

September 2022

Braman Foundation of Charities
presents

DISCIPLESHIP

A Devotional Magazine



THE HARVEST



Grow in
Understanding Devotions

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

Braman
Foundation of Christian

An Understanding of Devotion,
Confession, Self Reflection
& Repentance

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Love Thy Neighbor

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A Devotional Magazine

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The Harvest is Plenty

Welcome!

This is the season of The Harvest. As we move into fall we are reminded of Luke's passage, "The harvest is plentiful, but laborers are few," Luke 10:2.

In these passages Christ has commissioned seventy disciples to prepare, ahead of him, as he begins another ministered journey.

Think of the harvest in America today. Look around. See how many are hurried, stressed, and filled with worldliness. Is this not a great opportunity to speak of Christ to those in your family that may not know Christ, or your work spaces?

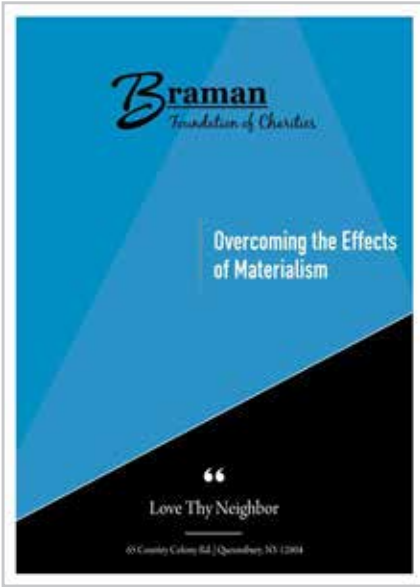
Christ may be sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Listen to the still small voice of your inner self, your divine nature. What are you sensing?

All around us our society seems in turmoil yet here you are centered in Jesus, peaceful and ready to serve. Dive deep in the listening.

As always, He is seeking for you to love your neighbor. Love the Lord Thy God with all of you and grow in the love of Christ. He walks with you, and talks with you, and calls you His own.

Grow in the inner working of the mystery of His grace and mercy. Love to tell others of His Love for the harvest in truly plenty but the laborers few.

Be Blessed & Enjoy
Forever in Christ
The Writers for BFC



This is a simple program that sheds some light on:

- » *Pluralism*
- » *Human secularism*
- » *Materialism*
- » *Pride*

Especially in the United States we are experiencing a growing worldliness in the church. We see the idea of “self reliance” as a way of life. And a philosophy that all paths lead to Christ!

Order at www.bramanfoundation.com

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 explore the writings of Richard W. Braman. We thank God for his life as we celebrate what would have been Richard's 93rd birthday.

We are grateful for the ability to have Richard's work transcribed into book format. For that we thank God for his niece Sandra Torrent as she has labored countless hours digitizing these sermons. As you may know Richard wrote and delivered about 378 sermons, performed various weddings, and wrote extensively about his faith, marriage, and the power of our Risen Christ.

And so we bring to you this month's theme: "The Harvest".

Allow the presence of the Holy Spirit, to lift you higher as you grow in a deeper appreciation for the word of God. Grow in your own personal devotions so you too may be able to be used by God to bring others into the kingdom. For there can be no greater joy than to be used by the Lord to win souls for His Kingdom!

Enjoy!

An Excerpt from RWB Sermons

For the feeling the guilt we have within ourselves when we commit a sin is great and can be removed by Christ. But we have to believe that Christ really does forgive us. This is the message we as Disciples of Christ have to get across to others. This is our task, the Church's task and we have our work cut out or us.

Can It Be Done Alone?

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

- Luke 10:2

Speaking from past experience, I know that most of us have the idea that we hire the minister to take care of our church. We feel that all we have to do is attend church (if we feel like it) and give of our money (if we have any leftover after we have everything we want). However, I believe there are more ways to serve God and the Church than the two (2) I have just mentioned.

I believe it is true, the minister is hired to be the head of the local church, to guide and direct the spiritual lives of its members but I think you should realize that this building belongs to you, you are members of this church and most of you will remain here long after the minister has left.

I believe there are certain responsibilities that you feel the minister should respond to. I can list these responsibilities because I know that I expected my own minister to fulfill them. For example: the minister is expected to preach a sermon each Sunday and certain special occasions, and it is expected it will be somewhat of a good sermon, something that each person can take home with him to think about. If the minister does have a half way decent sermon, you can believe that he has spent several hours that week preparing it.

Secondly, the minister is expected to visit each family in the church regularly. Nowadays there are problems in visiting people like competition from TV, quite often it is difficult to find both husband and wife home at the same time. However, I feel the minister should visit each family and become a part of

the community.

Third, if someone is sick at home or in the hospital, the minister is expected to visit them; which is rightly so.

Fourth, if there is a meeting of any organization in the Church, the minister is expected to attend; otherwise we say that he isn't interested in the church.

Fifth, if there are any personal family difficulties, the minister is looked to for guidance.

Sixth, the minister is expected to help with the financial matters of the church. If additional money is needed he is expected to make a special appeal.

Seventh, the Sunday school needs the guidance of the minister, helping to acquire teachers, the right kind of materials, etc.

Eighth, the youth fellowship needs the direct contact of the minister. He shall have the ability to attract and keep the interest of the youth of the church because they are the future church members and the ones who will be running the church in the near future.

There are some things any congregation expects of their minister and I believe that they are justified in their expectations. However I'm sure you will agree with me that it is almost impossible for one (1) man to accomplish all of the responsibilities alone. The minister needs your help, the help of

the lay people of the church. It is a two way street.

(The minister needs the lay people and the lay people need the minister – both working together as a team.)

Jesus needed people (ordinary lay people like yourselves) to assist him in spreading the Good News of the Gospel. In our scripture lesson this morning He sent them out in twos before him to tell others of his coming. After Christ was crucified, the disciples had to carry on. They were able to do so because of the presence of God's Holy Spirit in their hearts. The Holy Spirit provided them with the guidance and direction they needed. This same Holy Spirit is present with us today (right now) to guide and direct our lives. All we have to do is be willing to accept it.

Speaking from a layman's point of view, I believe there are many privileges we as Christians have and can and should do. Also speaking from the other side of the fence there are many things a minister expects of congregation.

Preaching, I believe, is definitely the minister's responsibility, however, I believe he can be assisted by the suggestion of sermon topics, asking questions pertaining to our Christiana faith, etc. It is about impossible for one man to be an expert in all of the fields I have mentioned. Usually there are qualified people in each field who belong to the church who can assist the minister. In fact these qualified persons an often take up the leadership of these particular phases.

I don't know how anyone can call himself a Christian and merely be satisfied with attending church and donating money. I know that each person has God given talents that can be used for the benefit of others and God expects us to use these talents in helping to build his Kingdom here on earth. When we serve God through our church we obtain a feeling within ourselves of peace and joy and unless we do obtain these feelings, I'm afraid our acts are for show purposes, only surface deep and not from our hearts.

When you joined the church, you took

certain vows that I believe should be renewed periodically. These vows were: (1) We agreed to renew the solemn promise and vow that was made for us at the time of our baptism; which was; a) to truly repent of our sins and accept and confess Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, b) to earnestly endeavor to keep God's Holy will and commandments. These two vows alone give us plenty to think about. If we truly believe in Jesus Christ, the church will not have to be concerned about finance, leadership or spiritual life of its members. (2) We agreed to pledge our allegiance to Christ's kingdom – to pledge means to be loyal and uphold its beliefs.

(3) To receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the New Testament of our Lord Jesus Christ. (4) To be loyal to this church and uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service.

These are very serious pledges and I believe all of us should ponder them over in our minds and ask ourselves this question. "Have I carried out the agreement I made?" Naturally the answers you get from this question is between yourself and God for no human being can judge another in this matter.

As Christians I believe we have an obligation to God and ourselves to study "his word", not when we feel like it, or when we have a few spare moments but regularly.

The Bible can and should be applied to our lives. We should be bowing our heads and kneeling before God in prayer and we shouldn't just be doing this when we need his help. We have much to be thankful for, other people need our prayers and we need to confess our sins and mistakes to God. I don't see how we can possibly converse with God unless we are willing to take a few minutes each day in silence with Him. As Christians our faith never stands still. We either go backwards or forward and we should be going forward. We need to learn more about our faith, about Jesus Christ, about God, about what we believe and why we believe it. If someone was to ask you "why do you believe in God?" Could you answer this question?

We can grow as Christians by showing our daily experiences with others. Each of us can benefit by other experiences.

We need to be concerned about the needs and desires of other people. We all know about situations that exist that should be corrected. We have to stand up and speak out for those things in which we believe. The first way to show our concern is through prayer. Sometimes this is the only way we can help but other times we need action along with our prayers.

As Christians and members of this church you are expected to attend church worship services regularly unless you have a very good reason for not attending. We cannot let our desires and pleasures come ahead of our church. We shouldn't forget our Sunday school either. We are in the process of trying to get an adult Sunday school class started. We are never too old to attend Sunday School, in fact I'm sure that often times the discussion that takes place in Sunday School is more beneficial than the worship service.

Giving to God is a privilege that we as Christians should enjoy. Our church has expenses that have to be met and each person is expected to give according to his means. We should not let luxuries we want interfere with one giving to our church. This is like the widow who put in two (2) copper coins (equal to one penny) and the rich putting in their money. Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, the poor widow has put in more than all of them; for they contributed out of their abundance but she out of her poverty put in the living that she had."

While we are on the subject of giving let us consider other types of giving besides money. We need to give of our time to help in the spreading of the Gospel to other people.

One way to serve is by teaching in our Sunday school. Trying to acquire teachers for Sunday school is perhaps one of the most difficult tasks we have. People use all kinds of excuses why they cannot teach. Actually I have found from my own experience that the person who tries to do a good job teaching obtains

much more value from preparing the lessons than the students receive. Most people have to dig a little and study in order to get the lesson across and we know we have to do this each week in order to do a good job. This is actually what each one of us needs to learn more about the Bible and God.

Our youth groups need guidance. Every church seems to stick those persons with a job the rest of their lives as long as they are willing to do it. Maybe if some of their jobs were passed around more often it wouldn't become such a dreadful task.

As lay people if you do not want to visit people who are sick and shut in, I feel at least you can tell the minister about them so he can visit them. Of course the minister should visit them anyway. However, I still feel it's a wonderful opportunity for lay people to witness for Jesus Christ by visiting these people. But also remember before we can witness for Christ, we need him in our own hearts. It's like the old saying, "you can't sell something unless you are sold yourself."

In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus says to Peter and Andrew, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." Jesus Christ is saying the same thing to us today if we would stop long enough to listen to him.

There are many ways we as Christians can witness for Jesus Christ and ways we can serve him:

First, we can talk about Christ to other people we work with, people we socialize with, and people we do business with. It seems we can talk about any other subject except our faith, what we believe and about God and Jesus Christ. Second, we can serve Christ by setting an example in our every day living, not for just one or two hours on Sunday morning but seven days a week, every moment of our lives. Third, being concerned for our neighbors, for their needs and their problems – not only concern but some action along with our concern. Invite them to church with you and offer transportation if necessary. Fourth, by being active in the various organizations of the church. I don't think that you have to take up every moment

of your life with church activities but I think its about time we began working Jesus Christ into the center of our lives and then we wouldn't be concerned about spending too much time in our church. Sixth, by being a teacher or officer of our Sunday school. I know that not everyone can be a teacher but I also know there is a place for everyone where you can contribute to the overall program of the church. I believe and I feel that Sunday school is by far the most important function of any church. Here our children, youth and adults, learn about God and Jesus Christ and how they are related to each individual's life.

This is the only place beside the home our children receive religious instruction and I feel it is important and necessary to give them the best we can.

In the early Christian church ordinary lay people like you spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We still need to spread this 'good news' today.

This morning I have tried to teach on a few of the things a minister expects of the congregation, and what the congregation expects from the minister. I believe that both are justified in their expectations. I have tried to point out that the minister cannot do it without leaders. It requires the efforts of both.

I would like to leave you with a couple of thoughts. The church, this church, has to be more than a social organization otherwise it will soon fade away. To make it more than this requires the efforts of its members. Its members have to start putting Jesus Christ first in the lives and start making the church the center of their activities. I feel its time now to dedicate or lives to Jesus Christ if we haven't done so and if we have, we should rededicate them now to Him, who died that we might be saved and we should all renew the vows we took when we joined this church.

Jesus Christ said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you."



JOIN OUR
Group
Discipleship

Tuesdays at 6:30pm

bramanfoundation.org

BFC Queensbury Facility
49 Glenwood Ave
Queensbury, NY 12804

A LIFE OF SERVICE

YOUR CHURCH NAME HERE



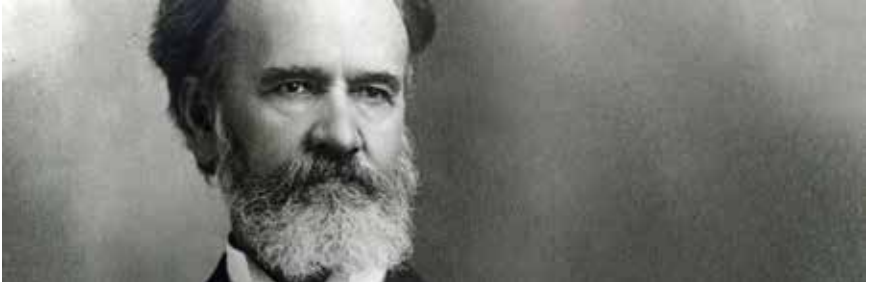
Use these pamphlets in your church to read and discuss a new life in Christ — A life of service

CUSTOM BRANDING
FOR YOUR CHURCH



A Daily Devotional

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



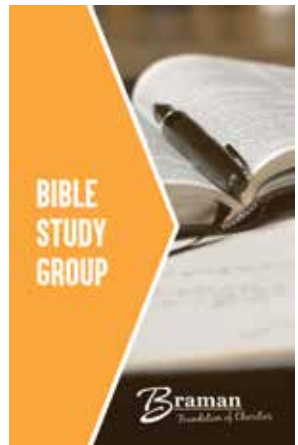
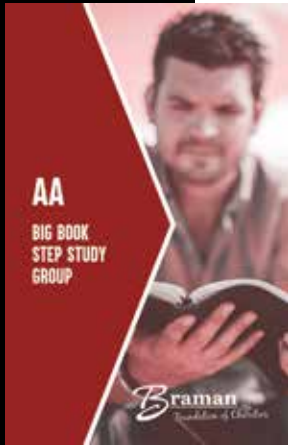
“The building up of the body of Christ”

- R.V., Eph. 4:13

God is preparing His heroes, and when the opportunity comes He can fit them into their place in a moment and the world will wonder where they came from. Let the Holy Ghost prepare you, dear friend, by all the discipline of life; and when the last finishing touch has been given to the pedestal, and fit it into its niche.

There is a day coming, when, like Othniel, we, too, shall judge the nations, and rule and reign with Christ on the millennial earth; but ere that glorious day can be, we must let God prepare us as He did Othniel at Kirjathsepher, amid the trials of our present life, and in the little victories, the significance of which, perhaps, we little dream. At least, let us be sure of this, that if the Holy Ghost has gotten an othniel ready, the Lord of heaven and earth has a throne prepared for him.

Is it for me to be used by His grace,
Helping His kingdom to bring,
Is it for me to inherit a place,
E'en on the throne of my King?



Weekly Meetings at Queensbury Facility

LOCATION

**Bramer 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 (Temporarily Suspended)

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.

Meditation and Prayer Service

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

Meditation, correctly practiced is the simple process of removing attention from conditions and circumstances which, when cognized and overly identified with fragment and cloud our perceptions. Meditation simply is concentration on an object of contemplation. We meditate in Christ which we know is the absolute realm of perfection. We meditate to commune in Christ. This Christ communion is an ideal state in which we can naturally unfold in. Learn to use this as your most meaningful time to experience God and in time you will walk continuously in God's presence.

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.

Four Highways To God

“Jesus said, “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself.”

- Luke 10:27

A young woman rapped on the minister's study door and came in. A few months before she had given herself to Jesus Christ. She said, however, that it didn't make a great deal of difference to her feelings. She said, "I am sure that I am perfectly honest in saying that I believe in God, and that I am sincere in committing myself to Jesus Christ. Yet it bothers me that I don't feel the way some people say they feel. So, I wonder, what is wrong with me or my religion?" This young woman was anxious because her experience did not follow the right pattern, or at least what she had been led to believe was the right pattern.

She was not and is not alone. Many of us, I am sure, have wondered about our religion because the way in which we relate ourselves to Jesus Christ is different from the way other people, our friends and acquaintances, relate to Jesus Christ. Sometimes we feel that we have the only true religion and if others do not agree with us their religion is no good. Our religion is the response of our personality to God. God is always, everywhere the same God. But every one of us is different. Each one of us here today is a unique personality with gifts and opportunities and talents that no one else shares.

Our Master Lord knew this. This is why he made the statement of the great commandment, "thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all they soul, and with all thy

mind, and with all thy strength." You hear it said sometimes that the Great Commandment sets forth the sum and substance of our religion. It doesn't at all. It sets forth only the sum and substance of the part we can play in it. The part God plays in it is more than a little necessary. And the part he plays is prior to this importance, and being from all eternity, is antecedent to it in time. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son." You have to write that in ahead of everything else if you want anything at all. "Therefore thou shalt love the Lord thy God and they neighbor as thyself." Get them back, these two commandments, where Christ put them, in front of the cross. Out of this text, arise four differing patterns of religious experience.

First is the highway of transforming emotion. Jesus said, "thou shalt love the Lord they God with all thy heart." The heart is thought of by us as the seat of emotion, the center of feeling. Now we know that in some quarters today emotion is being disparaged in matters of religion. There is some justification for the disparagement. But quite often if a person becomes emotional over his religion, over the true acceptance of Jesus Christ in his heart, we say that he is crazy and a fanatic and it isn't necessary for a person to act this way.

Have you ever attended a worship service of a different denomination where the congregation said, "Praise the

Lord”, to something the minister has said or “Amen.” Perhaps we don’t approve but there are many ways of experiencing their approval to a statement the minister has made. Maybe we need more of this sort of thing in all church services.

Feeling is, nevertheless, of the greatest importance. There is no better way of being convinced of the reality of something than to feel it. How do you know that Beethoven’s First Symphony is great music? You can’t prove it. But when you listen to this masterpiece, you feel it, and because you feel it, you know it. So it is with our religion. For some men their love of Jesus Christ is the deepest thing about them. Their way of life is utterly transformed by the power of an affection that drives out every base motive from their lives. I’m sure we have all known persons whose lives have been transformed by the acceptance of Jesus Christ. We call them reborn Christians or converted Christians.

All of their lives they were going around aimlessly and without purpose. Now suddenly the present of Jesus Christ in their lives give them direction and a reason for living.

These people travel what I have called the highway of transforming emotion, and it brings them to the very heart of God.

Secondly is the highway of inspiring morality. Jesus said, “thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy soul.” The soul is the locus of morality, the center where mind discriminates between right and wrong.

There are those decry morality in religion. They suggest that the moral approval to religion condemns you without understanding, that moralism fails you at the point where you need help in that it does not give you the power to do what you ought to do. Nevertheless, I believe that what we need today is not less morality in religion, but more. Everywhere that we go we can hear business men and educators complaining that our sense of responsibility is weak and dying, that

the moral stamina of our civilization is not what it ought to be. I think it is pretty well evident that the moral standards of our country are considerably lower than they used to be evidenced by statistical facts about divorce, alcoholics, dope addicts, and unwed mothers in our country. Also about the happenings and conditions that exist on some of our college campuses. But we need to remember that anyone can talk about these conditions and we can deplore them but what are we doing as Christians and individuals to help reduce them?

Morality has always been central in the Christian tradition. At the very basis of Hebrew – Christian tradition are the Ten Commandments. I can hear someone say, yes, but that in the Old Testament. The New Testament transcends all that. Does it? Is there any authority in religion that transcends the authority of Jesus Christ? Yet Jesus Christ says, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.” This is the highway of inspired morality.

Thirdly is the highway of penetrating thought. Jesus said, “thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy mind.” I am sure that you know many people who have come to Jesus Christ head first.

Occasionally you will hear criticism of intellectual religion, that it is sterile and proud and only interested in ideas and not at all in people. But the positive side of this picture can be seen as you meet a man who loves Jesus Christ with his mind. To him to love Christ with the mind is to pursue truth wherever it leads without regard for consequences.

Truth is sacred because God is truth. Sometimes if you are one of these people, you follow a lonely trail, pursuing the truth of God as faithfully as Sir Galahad followed the Holy Grail. But when you find it, there is a logical coherence to your religion, a staying integrity. You know what you believe and better than that, you know why you believe it.

The result is that you are one of those Christians who are not easily shaken. You hold a steady cove. More of us

certainly need to be surer of our faith, more sure of what we believe because the first strong wind that blows, shakes us up and then we aren't sure of anything for that point on. It's true, I believe, that most all of us are doubtful and ask questions regarding our faith at times, but I also believe that this proves we are growing in our faith and the stronger it becomes within us the less apt we are to be shaken. Some of us spend nearly all our lives saying we believe this and so and saying we are Christians but nothing really ever happens to us so our faith can be tested.

The fourth highway is the highway of faithful services. Jesus said, "though shalt love the Lord thy God with all they strength." Strength refers to service. This is the highway of the big majority of church people. Most of us believe in carrying some responsibility for Christ's work wherever we happen to be. Most of us feel that we ought to be doing little acts of kindness to other people.

Along with you, I have heard about the criticism that American religion is just pious activities. In other words we are always busy doing something but not really knowing why.

Don't you believe it. Without Christian action, without public responsibility for your faith, without spelling out your discipleship in terms of carrying responsibility, giving leadership, being a good follower, being a friend to someone who needs you, your Christianity won't get very far. Somehow it is the active, steady fellow, who lives in peace with his neighbor and carries his responsibilities quietly, who gets farthest up the road. one who has understood the Master clearly and well. Jesus said, "Not everyone who says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the Kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in Heaven." I believe it is also true that not all of us can be doers and not all of us can be just believers. And so I believe that God wants us to be a combination of both. For there are many people who do good for others but are still not Christian. I believe this, "If a person is really and truly a Christian and believes

in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, he will be doing good for others, he will be giving to his church, he will be attending church and Sunday school and I don't believe there is any question about this.

Now there is an interesting thing about these four highways. They all converge and they all lead to the feet of Jesus Christ. If your Christian experience is sincere and true to your best self, it is firmly attached to Jesus Christ as the Lord of your life, there is only one question that stands before you, a personal question, a question to which you alone have the answer. And it is this: No matter which highway of Christian discipleship you may be traveling, are you moving ahead? As Jesus Christ seeks to lead you to the height of life, are you actually following him? In terms of your own personality and your own gifts, are you forging ahead in the direction Jesus Christ beckons you?



*September
2022*

September 1, 2022

Thursday

WAIT UPON THE LORD

“The Lord is good to those who wait upon Him, to the person who seeks Him.”

– Lamentations 3:25

Seek the Lord Thy God with all your heart your mind and your soul. Continue to press in and go deeper in your time with the Lord. Wait upon the Lord to inspire your next venture. But do not delay!!! The Lord is building His Kingdom now, has and will continue with or without you. Ask yourself: “Is my life a reflection of building the Kingdom? Am I being used by God or do I still do what I think is best for me?” My friends time is passing you by; what are you doing?



September 2, 2022

Friday

THE LORD IS OMNIPRESENT

"Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God do not be far from me!!"

– Psalm 38:21

Even David, like us all, struggled with this idea that God leaves us. That how could such an evil act occur here on earth. Or how could fear dominate my consciousness as it does. Often, we hear that God is not here or God has left us. My friend God shall always be, has always been and will be always. In fact, the only truth that you can count on is this: God was, is and shall always be. We lose sight of God through the illusion of self. We identify through self instead of growing in our inner nature of God. God is within you. Christ has said this over and over. The kingdom is not here or there but within. We must learn through first being born again to live in this truth!!!!

September 3, 2022

Saturday

GOD CONTINUES TO LOVE YOU

"Bless be God, who has not turned away my prayer, nor His loving kindness from me."

– Psalm 66:20

Despite how weak your prayers have been God still has granted them. Think of all your prayers answered yet how weak you have prayed. If only we could go back and pray more earnestly. He has protected you from your enemies even though you have forgotten Him most frequently. What about deliverance? What are the strong holds of defeating habits that He has granted removal through mercy and grace, yet do you deserve such favor? How marvelous is our God that He would grant to us such favor? Think of how far away you have been in thought indeed yet He remembers your sin no more!!!! Even, God has rendered your scarlet sins white as snow. You are pure!!! Think of what God through Christ has done for you!!!! Yet do you even deserve such mercy from Him?



September 4, 2022

Sunday

THE LORD IS CONCERNED ABOUT YOU

“The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me”

– Psalm 138:8 “

In our own strength we are unable to overcome self, and its manifestations of sin, the carnal nature and temptation from this world. The good news is just this: Through our great God we have an advocate. God will perfect in you what He has begun. Yes, you need to be prepared, soften your heart, confess sin daily and release your illusionary sense of self or what is commonly referred as your ego. There is a celebration in this fact. That through this release, through your confession and acknowledgement you are given a divine protection. As you press into your salvation always know that God through Christ will do for you what you are unable to accomplish. O Praise Him!! O bow down to your Divine master!!!

September 5, 2022

Monday

THE LORD DELIVERS

“Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble; He delivered them out of their distresses. He led them also by a straight way, to go to an inhabited city. Let them give thanks to the Lord for His loving kindness.”

– Psalm 107:6

Your Lord will deliver you out of your difficulty. Do you know why you are struggling? Have you bothered to even ask the Holy Spirit? You are in covenant with the Holy Spirit, on a path that is to bring you union in God at some point. Many times, our struggles are from God showing us how to rise to the next level in our learning. Do not resist the change you are about to embark upon. Rather, know that God has you in the palm of His hand. You are the apple of His eye, His creation made in His divine image. You are forever loved, filled with love and ever joyful. You do not realize this because you have taken on the mistaken identity of self. Continue to renounce the ways of self and put on your new man in Christ Jesus



September 6, 2022

Tuesday

YOU ARE COMPLETE IN CHRIST

“For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority.”

– Colossians 2:9

In Him all the attributes of God are yours to make you complete. His omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, immutability, and infallibility are all combined for your defense. So, Arise Oh believer and know through knowing all that you are forever protected as you abide in God through Jesus Christ. Press into this highest calling to be in unity of the Holy Spirit. Allow the “old man” to be destroyed and lift Thy heart unto the Lord. The love of Jesus poured out for you that have once surrendered and turned back to God within, is ever watching out for you. You are the apple of His eye. He sees only the divine in you. Be not troubled or mistaken in an illusion, for you know He is ever with you and shall always be super naturally protected in Christ. Rest in this truth!!!

September 7, 2022

Wednesday

CONTINUE TO LOVE

“But whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has been truly perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one that says he abides in Him ought himself walk in the same manner as He walked.”

– 1 John 2:5-6

In these verses and the verses before these and after John is speaking and writing of Christ Commandment in Matthew: 22:36-39 “Love the Lord with all your heart, your mind and your soul, and the second is like it to love Thy neighbor as Thy self. Upon these two commands rest all the Laws and Prophets. “So, if you say you abide in Christ then your “walk” must re- flect that of Christ. So, are you growing, maturing in this manner? Of course, you have not been perfected, however there should be a sense in you that you love all, that you walk in forgiveness and you have interest in all persons to come to the Lord, those that are saved you have an interest in their salvation regarding discipleship. This is what John is referring to in this text: Are you sinning less? Are those strong holds of sin in which used to bind you to self, gone or lessened in its effect? Do you have a gen- eral sense of well-being regardless of your circumstances? And can you af- firm in your heart a compassion for those that hate you, persecute you or are your enemy? Are you able to turn the other cheek? You ought to be growing in all these attributes. Put off the “old man.”



September 8, 2022

Thursday

YOU ARE RICHLY BLESSED

“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or fix their hope on uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.”

– 1 Timothy 6:17

Remember all that you have, all that you are comes from the One that blesses us all. All mercies, all grace comes from He who presides over us all. If you think you are such a creator of wealth here; then where will your wealth be upon your transition into eternity? Where do you spend your thoughts, your dedication and your wealth? Are you building unto Thine own self OR laboring unto the Lord? God’s Blessings are ever flowing, a well-spring in a desert, a fresh summer breeze in a desert of heat. We are richly blessed, so let us labor unto the Lord and his people.

September 9, 2022

Friday

PRAY FOR WORLD PEACE

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid.”

– John 14:27

Your prayers are needed to bring harmony, peace and love into this world. Yet how is your world? How is it that you pray for peace yet you yourself have little? Therefore, how can you pray for something you know little of and do not possess? Bring peace to you, your loved ones and those in which you interact daily. There could be no greater act than to love those or to lay down yourself your life for one another. What is your sacrifice? Peace in you, around you, in your family, in your neighborhood, your community, your state, your nation, your world, our world. This is possible!! But do you believe? Is your life that reflection of peace?



September 10, 2022

Saturday

JUSTIFICATION

We maintain that a man is justified by his faith apart from works of the Law.

– Romans 3:28

“All that believe are justified”

– Acts 13:39

You that believe are saved, you are part of the kingdom of God, you are saved and are justified in God by your faith. It is not how long you have been saved, not how many works you have performed, not how much money you have sown into the Kingdom. You are reconciled and justified to God through your faith. The best example of Justification is the thief that was on the cross next to Christ. With his act of committing to Christ He was justified and reconciled before God. THEN!! You are NOT judged by your sin nature, It is remembered NO more. We are accepted, we are beloved, today absolved from the sting of sin and acquitted. There is neither speck, nor spot, nor wrinkle, nor any such thing remaining upon any one believer in the matter of justification in the sight of God, the judge of the earth.

September 11, 2022

Sunday

THE POWER OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

“But now Christ has been raised from the dead.”

– 1 Corinthians 15:20

Without Christ's Resurrection there is no truth that death has been overcome, that sins are forgiven and we are justified through our faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Suggested reading 1 Cor. 15:13-20) Thanks be to God that Christ is risen and alive today sitting on the throne as the right hand of God!!! There is the truth in our faith. That through His victory death has lost its sting and is swallowed up in the Christ's Resurrection. And so, we are given the power of the Holy Spirit which is the same as the Father and the Son. O praise God!!! O thank God that in Christ's victory we too are given son-ship as we are adopted into the kingdom of God. Do you understand the significance of this truth? Why do you NOT shout for joy?



September 12, 2022

Monday

COME TO ME

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your soul. For my yoke is easy and My load is light.”

– Matthew 11:28

Remember you DO NOT have to carry the load!! The Holy Spirit knows your trouble and your burden. As a son of God, the Holy Spirit is working on your behalf. However, you must acknowledge Him and surrender deeper in this process. Know that the Holy Spirit goes before you to open doors and to close doors and to make your path straight. You must know that through your surrender of self, putting on the new man, letting go of fleshly desire you become this new creature in Christ. However, you must confess, let go of and seek forgiveness of yourself. You are your problem. It is not a force outside of you; it is you. Spend more time in solitude, more time in seeking His ways and less time in self. Stop the blame game.

September 13, 2022

Tuesday

DID JESUS HEAL YOU?

“But he answered them, ‘He who made me well was the one who said to me, take up your pallet and walk.’ They asked him, ‘Who is the man who said to you; Take up your pallet and walk?’ But he who was healed did not know who had healed him; for Jesus had slipped away while the crowd was in place.”

– John 5:11

Have you, too, been healed yet are not sure who healed you? Are you denying the power of Christ in your life? Recall to your mind a time and reference when you asked for healing in your past? Our hurts, pains are not always physical. Our pain can be emotional, on the mental field. Recall the time you were hurting, in pain and you were relieved. Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, knows your torment. Whether physical, pain from hurts from a past relationship, deep emotional pain the Lord is aware of your hurt. Yield and let go of self and allow the power of His spirit to minister to your difficulty



September 14, 2022

Wednesday

WHAT OR WHO ARE YOUR IDOLS?

“Can man make gods for himself? Yet they are not gods!”

– Jeremiah 16:16

Idolatry is anything, anyone that is set before you and your Savior, an object of your affection that stands before you and God. For example, we can examine our thoughts to know what dominates our thinking. Sometimes it is fear. Fear rules throughout our consciousness robbing us of the true joy that is ever present in God. Perhaps your family, a problem child dominates your thoughts and your ways. For many it is the pursuit of education/career. While we think and believe these idols are good they really are not what is best. Others actually pray to statues or Pictures of saints as if there is some type of mystical power in them. Always remember to “seek ye first the Lord and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.” For many it is processes: Yoga exercises, meditation techniques, physical exercise. Watch how self manifests as a god in your life and others.

September 15, 2022

Thursday

THIS WORLD GIVES TRIBULATION

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

– John 16:33

As a follower of Christ this world is not your friend. In fact, all around is a darkness that is the opposite that you have learned upon the path you follow in Christ. This world is not your friend so therefore remember; Christ has overcome and as His disciple you are protected. This world seeks through conformity to devour its foe. You are a foe of this world. In this fallen world all around you there is a quiet dis-pear a fear that lurks to seek to overcome you. Thanks be to god through Christ you have been given super natural power through His Grace, His Mercy to overcome this world, its trappings and its difficulties. Dive deeper in Thee. Go to the “mat” for your Lord and seek His Divine Counsel and peace.



September 16, 2022

Friday

CHRIST HAS PRAYED FOR OUR PROTECTION

"I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of this world as I am not of this world."

– John 17:15

As a disciple of Christ, you are protected through this prayer. Read John 17:13-21. This is a mighty prayer from our Lord. This is the Prayer for the unity of our church, and unification for you as His follower. Know that you are part of His Body and as a unit of the body your special talents are used to bring glory to the heavenly Father. Know this truth as you sometimes falter in your thinking and are lost in an illusion that you are separate from the body because you are not physically together with other believers. You are one in God with Christ!!!

September 17, 2022

Saturday

ADMIRATION BY THE BRIDE

"My beloved is dazzling and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand. His head is like gold, pure gold; his locks are like clusters of dates, and black as a raven. His eyes are like doves besides streams of water bathed in milk."

– Song of Solomon 5:10

Christ is the perfection of your love, lovelier than the loveliest bride. Christ is the purity of truth ever reminding you of who you are in Him, His eyes ever watching in a deep, deep dark repose. He sees all, knows all and is all and all. There is no greater love than the love of the Bride of His church. He is the lily of the field, the blue in the bluest sky and the green in the farmer's pasture. My friend Christ is a friend of friends that will never let you down. The friend that has truly given His life for you, your sinful nature to be removed forever. Come and dwell with Him in His house forever and know true peace!!!!



September 18, 2022

Sunday

THROUGH CHRIST, DEATH HOLDS NO POWER

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

– Hebrews 2:14

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

September 19, 2022

Monday

CONFORM TO CHRIST'S WORK

*“So let us go out to him outside the camp
and bear the disgrace he bore. For this
world is not our permanent home; we are
looking forward to a home yet to come.*

– Hebrews 13:13 “

Here we are instructed and reminded that this world is not our home and we need not conform to its standards. This writing is NOT going to define standards only to say that we are to be obedient to the inner small voice of The Holy Spirit. Each of us is instructed and used as The Holy Spirit has willed. However, we must first become silent to listen, to read the word, and then we must act upon the inner calling. Christ's work is about kingdom building and His command to Love the Lord Thy God with all Thine heart, thy mind and soul, and the second command is like the first and is the same: To love Thy Neighbor. So, do not conform to this world but proceed with Christ



September 20, 2022

Tuesday

DIG DEEPER

“And those on rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while yet in time of temptation fall away.

– Luke 8:13

Recieve this Thy word from God and **R**examine yourself. As the word of God is implanting in you do you respond deep down? Or Do you doubt the word and cast it aside? Ask the Lord to plough and make your soil fertile so you can accept the word of God: You are made in His image. You have within you the ability to rise up above your current circumstances and be of use to the Kingdom of God. Stop trying to fulfill your selfish desires rooted in sin. You are wasting time identifying with your circumstances working out through your salvation the ability to change. You must go within and understand that the God of the most High is in you as your soul as the define image. Go deeper, ask the Lord to until your soil and get going!!!

September 21, 2022

Wednesday

GOD WILL STRENGTHEN YOU

“Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

– Isaiah 41:10

There can be no stronger promise than this. God is ever with us. God is in us as us. We are made in His image and must grow in that truth through the activation of the Holy Spirit. First be born anew, then grow through your regeneration into the truth of who you truly are in Christ. Allow this to be your strength through His Grace you can purify yourself. Surrender your ego sense or the great Satan that is your self, the illusional sense of self that harbors all the illusions through your deluded beliefs. Stop identifying with what is dark and take on the Light of Christ. Come home my friend and what better time of year to make the decision to stop wasting your time.



September 22, 2022

Thursday

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the Glory Forever.”

– Romans 11:36

To Him be the glory should be the single most desire in every believer’s heart. Everything else must be secondary to Glorifying God in our lives. “To Him be the Glory forever.” When someone says, “Great job with this or that, you really inspired me with that writing or what you said”; then instantly we must give God the Glory and in fact verbally tell the person confiding in us that it is God that we Glorify not man. And this is so because it is self as ego always lurking for credit or to be recognized. No, no we must renounce this tendency and always give it all to God. For our lives are a demonstration upon the power of God to transform as into His likeness and to be more like Him or as Him. And so, we give God the Glory and we glorify Him in all we do

September 23, 2022

Friday

BE CONTENT; RELY ON CHRIST

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

– Philippians 4:11

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



September 24, 2022

Saturday

YOU CAN OVERCOME

“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and He will flee. Draw near to God and He will draw near unto you.”

– James 4:7-8

Some of us struggle with thinking patterns of defeat. We are stuck in lives with no purpose, little income, with no real power to create change around us. We sometimes see others working for the Kingdom, yet we lack power. Yet others are caught up in temptation that continues to knock at their door. Sexual sin, addiction to drugs, alcohol, smoking, over eating. Others are filled with a mentality of pride. That we are better than others because of economic status, family of origin, or education and even because of race or gender. Regardless of the sin we must overcome. As a Christian and a follower of Christ we must seek His way in all we do. Realize that Christ, too, was tempted, not from the self as He came as a perfected being, but rather from the evil that lurks to seek and destroy. If Christ was tempted and overcame, we too can overcome (Read John 14:12- 14). Jesus was an overcomer. So, do not give up rather emulate the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Jesus overcame death so that we too can claim victory over this sin nature!!! Stand tall!!! You are redeemed, sanctified, justified and your regeneration has begun for those that claim Victory in Christ!

September 25, 2022

Sunday

CONTINUE TO ABIDE

“If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them up and cast them in the fire.

– John 15:6

Are you abiding in Christ? There may be no large sin that causes you not to commune daily with Christ, rather it is the small sin, the pebbles that add up and choke you off from Christ. Jesus does not honor those that are in sin. You must seek deeper understanding of the sin in which separates you from Jesus. What are you thinking, acting, or saying that is contrary to loving your neighbor? For Christ says: “This is my command that you love one another just as I have loved you.” Where are you missing the mark? For many of us it is the idea that we are in charge of our lives and run the show. Yet recall that your life is not your own. When you surrendered in Christ and asked Him to be Lord of your life He is now in charge of you. For others it is the strong hold of depression, fear and weakness. Christ is your King and no thing is impossible in Christ. What are the pebbles of sin that keep you from abiding? Ask and then listen to the still small voice.



September 26, 2022

Monday

KEEP YOUR MIND ON GOD

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

– Psalm 55:22

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

– Isaiah 26:3

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

September 27, 2022

Tuesday

BE DETERMINED TO OVERCOME

“For the Lord helps me, Therefore, I am not disgraced; Therefore, I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.”

– Isaiah 50:7

Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, do not be far from me!”

– Psalm 38:21

As you strike a match look at how hard that surface is that ignites the match. And so, your determination ought to be to overcome self. For you know that the Lord Thy God is with you as you have invited the Lord to be with you. Now is the time to take seriously your salvation to overcome sin. There is an effort on your part to overcome, press in and be free to be greatly used in kingdom building. Remember the words of Jesus: “I tell you unless you are converted and become like children you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven.” Think of the innocence of a small child: Without a sense of self or ego. My friends go deeper and dissolve that sense of self and be free. You can do this with the Grace of God. You are an overcomer. Strive, strive, strive and then one day you have arrived. Praise to the Lord the almighty of Heaven!!!!



September 28, 2022

Wednesday

LIFT ALL YOUR REQUESTS ON HIGH

“Be anxious of nothing, but in everything through prayer and supplication with Thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

– Philippians 4:6

Lift up all your requests to God. God simply is, was and shall always be. Why do you believe that through self you can manage your own life better than the Lord? You have sought the Lord, yet you continue to ignore the still small voice that is trying to speak to you, to guide you and protect you. The voice that says for you to Love the Lord Thy God with all your heart and with all your mind and your soul. The voice that also says to love your neighbor as yourself. This is your great God that is saying I hear your requests be not anxious, yet do you listen? Are you with me. I walk with you and talk with you, yet you do not follow me. Your life is a living testimony of that fact. Stop following your old nature, your self and follow me your new man the God with in you!!!!

September 29, 2022

Thursday

THE LORD WORKS WITHIN YOU

“The Lord will accomplish what concerns me; Thy loving kindness, O Lord, is everlasting; Do not forsake the works of Thy hands.”

– Psalm 138:8

“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

– Philippians 1:6

The Lord is at work in you, changing you opening doors and closing doors. The Lord is on your side. The Lord is your great protector. The Lord is your redeemer. You have been saved and have asked the Lord into your life. As such He is at work within you asking you to yield to your selfish ways. Therefore, let not your heart be troubled for through His Grace redemption is at hand. Your effort is needed to stay on this path, however the Lord is at work in you through the blessing of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, rejoice in the Lord and be ever confident in the Lord Thy God. He is on your side working to perfect you and complete you in Him!!!!



September 30, 2022

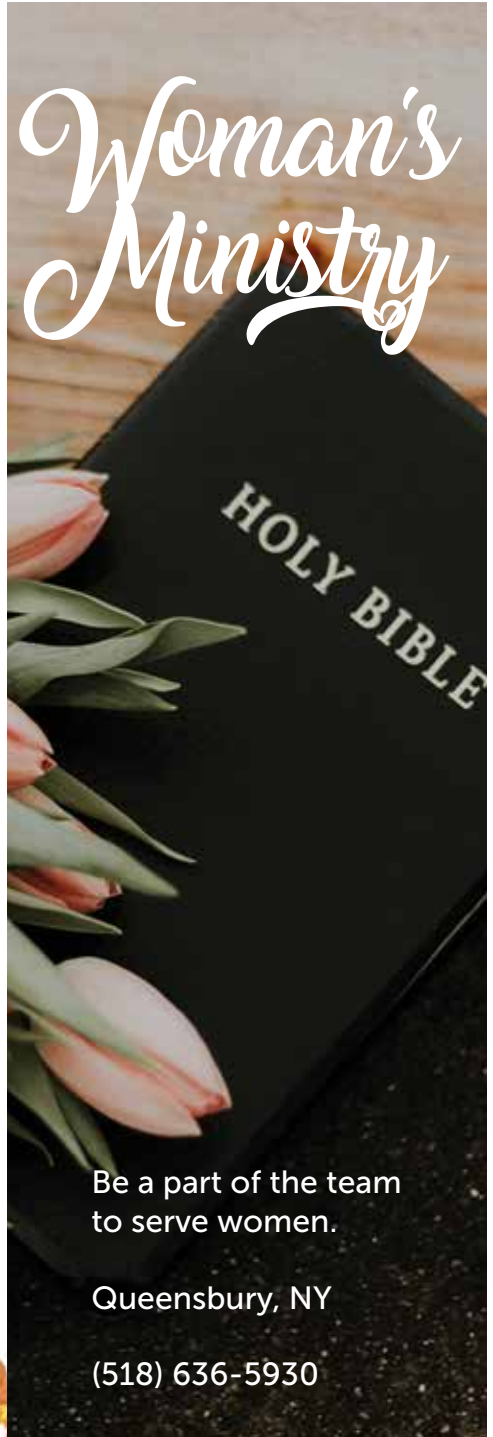
Friday

PUT ON YOUR NEW NATURE

“If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things above, not of the things of this earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

– Colossians 3:1-3

My friends you have made a conscious decision to follow Christ. You have renounced self and the things of this world. Now you have His Grace and Mercy to bring you into your True Nature in Christ. You now must continue to repent from your old ways. Get on your knees and ask the Lord: “Reveal to me the sin nature in which I must renounce?” Then listen and repent and say: “O Lord more of Thee and less of me.” Do this as often as possible late at night before you retire for rest. The Lord is waiting for you to acknowledge Him in ALL you do. Stop being lukewarm for it is time for you to step up and claim your true Victory in Christ. Then you will be used in kingdom Building. Stop wasting time and get on with your salvation. Take your eyes off the things of this world



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

Men Made Whole

“Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.”

- Matthew 9:2

Christ is able to make a man whole. The paralytic in our scripture lesson this morning was sick. He was depressed. Borne by his stalwart friends, an inferiority complex undoubtedly stilled his manhood. Sin had left its mark of guilt upon him.

The whole personality of the man was suffering, as it would with us if we had been sick for a long period of time.

Every physician of the bodies of men and every physician of the souls of men knows that a man's personality is in delicate balance. It need not be that we call a grievous sin to trigger a vicious circle in a man's life. Any sinful thought or act brings guilt; the guilt gets on the nerves; a malady sets in; the mind gathers “psychological complexes”, self-mastery is weakened; the whole personality suffers.

Jesus is able to catch with his fingers the thread, which will untangle the bad situation. In this instance he said to the sick man, “Your sins are forgiven you”. He pays no attention to the symptoms; he reaches for the cause of the man's trouble.

No wonder Jesus has been called “The Great Physician”.

A man under the care of his doctor, after suffering four months from a weakening sickness, was about to undergo a serious operation but before doing so he decided to visit a famous doctor living in his city. After giving him a careful examination, the doctor said, “Do you have anything

personal troubling you?” “Yes”, said the sick man, and divulged his secret trouble. In less than a week this able doctor had relieved the man of his sickness and saved him from an operation.

Jesus as the Great Physician can go straight to the seat of the man's trouble. And how often the trouble is a guilty conscience!

Guilt is a religious problem, which interest theologians, a social problem, which interest sociologists, and a physiological problem which interest physiologists.

But it does not let itself be dissected. It is a human problem, a form of suffering peculiar to man, and of concern to the doctor (The Great Physician) because his vocation is the relief of suffering.

Christ can forgive sins. The scribes who were observers of the cure thought this claim on Jesus's part was blasphemy. Concerning the scribes in our scripture lesson; “there were some scribes sitting there pondering.” They argued in their hearts. Just like owls blinking in strong sunlight! It was something they could not quite grasp. Jesus had just healed the paralytic. That was bad enough from their standpoint—a breach of ecclesiastical etiquette. But he had done more— a shocking thing. He had said, “My son, your sins are forgiven.” That set them pondering in a heavy, confused manner. The simile “like owls” is more than fanciful. They were exactly that—wise owls— blinded by the fresh light, which Jesus threw on life.

They could find their way around in the dim region of logical distinction; in the daylight of clear moral issues and spiritual values they were lost. They could only blink and ponder.

That is not our reaction. We just don't believe it. We just don't understand grace.

We can't get it into our heads that God cares for his children to the extent that he willingly and freely forgives their sins. How can sinful man be convinced of this?

It is only as they have faith in Christ. This good news, this gospel, comes to us through the words and the deeds of Jesus- Christ can forgive our sins. The simple words need a million repetitions. The evidence has to be brought to bear in the lives of millions.

If people could only take on faith that Christ does have the power and will forgive us for the sins that we commit, many of our psychologist would have a lot less business. For the feeling the guilt we have within ourselves when we commit a sin is great and can be removed by Christ. But we have to believe that Christ really does forgive us. This is the message we as Disciples of Christ have to get across to others. This is our task, the Church's task and we have our work cut out or us.

Can we imagine what would happen in the lives of men and in communities if this simple gospel message got hold of them? For many people believe they are too bad to become Christian, that God could not possibly forgive them and that he doesn't love them. And for this very reason there are many people who are not becoming Christians. Note what happened to a man name Saul who became the Apostle Paul, Augustine, who from being a grievous sinner; attained sainthood.

Consider the men and women around about you who would testify to Christ forgiveness. Each one places an exclamation point after the words, "Christ is able."

Another example of the Great Physician's insight is found in John 5:1-9. He placed his fingers upon the right strand in the personality tangle. He was aware of the man's strong will. Impotent of body, the cripple had persisted in his efforts to get well. Jesus immediately commanded the man's strong will and he was cured.

Jesus is able to deal with the whole personality. The word "whole" was in Anglo-Saxon, "hal" from which we derive such word as "hale", "heal", "health". Closely allied is the word "holy". After he had rid this man of guilt he cured him of the palsy. There are doctors who deal with only parts of their patient's personalities.

Jesus cured the man spiritually, bade him to be of good cheer, and then cured him physically. He made him whole. He was completely cured.

We too, many times would be cured physically, if we would let Christ cure us spiritually. We have to believe in and have faith in Jesus Christ. We have to truly accept him as our Lord and Savior. Many of us say this with our life but we don't believe it in our hearts and then we wonder why God does not answer our prayers and why everything in life seems to go against us. I truly believe most of the mental illness in our world today that is caused by nerves and emotions could be cured by Christ. There is no doubt in my mind.

The miracle done in the body is purposed to be a symbol of a grander miracle to be wrought in the soul. "That ye may know that the son of man has power on earth to forgive sins," he heals the paralyzed body that we may know what he can do with the paralyzed soul. He liberates the man who is bound by palsy that we may know what he can do for a man who is bound by guilt. We are to reason from the least to the greater, from the material type to the spiritual reality.

And so it is with all my Lord's doing in nature. They are a glorious symbolism of what he will in spirit. "That ye may know how beautiful the Son of Man can make the heart of man, then saith he to the

seeds of the springtime, "come forth". And so nature becomes a literature in which we see our possible inheritance in the Spirit.

But on our side it is all conditioned by faith. "There he could do no mighty works because of their unbelief." Even in the miracle of the spirit our faith must cooperate. Divine grace and human faith can transfigure the race. "Lord increase our faith!" And everywhere, let praised souls be delivered, and attain to glorious freedom.

"Suffering knows no frontiers, that is living suffering, the suffering of man, the whole personality of man", said Paul Tournier to his fellow physicians, and then made this appeal: "Open your eyes and you will see among your patients that huge crowd of wounded, distressed, crushed men and women, laden with secret guilt, real or false, even in a sort of guilt at being alive, which is more common than we think." These words bring before our eyes the crowds of such folk, sick of body and soul, who sought out Jesus that they might be cured. We read in Mark 1:32-34, "That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered together about the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him."

How satisfying it is to know, as we seem to know by the cure of the palsied man, that Jesus did not deal in nostrums, palliatives, alleviate symptoms, but went to the real cost of each man's disease and cured the whole man.

Christ is able to make a man whole, body, mind and soul.

Christ is able to follow through. Our imagination follows this man who was cured. No longer did his hands tremble. No longer did his body totter. No longer get his head lie sleepless on his pillow. He could now do the work of a man, and sleep the sleep of a child. What became

of him? Who knows?

But our questions concerning this restored man stir us to make affirmations concerning Jesus. The Great Physician who forgave the man his sins was not his savior only for an hour or a day, but by the man's quickened faith he was his Savior forever. This Jesus who cured the man's body and soul at that certain time was by the man states his position for all time. When the infirmities of age fell upon him, if not delivered from them, they were transcended. He would rise above them.

I'm sure that many of us know people who have risen above their infirmities. They have stopped feeling sorry for themselves and are helping others around them. Perhaps some of the most cheerful persons I know have known, have been people with an incurable disease or something wrong with them that they knew they would not get any better. Having a true and everlasting faith in the God they rose above it and went on to comfort and help others.

We recall that Paul had an infirmity of the flesh that Christ did not heal, but most marvelously gave Paul the power to rise above it. With the guilt of man Christ does not deal in this manner. He separates the man from his sin as far as the east is from the west. The figure of Isaiah: "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

Pondering the life of this man cured of the palsy, we wonder whether he ever became one of four who carried another man to the feet of the Great Physician. Accept the healing power and forgiving power of Christ in your heart and let him become the center of your life. Let your self go and become a true disciple of Christ.

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SPURGEON'S CORNER

“They joy before You according to the joy in harvest.”

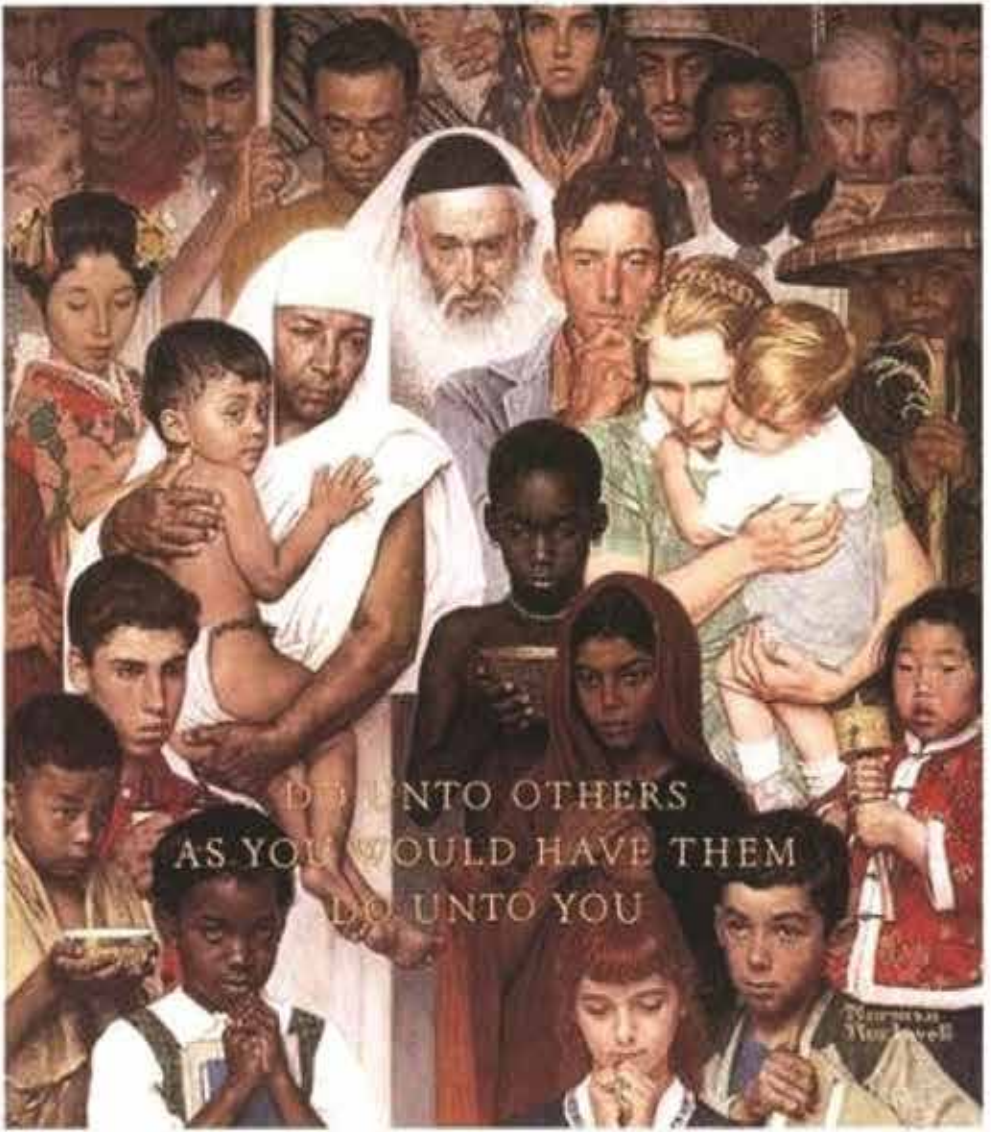
Isaiah 9:3



HARVEST crowns the year with God's goodness. When the harvest is abundant, there is universal joy. Everybody rejoices. The owner of the land is glad because he sees the recompense of reward. The laborers are glad for they see the fruit of their toil. Even those to whom not a single ear may belong, nevertheless sympathize in the common joy because a rich harvest is a gift to all the nation. It is a joyous sight to see the last loaded wagon come creaking down the village road, to note the youngsters who shout so loudly yet know so little what they are shouting about, to mark the peasant on the top of the wagon as he waves his hat and gives vent to some gleeful exclamation—and to see them taking it all to the stack or barn. There is joy throughout the village! There is joy throughout the land when the harvest time comes! They that divide the spoil shout loudly, their joyous clamor reaches the heavens!

A better joy than this, however, greets the more auspicious season when a sinner finds his Savior, when the prayers that he has sown, like handfuls of seed, come up and the good yellow ears of confidence in his Savior are brought to maturity. The joy of those who have found the Savior is greater than harvest time—they can say with the Psalmist, “You are more glorious and excellent than the mountains of prey.” Burst, you barns! Overflow, you wine vats! But you cannot give such joy to your possessors as Christ, really grasped and laid hold upon, can give to a soul that feels its need of Him! The joy of harvest is far exceeded by the joy of simple faith!

We, as a Church, like Christian Churches in all ages, have had times of ingathering when we have rejoiced before God as with the joy of harvest. And there comes even a brighter day than has ever dawned upon this poor misty earth—the day of the coming of the Son of Man, when the Sun of Righteousness shall arise, when Christ shall thrust in His golden sickle and shall reap the harvest of this world! And then shall the righteous rejoice before Him with a greater joy than ten thousand harvest years have ever known!



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