed and what is left is your true nature, your divine nature as you are made in His image. Then you are and shall always be a reflection of Jesus.

November 29, 2022

Tuesday

THE CALL OF GOD

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the Gospel..."

– 1 Corinthians 1:17

Paul came to preach the redemptive power of Jesus Christ. This power is life changing, not in works through a gradual change toward God. No, rather this power of the Gospel is an epiphany. You will never be the same. Paul is not speaking of salvation, where we ask God for deliverance or pray that others be delivered. Here Paul is speaking directly of the power in Jesus Christ. That this power can heal, restore and make whole now. It is the resurrection power that is in Christ that is in you. If you believe and have surrendered your life in Christ, then you too have this power in you. When will you call this out? When will you claim this power? Get on fire for the Lord is at hand!!



November 30, 2022

Wednesday

PROMISES

“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us.”

– Galatians 3:13

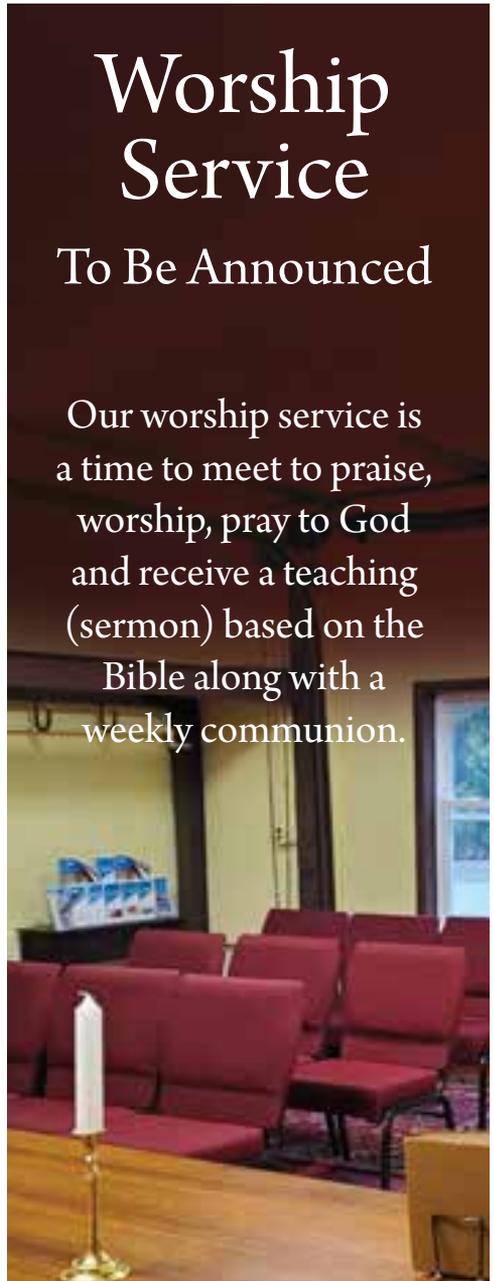
Christ has come so that you may have eternal life. He died for our sins and rose and defeated death. Oh, death where is Thy sting. Therefore, through His greatest command we must love God, our neighbor and ourselves. Give thanks to God through Christ and show your gratefulness through loving all people. The curse of the law is lifted, rejoice. It is not your works but He that dwelleth within you that doeth the works. Do all you do in His name. Lift up your neighbor, talk to the homeless and pray for those that are your enemies. Do not stop but rather take each day as it comes to fulfill His way of Love. And go in peace knowing you are resting in the Love of Christ.



Worship Service

To Be Announced

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 Narrow Gate

Matthew 7:13-14

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

The gateway of delusion is wide. Opening onto the broad pathway of evil. Many fools blithely go through the gate of ignorant impulses and find themselves on the path of evil actions. It is easy to perform evil, just as it requires no effort to roll down a hill; but every evil action repeated leads one further along the wide path of evil trod by the unthinking masses.

Outer and inner interpretation of “strait gate” and “narrow way”

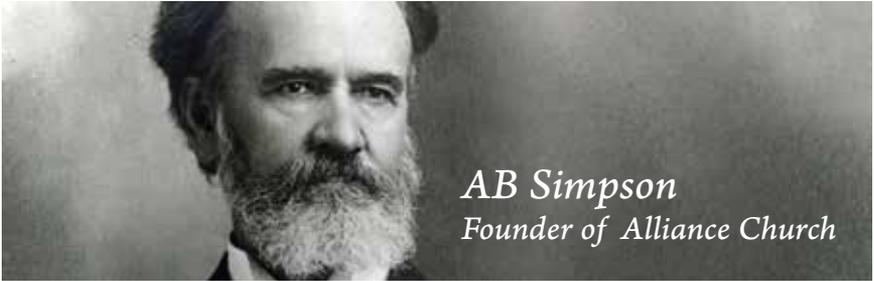
The “broadness” of the evil path signifies the unlimited potentialities for committing evil deeds. The reckless throng, lured by temptations and compelled by iniquitous impulses, enters the easy gate of evil and follows the broad path of evil actions, arm-in-arm with their false promises of quick gratification. But as the evildoers jostle madly along, the path of evil suddenly ends in a precipitous fall into the valley

of misery.

The strait gate of goodness in its restrictive singularity is less easy to pass through; and its path narrow and difficult, like climbing uphill; fewer are those who choose this more arduous path of virtuous inclinations (gate) and righteous actions (way), which leads to everlasting life. Virtue arising from spiritual aspiration, though seemingly difficult and unattractive in the beginning and shunned by the worldly minded, yet leads those who persist in pursuing the singular way of goodness into a kingdom of undreamed-of splendor and unending bliss.

Jesus enjoined on man unswerving adherence to the path of virtue and morality, a course that all human beings must follow to evolve spiritually. He reiterated this in these verses, but also addressed his close disciples in a veiled metaphor.

A Daily Devotional



*“But seek ye first kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you”*

- Matthew 6:33

For every heart that is seeking anything from the Lord this is a good watchword. That very thing, or the desire for it, may unconsciously separate us from the Lord or at least from the singleness of our purpose toward Him. The thing we desire may be a right thing, but we may desire it in a distrustful and selfish spirit. Let us commit to Him and believe for it; but let us, at the same time, keep our purpose fixed on His will and glory.

Let us claim even His promised blessings, not for themselves or ourselves, but for Him. Then shall it be true, *Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart* (Psalm 37:4). All other things but Himself God will “add.” But they must always be added, never first. Then shall we be able to believe for them without doubt, when we claim them for Him and not for ourselves. It is only when *we are Christ’s* that *all things are ours*.

Lord, help me this day to seek Thee first, and be more desirous to please Thee and have Thy will than to possess any other blessing.

Christ Your Foundation

Matthew 7:24-27

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

“And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it”

Jesus spoke: “And why call ye me Lord, without knowing my oneness with Christ Intelligence, the Lord of all creation, and how my omnipresent Self manifests Itself in creation and in your consciousness? Because you call me Christ but do not feel my presence in your consciousness, you do not lead your life as I say unto you, or as my consciousness signifies by its Christ vibrations upholding the superconsciousness of your soul, your true Self. When you will be able to feel my Christ consciousness awakening you superconsciousness, then you will follow the wisdom-righteousness I signify through your inner perception, but not before, when you still heed the

instigations of delusion.”

Anchoring one’s life in the unshakeable security of God-contact

The disciple who forsakes the compelling influence of matter and sensations and seeks the hidden Christ in the temple of superconsciousness can listen to the silent vibrations of that Infinite Christ; that devotee’s nervous system — with its sensate, kinetic emotional, and rational instrumentalities — will then automatically respond and act according

to perceptions of the inner divine propensities. That devotee, as the soul, builds his house of consciousness not on the shifting sands of earthly pleasures; but with the pickaxe of meditation and God-communion he digs deep to reach the bedrock of intuitive wisdom, and builds his house of bliss on everlasting rock of God's Cosmic Consciousness. When the rains of difficult spiritual trials or the floods of accumulated sorrowful events or the mighty wind of death threatens with vehemence and impetuosity, the wise man's house of intuitive cosmic perception and bliss stands unshaken. The wisdom and bliss acquired by meditation becomes a permanent abode of the consciousness, which not even the most-dreaded event of death can destroy. The disciple whose consciousness does not rest on the frangible foundation of material desires will not be carried away into plights of new incarnations. The consciousness built on the rock of God-consciousness shall not lose its divine contact in life or death, but will forever be housed in blissful immortality.

But he who gives only token praise to the Christ in Jesus, without heeding the voice of his inner higher consciousness and its intuitive wisdom-perceptions and acting according to those uplifting inspirations, is a man who has built his consciousness on a precarious foundation of earthly habits. When temptations will come to him, his house of self-control will break up and be swept away by the tide of ignorance, his temporary shelter of spiritual discipline thus devastated.

Whosoever leads a careless life patterned after the dictates of his impulsive desires and habits, and who tries to feel security in financial acquirement and sense pleasures, will lose his happiness during the trials of life. Like a house built upon treacherous sand, earthly happiness cannot prevail against the rain, floods, and wind of physical disease and mental troubles, the changes of fortune, or the ultimate storm of death. Foolish is the man who lives for earthly happiness only, for at the time of death everything he loved and considered to be everlastingly his own will be taken away from him.

SPURGEON'S CORNER

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor"

Matthew 5:43



"Love thy neighbor." Perhaps he rolls in riches, and thou art poor, and living in thy little cot side-by-side with his lordly mansion; thou seest every day his estates, his fine linen, and his sumptuous banquets; God has given him these gifts, covet not his wealth, and think no hard thoughts concerning him. Be content with thine own lot, if thou canst not better it, but do not look upon thy neighbor, and wish that he were as thyself. Love him, and then thou wilt not envy him.

Mayhap, on the other hand, thou art rich, and near thee reside the poor. Do not scorn to call them neighbors. Own that thou art bound to love them. The world calls them thy inferiors. In what are they inferior? They are far more thine equals than thine inferiors, for "God hath made of one blood all people that dwell upon the face of the earth." It is thy coat which is better than theirs, but thou art by no means better than they. They are men, and what art thou more than that? Take heed that thou love thy neighbor even though he be in rags, or sunken in the depths of poverty.

But, perhaps, you say, "I cannot love my neighbors, because for all I do they return ingratitude and contempt." So much the more room for the heroism of love. Wouldst thou be a feather-bed warrior, instead of bearing the rough fight of love? He who dares the most, shall win the most; and if rough be thy path of love, tread it boldly, still loving thy neighbors through thick and thin. Heap coals of fire on their heads, and if they be hard to please, seek not to please them, but to please thy Master; and remember if they spurn thy love, thy Master hath not spurned it, and thy deed is as acceptable to him as if it had been acceptable to them. Love thy neighbor, for in so doing thou art following the footsteps of Christ.

Grow in your Daily Walk

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

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

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

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

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



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by Braman Foundation of Charities

&
— The —
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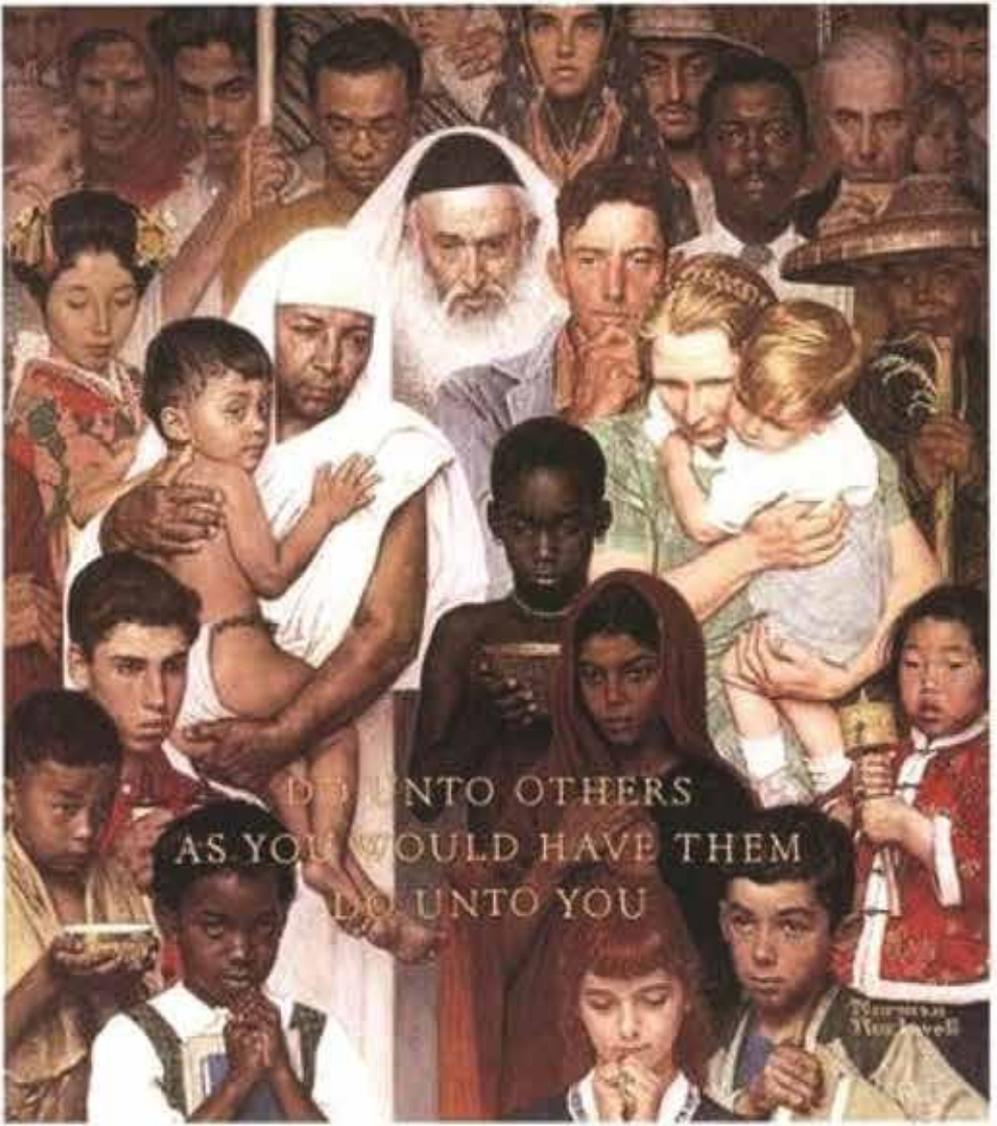
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The screenshot shows the content of the Inspire newsletter. At the top is the Braman Foundation of Charities logo with the word 'Inspire' in a script font. Below the logo is the text 'A Monthly E-Commerce Newsletter by Braman Foundation of Charities'. The main content is titled 'BFC Thanksgiving Greetings' and includes a quote from 1 Corinthians 13:3: 'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich.' This is followed by a paragraph reflecting on the meaning of being rich in Christ and a prayer of thanksgiving. Below this is a section titled 'Thankful:' with a quote from Psalm 92:1: 'I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart, with all your wonderful deeds.' This is followed by a paragraph about the joy of thanksgiving. To the right of this section is a small image of a Thanksgiving dinner. Below the 'Thankful:' section is another section titled 'Thankfulness Leads to Witnessing' with a quote from Philippians 4:6-7: 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God.' This is followed by a paragraph about the power of thanksgiving. To the right of this section is a small image of a group of people. At the bottom of the newsletter is a section titled 'An Inspirational Quotation' with a quote from Colossians 3:17: 'And whatever you do, whether in word or in deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.' Below the quote are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube, and a 'Send this message' button.

“And whatever you do in words and deeds do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks and a grateful heart to God”

Colossians 6:17



NORMAN ROCKWELL
“DO UNTO OTHERS”

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