



EYES

Collaborated by: RLF CHURCH

31-DAY DEVOTIONAL

*Daily encouragement to
see God's goodness and
heaven's reality evident in
your life*

WIDE

OPEN

Eyes Wide Open

Ephesians 1:18; "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."

Isaiah 42:6ff & 7f; "... As light to the nations... To open blind eyes..."

According to Isaiah 42:6, Jesus has been appointed to open blind eyes. A mission undertaken to open the eyes of our heart, that though once blind now we see. We still stand amazed at the testimonies of those supernaturally healed by God. The excitement and awe of the story in Matthew as a blind man declared; "I was blind, but now I see."

Yet, in all of this, God had even greater plans - plans to not only heal us physically, but spiritually. Our eyes would be opened to the reality of a risen Christ, with the invitation to enter the Kingdom of Heaven and to have our eternal destiny made sure.

With the promise of security in Christ, the Father also made way for us to have a greater understanding of our time here on earth. Paul prayed that the eyes of our heart might be enlightened – that the light of God might bring revelation and understanding to the call and glory of God. In this place of revelation, we gain understanding not only of His call and glory, but of ourselves and how we fit into His plans.

The opening of our eyes, "Eyes Wide Open", reveals to us the goodness of God in all of life's moments. As evidence to this phrase, this devotional has been written, testifying of the opening of our eyes to His word and the heart change that's being revealed in the process.

"Eyes Wide Open" is a call to our church for the year 2020. This is to be a year of clarification as well as revelation, finding our place standing on His word and seeing heavens' reality. And, all of this occurring in an atmosphere of divine hope in the light of His glory.

Now I invite you to witness the work of the Holy Spirit in the following devotional writings on these pages and let the light of His glory open the eyes of your heart.

Pastor John Camp

Thank you to all those who collaborated to make this devotional happen. Who took the time to seek the Lord and write, inspired by the Holy Spirit. May your words be a catalyst in readers hearts to see God's goodness and heavens reality in their lives.

God's Goodness

**"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."**

Psalm 23:6

We live in a World that is full of negative thoughts and actions, sadness and pain, difficulties and trials and if we are not careful that is where our focus will dwell. Recently, many studies have been done on the power of "positive thinking" as opposed to negative.

Not only does it affect every aspect of a person's life, it literally rewires the brain for the better. Thinking on good things seems to hijack the outcomes of perceived negative situations and changes for them for better with positive outcomes.

I had someone recently ask me, "but how can I focus on "positive" when everything in my life is negative". You might even be thinking the same as you read this. My response... Have you ever just thanked God for His goodness, instead of only seeing your negatives? We know that God is merciful, gracious, patient, longsuffering, is slow to anger, and forgives us of all of our sins (1st John 1:9), and these are the very essence of His goodness. I'm sure you've heard the phrase, "God is good...all the time," and that's consistent with Scripture. He is good to grant repentance (2nd Tim2:24-25), and then purchase us by His own blood (1st Cor 6:19-20, 7:23), so that we might "dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

When we think on the Lord, it's evident His goodness follows us around. Let's start rewiring our brains and changing our negative situations and thought patterns by dwelling on his goodness.

List out below the goodness of God that is evident in your life.

See Him In the Dark

**"Then the LORD came and stood and called as the other times,
'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel answered,
'Speak, for your servant hears.'"**

1 Samuel 3:10

Our God is One Who Sees. He saw a young boy all alone in the temple at night. It was dark. The word of the LORD was rare. Then the LORD came and stood by Samuel's bed. HE spoke the boy's name again into the dark night. The third time, the boy responded in obedience.

This Scripture gives us a beautiful picture of a God who stands in the dark with us. Have you ever felt alone or discouraged by a situation you face? This verse demonstrates how HE stands with us in that dark place beckoning us to turn and run to Him. All we need to do is draw near to Him. You are not alone. Put your focus on Him, not the darkness around you. He is waiting.

Did you notice how the LORD continued to call Samuel multiple times? He doesn't stop after one try. He pursues us. He will keep calling your name until you respond. He desires personal relationship with each of us. We can't earn His favor. We are not chosen because of our amazing qualifications. Samuel was just a young boy, he didn't deserve to be the next prophet. He wasn't even born in Eli's family! He was the "adopted" boy. Yet, he was exactly who God chose. He chooses you too. You have a purpose. The LORD wants you.

HE is calling us today. Take a few moments to thank Him for standing with you in the dark and for choosing you. Then pause and listen. He wants to speak to you today.



Extravagant Love

“But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.”

1 Cor 13:13

Is it better to love or be loved? I believe this is a question that some people struggle with or are unaware of the answer to.

There are some who go through their life working for promotions, volunteering and serving on multiple charities, and creating busyness in their life. They feel happy with their accomplishments but in the end of the day, think they need to do more. They believe that life is just about doing good and helping/loving on other people. But is this all there is for them?

There are others that just feel hopeless and isolate themselves from others. They do not feel that anything they do is enough, so why bother trying. Nothing they can do seems to matter. Do they know they are loved, and it is not about what you do?

The answer to my question above, I believe, is both. You need to be loved and also be love for others. However, how can you love truly, if you do not know that you are loved first by Jesus?

Jesus paints a perfect picture for us with him coming to earth, living as full man, perfect with no sin, and then dying on the cross for ours. He knew everyone's sin (including yours) that they would do and still chose to love us! Now that is Extravagant Love!

I challenge you today to FIRST let Jesus love on you and then be love to others. Get yourself in a room, by yourself, and just wait on Him. He will ALWAYS show up. He knows everything you are going through, the good and the bad. Just present these things to Him and ask Him to love on you.

Now for the second challenge, now that you know that you are loved, let's love on others! You can do this by a simple phone call, video call, text, email, mailing them something, ect. (Sticking with social distancing now). In the future, you can include going out for coffee, having a meal with them, buying some groceries, paying a bill, etc. You never know what is going on in their life, but the Holy Spirit does and will guide you in what to do. Stand on the truth that God is going to move through you, be hope to them, and just love on them!

Who can you love on and how?

Let Hope Arise

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13

Like clockwork each year after the winter frosts hide all signs of life, spring breaks upon us to take her place in the earth. We again see all around us the evidence of life beginning to flow through Gods' creation as nature sings her joyous songs of His glorious power heralding yet another season of new fruitfulness. Consider the brave little crocus flower that presses upward through the cold ground bursting into the warm rays of sunlight to display her delicate beauty to a cold world. This brave little flower waits in the darkness of the secret place for the stirrings of the creative force of her Creator to beckon her to come. Calling this fragile beauty to deny herself and rise up bringing hope to all anticipating the spring season.

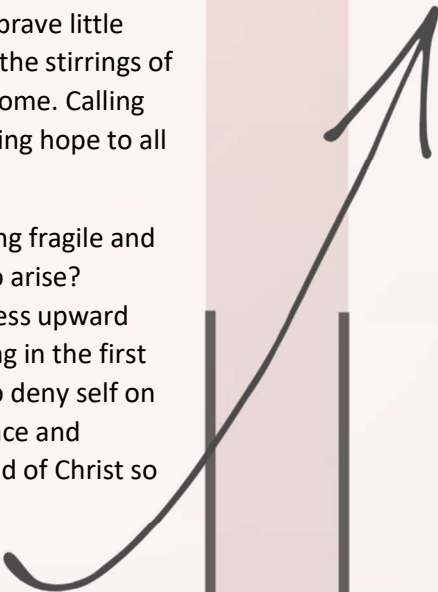
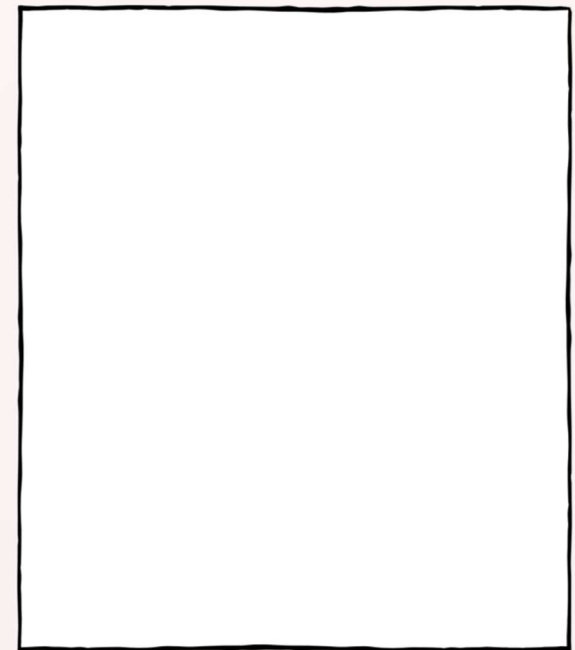
Are we sometimes like the little crocus flower feeling fragile and weak, waiting for our Creator to stir in us the call to arise? Pushing past our smallness and insignificance to press upward toward the purpose we're created for. Paul speaking in the first five verses of Romans 15, encourages the people to deny self on behalf of others. For it is God who gives perseverance and encouragement that we may all have the same mind of Christ so that with one voice we may arise glorifying God.

The Message Bible says it like this; "Oh! May the God of green hope fill you up with joy; fill you up with peace, so that your believing lives, filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit, will brim over with hope!"

Don't let hope be deferred in this season but let hope arise!

Further activity: Take a walk and experience the beauty of Gods' creation. Feel His life force by the Holy Spirit stir in you a joy that displays hope for a hopeless world

What did the Holy Spirit show you?



The Legs Feed the Wolf

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way as to receive the prize."

1 Corinthians 9:24

I recently found out at work that I would be featured in my organization's publication in a "Meet the Staff" section. The marketing team who oversees production sent me a long list of questions to answer and one of them really made me think. "What is your favorite quote?" At first, I wanted to use a bible verse and more specifically my favorite life verse, 1 Corinthians 9:24. But at work I am very careful how I display my faith and wanted to be wise and shrewd with my answer to this question. Thus, as I thought more about my answer, I recalled a quote my brother told me while he lived in Wyoming. "The Legs Feed the Wolf."

As I wrote this down it hit me! This quote has a similar meaning to my favorite verse. Running the race to win means doing your best, never giving up, and always pushing forward. Wolves are fierce animals and great hunters, but their best skill is their ability to outrun prey. They don't give up, they run and run and run until they "receive their prize."

Not giving up is hard enough many times in life, but the true test is to push beyond. To run the race to win. To use your legs and run and run and run. Easier said than done of course, but Paul's challenge to us in 1 Corinthians can be done! So, go get it! Run the race, use your legs and receive your prize!

Align Your Heart

"Take delight in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart."

Psalms 37:4

Just a few days ago, I asked my daughter what she wanted for lunch and she exclaimed, "Whatever you want, Mommy!" I know that she has her own favorites but in that moment, she wanted nothing more than to please me. If I was happy, so was she.

Our relationship with Jesus Christ should bring similar moments. When we are truly allowing ourselves to delight in all He has to offer, that is when our hearts align with His. That is when our only desires are the ones He has prompted. When we read this verse may we be reminded that our only true desire should be to serve our King!

Take time today to pray specifically for your dreams and passions to come from the wisdom of your Heavenly Father. If you'd like to take this a step further, share those dreams with someone and ask them to pray alongside you as you journey to make them a reality.

What are your dreams and passions?

What Has Captured Your Focus

**“So turn your heart to me, face me now, and be saved
wherever you are, even from the ends of the earth, for I alone
am God, and there is no other.”**

Isaiah 45:22

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.” This beautiful hymn was written by Helen Howarth Lemmel in the year 1918, right at the height of “The Spanish Flu”. Lemmel was inspired by a pamphlet she had read entitled “Focused”, written by missionary Isabella Trotter. Trotter wrote the pamphlet about the difficulties of maintaining focus while living in a world of so many choices. You see, Trotter had been offered a prestigious position as an artist that would make her famous, but art could be her one sole passion. She wrestled with the draw of fame, but could not deny the pull of her Savior, to have Him be her sole passion. Ultimately, she became a missionary in Algeria and used her beautiful art and writing to bring people to Jesus. The Father opened up landscapes and vistas she would have never seen if she had taken the path to fame, while allowing her the privilege of leading countless lives to Jesus.

While the world is swirling around us, and we are bombarded by choices and information, where will we set our focus? Will we look at the world around us, and become overwhelmed? Will we see with eyes only for this earth? Or will we set our eyes on Him, the author and finisher of our faith, the One who knows what tomorrow holds. Let Him guide you in your decisions, let Him give you heaven's eyes to see what He sees. Colossians 3:2 says, "Set your sights on things above, not on earthly things."

Pray this now..."Father, give me eyes of faith, that I would have vision for the impossible. As Trotter once said, "let me see with heartsight, as well as eyesight". Help us to balance the realities of living on this earth, but keeping your eternal perspective. Give us wisdom and discernment. Help us and remind us to ever keep our eyes set on you. Amen!"

Now take a few minutes and write out anything that has captured your focus and taken it off of Him. Then release those things, and set your gaze on Him once again.

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Help Me Out Here, Lord!

“....The righteous requirements of the law are fully met in us who live according to the Spirit”

I John 1:8-10; Romans 7:21-8:4; Psalm 119

I hear the accuser roar, the ills that I have done. I know them well....and a thousand more....Jehovah findeth none!

These are the words of a song that I often use to remind myself that there is **NO Condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus! If I deny my sin – make excuses or even try to hide from others, I deceive myself and even make God out to be a liar. But if I confess and agree with God about my sin, then I am **FREE!** The rest of the song says: *He findeth none, He findeth none...I've been washed in the blood of the Lamb.*

Recently I realized when I read the Psalms, I usually skip over Psalm 119 - It has 176 verses! But I think the real reason is that I feel condemned. Just read verses 1-3 and see what you think – blameless, do nothing wrong, fully obey. I can't do that! This time, I was led to make notes in three columns. 1. God 2. Me 3. Others

I was surprised by how often the psalmist asks the Lord for help. These prayers asking God to help overlap the first two columns in my notes. God is the one who empowers us to walk in His ways and obey His commands. I have made these prayers my prayers too.

Try reading Psalm 119 and write down the prayers. It also helps me to underline some of the verbs. Here are a few examples to get you started.

v. 10 Don't let me stray, v.12 Teach me your decrees

v.19 Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your Word

Inviting Others In

“Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling”
1 Peter 4:9

A half an hour before company comes over and you're rushing around, cleaning every surface, grumpy with your children who keep getting out toys, and- oh no!- is something burning??? This is all too familiar in many of our homes. All too familiar to those who yearn to be more Christ like- more welcoming, kinder, closer to your brothers and sisters. But it doesn't have to be this way.

Biblical hospitality is deeper than the frills. It's opening ourselves to others. It's inviting people into our hearts, offering our ears, our prayers, and sometimes opening our homes. Welcoming others into our lives should be compatible with our giftings. The stress comes when we attempt to be who we think we should be instead of who we are called to be. Does Jesus sometimes call us to stretch? Of course! But the stretching brought on by His command is incredibly different than when we lead ourselves into those situations. A grouchy attitude is the exact opposite of how we should feel when we invite others in.

Challenge yourself today to write down your God-given gifts and a way you can use them to invite others in. Ask the Lord to guide your ideas and then give one a try this week!

God-given gifts and ways I can use them...

- 1.)
- 2.)
- 3.)
- 4.)



How's Your Dirt?

"Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."

Mark 4:20

Of all the parables in the Bible, Jesus made a striking statement, regarding the parable of the sower. In Mark 4:13, Jesus inquisitively asked his original 12 disciples, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?" To Jesus, the importance of understanding the parable of the sower, is imperative to producing the Kingdom life. Have you ever contemplated why this parable was so important to understanding all the other Kingdom parables? I know I have.

Approximately eleven years ago, I heard a life transforming message by Leif Hetland. In the message, he taught of the sower, the seed, and the soil from Mark 4. Leif's message was simple yet profound – it's about the soil. Farmers are keenly aware of the dirt they plant their seeds in. I live near an active farm, and each year I see the farmers tilling and fertilizing the dirt. The growth of the seed is tied to the fertility of the dirt. Wow! The parable of the sower is about the dirt/soil of our human hearts. As believing believers, it's of utmost importance to cultivate good soil.

Over the past eleven years, I've decided to cultivate the soil in my heart, through intentional quiet times with Father God. Are you ready to produce a multiplying harvest in your life? I encourage you to set a few minutes aside each day and spend that time quietly listening to Father's voice. You will be amazed on how he begins to remove the rocks and thorns, all while, fertilizing the soil of your heart.

PRAYER

Father, thank you for the truth and life found in the Bible.

I ask You to help me clear my schedule
and spend quiet time with You each day.

I believe that when I do, I will begin to produce much more.

AMEN

Peace

**"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.
I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be
troubled and do not be afraid."**

John 14:27

In the first full week of school and many businesses being closed because of COVID- 19 I heard many of my friends saying they are in a strange place of feeling as if they are overreacting one moment and then the next moment feeling underprepared.

In times of uncertainty, it's hard to know what to do. Do I go purchase three week's worth of groceries or just enough for this week? Should I be concerned about my toilet paper supply, my job, my bank account, my health, my life? It becomes overwhelming. Then a still small voice speaks "peace." We must stop our thoughts, take a deep breath and focus on Him. We pray, we worship, and we give thanks. Sometimes it takes a little while, but we press into God, we draw near, we step away from the things of this world, we step away from the things that are beyond what we control and give those things to God. We step into and thank God for His promises, and we grab hold of His peace.

NOW PRAY.

And when you pray, ask God to reveal His truth, simply give Him any of your worries or immediate needs. Focus instead on what God wants to do in a season of turmoil and unknown, in Peace you will be able to hear the greater things for the Kingdom and be left with peace.

There is Another in the Fire

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

Isaiah 43:2

Believing in Faith is so counterculture right now, but we are not alone in this. I am reminded of four boys who were counterculture and walked in faith during their day {read Daniel 1 and 3 if you are not familiar, or just because it is an awesome reminder.} These boys were in a position where fear could have ruled their life, but instead of giving in to fear they fought and stood their ground in faith even when everyone else was bowing.

We are called as Christians to stand our ground and not back down. Many times, the enemy wants to tell us that if we do not bow it will bring harm to us and our families. These young men were thrown in the fire but their stand for faith was a testimony to all those watching. Church the world is watching during this season, remember that you have another in the fire with you, Jesus Christ! You will come through without even the smell of smoke.

I will leave you with the lyrics of a song "And I can see the light in the darkness, as the darkness bows to Him. I can hear the roar in the heavens, as the space between wears thin. Nothing stands between us.... There is another in the fire!" -

Lord I pray that we would stand and not back down, that we would not bow to fear today. As we stand help us to remember we are a light in this dark world and that our stand will change this nation. Remind our hearts today that there is another standing right here with us in the fire and holding back the sea! Amen.

Paid In Full

"Cast all your cares upon Him, because He cares for you."

1 Peter 5:7

What a relief when we receive the final statement on our mortgage that says, "Paid in full." What a sense of freedom we experience at the lifting of our burden of debt.

Throughout life we are presented with weights to carry and burdens to bear without the assurance of being up to the task. At times the mountains are too great, the distance too far, the day too long. Take courage, there was a day in history long ago when assurance to finish the day came through a man. A promise fulfilled and a future secured at great cost. That man, that innocent man, would bear the weight of all mankind as He hung on a cross. Yet, it was on that cross that He declared, "It is finished." The weight of sin – He bore it, the curse of death – He broke it, the pain of sickness – He suffered it. He paid it all!

Life comes at us day by day, let's remember the One who went before us and has declared over us, "Debt canceled, paid in full."

Now as the events of life unfold, let's declare we have a blessed assurance in a covenant that says paid in full in the One we call JESUS, the One who calls us friends.

Let Him carry you, bear your burdens, and heal your sickness; for He cares for you.

So Much Better

"We can make our plans but the LORD determines our steps."

Proverbs 16:9

When I first heard the worship song, "Defender" I was completely blown away by the lyrics, especially the line, "So much better your way." This phrase, so simple that it is, absolutely cut right through my heart.

I'm the type of person who tends to like to control situations and be in charge. I often think the way I do things is the best way compared to others. And of course, because of this I have found myself in some sticky situations over the years where I have realized a little too late, I should have not tried to control and take charge. Have you ever found yourself in this position like me?

Where you have made your plans and controlled your steps without consulting with God first?

As I have aged and gained more experience in life, I have become purposefully more thoughtful and slower to plan and not push my control onto it. But even more so, as I have seen the goodness of God in my own life and in my family's life, I have become more accustomed to waiting on the Lord, consulting with him and trusting His ways and not mine. And I can truly say "So much better your way!"

One of my favorite things in life is to look back and see how many times despite 'me' the Father in his loving kindness has determined my steps. I want to encourage you today to lay your plans down at the feet of the Father, tell him you trust him with your plans and ask for his direction. It's so much better HIS way.

Unveiled

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water."

Hebrew 10:19-22

When we hear the word 'veil', we think of...maybe, a bridal veil, a covering over the bride's face until she is 'revealed' to her bridegroom. Or we think of the phrase, 'lifting the veil', which means, "to divulge, explain or reveal something that was secret or hidden". Well, the veil itself has been around for hundreds, if not thousands of years in many different cultures. Remembering Moses in the Old Testament when he came off Mount Sinai, he had to wear a veil because his face shone with the glory of God. He had spent a great deal of time in the very presence of God Almighty.

There's another veil that needs mentioning; the veil or curtain that hung in the Jewish Temple in the Old Testament. When the temple was built, God gave specific instructions on every aspect it's construction. There were 3 parts of the temple; the porch, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place or the Holy of Holies. The veil separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. In the Holy of Holies was the Ark of the Covenant. Hebrews 9:4 states that the Ark contained "the golden pot that had manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant." It was a place made for the presence of the living God. Once a year the Levite priest was allowed to go behind this veil on the Day of Atonement for the sins of Israel. It is written that the veil was 10 by 20 meters and was around 8 centimeters thick. That would calculate to weighing 4-6 tons!

Upon the crucifixion of Christ, the moment He passed into eternity, this veil was ripped in two... top to bottom. Only God, Himself could have caused that! The veil signified a barrier between heaven and earth, between the Almighty...and us. Torn, it obliterated this barrier, uniting heaven and earth, no longer a physical or spiritual obstacle between God and His people.

The life and death of Christ provided a way to the very throne room of God. "And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water." Hebrew 10:19-22(NLT)

Lord, we celebrate the death and resurrection of the Christ,
when the veil was rent in two.

We thank You for the immeasurable blessing
of the heavens opened to a direct relationship
by the shed blood of Jesus.

Open our spiritual eyes,
the eyes of our understanding
to see into the heavenly realm, what is unseen...

reveal Your secrets and mysteries
as we seek Your face in all things.
With cleansed hearts and 'eyes wide open',
we boldly enter into Your holy presence.

-AMEN-

Be Still and Know That I am God

**"He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."**

Psalm 46:10

Have you ever as a child been sent to your room for a "time-out"? Your behavior was out of control (you may have punched your sister in the nose)? Your parent's response was "go to your room, think about what you've done and don't come out until your behavior changes!!" We all know, at the time of discipline, that we thought they were mean and unjust...we didn't want to be there.

There are times and seasons where, in our adult lives, our Heavenly Father in his loving kindness must do the same. Times where we've gotten off the track in our behavior. Our priorities are a mess and life as it seems is out of control. So often we don't realize it until our All seeing, All Knowing and Loving Father, who is merciful will set us firmly in our rooms and tell us to "be still".

I've come to realize that this time is not only for reflection and repentance but a time to rejoice and be glad. It is in knowing that our Father desires the best for us. Left alone to our own devices and misguided choices we would not only hurt ourselves but those around us.

If you are in time out today, I want to encourage you to reflect, repent, rest and rejoice. We have a Father who loves us.

Ps.51:10-12, Ps.94:12, Proverbs 3:11-12,
Lamentations 3:22-26, Hebrews 12:4-11

At His Feet

"Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of that oil."

John 12:3

This was not the first time Mary sat at the feet of Jesus (Luke 10:38-42). She knew from experience that sitting at His feet was good and necessary. It is valuable to put aside worry, work, and distractions to focus on Yeshua (God is Salvation).

Mary heard the Lord speak and then she personally experienced His power when He brought her brother Lazarus back to life. Her life could never be the same after that miracle. After some time, Jesus came to visit her home in Bethany. Lazarus was sitting at the table eating with Jesus. Martha was serving everyone the supper. And Mary was found once again at His feet. She pours out an extravagant offering over his feet and wipes them with her hair. Why didn't she get a towel? Was the oil her dowry? We don't know the answers to those questions, but we do know that the oil was worth one year's wages! She gave Him her best. She wasn't focused on anyone in that room but her Savior. And the fragrance filled the room.

What an amazing gift! Not a prophet, not a priest, and yet she was the one who anointed our High Priest. As she honored Him, she was given one of the greatest honors in history. I encourage you to sit at His feet for a few moments today. Focus on Yeshua. Remember all the miracles He has done. Listen for His voice. And obey Him. When we take the time to sit at His feet in surrender, our space (hearts & homes) are filled with the beautiful fragrance of His Presence.



The Path of Life

**"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord
and he delights in his way."**

Psalm 37:23

As a senior in high school, one teacher assigned us to write a short essay about what we'd be and be doing 10 years into our future life. As a naïve inexperienced person who'd not stepped out into the world yet, there was no limit to my imagination. Life was wide open before me.

In my mind I saw myself able to accomplish anything; my father had always told me so, he believed in me and I was secure in that. After reading my essay, the teacher systematically took down all I'd hoped to be and do. Saying that wasn't the reality of the world out there. You

see my dream was to be a millionaire at age 30 and to use that to influence the world into a better place. I won't lie to you that it didn't

hurt. My bubble burst and I faltered, but that didn't stop the inner drive within me to pursue the things of this world. I expended much thought, time and energy into my pursuit of the good life until one day

when my rapid train nearly careened off the track to certain destruction. That was when I cried out to God in desperation and exhaustion. I cried; "where are you God? I don't know what to do.

Please help me!" In that moment the world stood still and I was suddenly in a greater All Knowing Presence. It was then that my life began to slowly turn around bringing me face to face with my Savior.

The Teacher in Ecclesiastes tells of his endless quest for life, having pursued it all, denying himself nothing, experiencing every pleasure and pain; there was nothing new. He mused in his writings; the sun comes up and goes down – man kills and eats only to be hungry again. Life is futile – after seeing it all and having it all – there is no satisfaction. Whether a man does good or evil, both die and are forgotten. Life is meaningless.

But Paul said to the Colossians in chapter 3; if you're serious about living the good life – resurrection life – then pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along with eyes down to the ground absorbed with things in front of you. Look up! See what's going on around Christ. That's where the action is – see things from his perspective. Your old life is dead, your new life which is your real life, even though it can't be seen, is with Christ in God. He is your real life.

In these crazy days, do you feel like you're missing out on life and don't know what to do? Looking for direction and meaning? True life will elude us until we get on the right path. Trust Jesus to lead you into today, tomorrow and every day of your life.

"You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand." Psalm 16:11

Activity: On the following page list out in the first column your current activities and pursuits. Next ask God what path He has for you in this season. Put it in the 2nd column. You might be pleasantly surprised.

Current Activities
and Pursuits:

God's Path:

The Fire of God

Isaiah 6 :5-8 Then I said: "Woe is me, for I am ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips dwelling among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of Hosts." Then one of the seraphim flew to me, and in his hand was a glowing coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And with it he touched my mouth and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your iniquity is removed and your sin is atoned for." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: "Whom shall I send? Who will go for Us?" And I said: "Here am I. Send me!"

The bible speaks of fire all throughout both the old and new testament. Fire can be used as a tool to accomplish things or a weapon to destroy. In both cases an intentional burning has a purpose to create something new or clean out what once was.

In Genesis it was a flaming torch that God used to make his covenant with Abram. Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed by fire from heaven. In Exodus God appeared to Moses in a flaming scrub bush. In Daniel it was a fire in which the three Hebrew slaves were thrown into. In Acts the Holy Spirit came like tongues of fire. In each of these cases the fire was meant to cleanse or create new in either the physical or spiritual. The purpose of fire is to change the vessel and the landscape. It can be what we see with our eyes or what we feel in our hearts. God's presence can be found in the fire because of his creative nature and transformative power. He purifies through fire. The enemy would seek to burn out of the purpose to destroy. God seeks to burn to cleanse and create a new thing. Because we are the temples of God, we carry that purifying fire in our hearts that is our ability to transform the atmosphere we find ourselves in. By His Spirit the fire clears what is dead to reveal what is alive.

During this season of time seek to let the fire burn away what is dead so that more of what is alive can grow. He wants a people who have been purified by fire ready to say "Here am I, Send me." It is all for his Glory in the end.

Where Are You Looking

"I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip-- he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD watches over you-- the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all harm-- he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."

Psalms 121

The Lord continues to challenge me to fix my eyes on him, like Peter when he walked on the water, when his eyes were on Jesus he could walk in complete faith and do the impossible. When Peter shifted his focus he began to sink.

As you read and meditate on Psalms 121 remember to look up, our help comes from the Lord not from places on this earth. Remember that the creator of the universe loves you and watches over you. He promises that those who trust in him will be kept. How amazing to know that when we turn our eyes on our loving savior we are watched over and taken care of. Today turn your attention to the gaze of the creator and give it all to him.

I cannot escape the words of an old Hymn: "turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace."

Lord I pray that you will shift our focus today as we walk in faith and look to you. Help us to remember that you will not let our foot slip and that we can trust in you for all we need. We lift our eyes to you and look away from the things of this world. Amen

Desperation

"Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"
Mark 10:48

Have you ever felt afraid to ask for help? Or maybe it's the thought that those around you get annoyed when you voice your desperation. Sometimes even, its pride that gets in a person's way of showing their need to cry out for help. Let's just clear this up right now... God is not annoyed by your desperation. If anything, it's that ultimate surrender of pride, that soul bearing prostration of need, and that passionate desperation that makes God move on your behalf. There are so many instances where men and women of faith in the Bible came to a point in their lives in which only their desperate faith filled cries for Gods intervention is what ultimately brought the move of God. But my most favorite is the story of the "Blind Beggar" in Mark 10. Here you will read about a Blind Beggar who hears Jesus going by, so he cries out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me". Then it says that those around him REBUKED him and told him to be quiet! How many times have you been "rebuked" or silenced in your desperation like the Blind Beggar? Or allowed pride and fear of the "crowd rebuking you" to keep you from crying out to Jesus? There's a happy ending to this parable... even though there was a crowd and it was probably quite noisy Jesus HEARD, STOPPED and then HEALED HIM. You see, Jesus was not annoyed by the persistent beggars' desperation. No, instead it made him hear the beggar and move on his behalf.

God loves you so much! He moves on our behalf when we desperately seek Him and He wants to move on your behalf today! Ignore the crowd, ignore the fear in your head, lay down the pride and uncertainty, step out in faith like the beggar and trust that the God of All Creation is MOVED by your desperation and dogged pursuit of Him! Watch and see what He will DO!

Loving Kindness

"Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up."

Proverbs 12:25

This simple verse sounds too good to be true. Can we really ease anxiety with our kindness? The Most High King says YES!!

That does not just mean kindness toward others, but kindness toward yourself as well. Imagine approaching every conversation with others with the same love Jesus has for us. Imagine only thinking things about yourself that the Father has told you are true. What a beautiful gift to give to yourself and others.

When it feels like our world is falling apart, when it feels like problems are building up, may we remember how we feel when the Lord touches our hearts on our darkest days and return the favor by doing the same for others.

Take a moment right now and ask the Most High King what he thinks about you

Now, think of someone you can return the favor to. Write that person down and some ideas of how you can show them kindness.

He Watches Me

"What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?"

Matthew 18:12

I had an interesting situation happen the other day, I heard a cow mooing loudly. She sounded like she was in trouble..distressed and it continued for quite a while so I got up to investigate. As I approached the fence and saw that her baby had somehow gotten onto the wrong side of the fence, the baby was stranded, and momma was having a fit! On one side of the calf was a muddy swamp and on the other side, the wire fence...the calf was in danger of getting stuck if it became frightened and stepped off the path. I had to remain calm in my pursuit!

I finally found help and the baby was happily reunited with momma cow.

Later as I meditated on this I realized how the Lord had orchestrated this and there was a message of encouragement for someone. It's an encouragement to all the families out there who have loved ones who have strayed from the comfort and safety of the Lord. I heard the Lord saying: "Don't stop crying out on their behalf".. "I hear your cries..Help is on the way"!! If he cared this much for a little calf how much more does he care for our families!!

He left the flock to find the 1 lost sheep!

Matthew 18:12

John 10:28-30

He Speaks

"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

Jeremiah 33:3

Can you hear me? Do you care? Are my personal requests insignificant in the grand scheme of global life and spiritual matters? Will you respond to me? How do I hear you when you are speaking?

He hears, He knows, He cares, and He wants to speak to you even more than you want to speak to Him! How incredible that the Alpha and the Omega, the Holy One cares about every detail of your life. "As long as I live I'll keep praying to Him, for He stoops down to listen to my heart's cry." Psalm 116:2 Come on! What a picture that paints! He is leaning into you, to hear you, and to listen. He doesn't just hear, which is just processing sound, but He listens, which is hearing and then understanding. He understands our heart's cry!

Here is the stipulation though...we must listen for a response. Remember, He really wants to speak to you. "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." Jeremiah 33:3 Hearing from Him requires that we spend time with Him. How do we know the voice of someone over the phone? We've spent time with them. How do we recognize the way someone speaks that goes beyond just their words? We know them intimately. The more time you spend in His presence, the more you will recognize the ways He speaks to you. Guess what? He sees you as a unique individual, so that means He will speak to, and answer you in a unique way that speaks to your heart.

Do you need to hear from Him right now? Do you need His wisdom, direction, answers? Perhaps you just need to hear from Him, because you need the reassurance that you are not alone, and that you matter to Him, more than you can comprehend.

Take a moment right now, quiet your mind and heart, talk to Him, tell Him everything on your mind and in your heart, and then...

Wait.

Wait for Him.

Wait.

It is so worth it. He might come with a picture, a verse, a song, a voice, a comforting presence....just wait. Don't give up. Give Him time. The more you meet with Him, the clearer He speaks because you can recognize Him. This is on you, He's always there ready to commune with you in whatever way He knows you need most. When you receive something from Him, write it down, even if it was just an impression you felt. It's amazing to look back and see the ways He interacts with us!

What did God say? What did you see?

Squirrely or at Rest

“thus says the Lord God, The Holy One of Israel has said, “in Repentance and Rest you shall be saved, in quietness and trust is your strength. But you are unwilling.” Isaiah 30:15

A determined calm. There is a peace in knowing that God has given you direction. Often when I am reading my Bible, in the rocking chair in the kitchen, the cat will jump into my lap and seek my attention. But sometimes he is more like squirrel, twisting and turning, chasing his tail, even digging his claws into my knee. Then I might even bump him off. Other times he settles in, to receive my petting and smoothing of his fur, at rest. In life I find that I have situations that come up where I just plow ahead trying to handle it on my own, in my own understanding. It is like trying this and trying that, without pausing to seek direction by resting and asking in faith.

Then like trusting in swift horses (vs. 16) I end up missing God's strength and getting run down by pursuing swift horses. Even vigorous young men can stumble badly in their own strength. We can not outrun our problems. We need to behold our teacher (vs. 20) with our eyes, pause and listen for the word of the spirit telling us; “this is way, walk in it.” In the waiting there is still action; walking, running, mounting up. But we gain strength in knowing his direction.

Like wanting the cat to be at rest in relationship, the Lord longs to have compassion. He waits to be gracious to us as we turn to him, praise him, pause and listen for his direction. He waits for us to wait for him! Repentance is turning from our own ways and listening for his direction. He is grieved when we will not.

Prayer; Lord I ask you to give me eyes to see and ears to hear what you are saying. I invite you into our current situation and seek your wisdom and direction. I receive your strength to walk it out.

Transformed Mind

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Romans 12:2

What a time to be alive, we are surely living in interesting times. Opinions on everything from the left and right; peer pressure at the highest. State and government dictation and overreach creeping in trying to seduce our way of thinking and disturb our peace. Things such as social media only acting has a microwave to heat up what's already brewing. It would seem there is trouble and unrest no matter which way we turn.

But I have good news! We have a savior who is bigger than all of this; one who came to bring HOPE and LIFE. He is more powerful than all of it and radiates love like the brilliant sun. He promotes truth and peace, not stress, fear, and confusion like the World! That's right, we have Jesus! He is the one in control and he wants us to break away from the pattern of this World. Instead of being influenced by the news, social media, government or peer pressure, He wants us to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow him. The World will seem quite dim in the light of Jesus' love when we do.

I know this is very easy to say but not always so easy to do. However, actions speak louder than words. So, I encourage you today, let's look to Jesus, tune out the World, trust in him, and in turn you will find your perspective and mind will be transformed!

Take a moment to talk with Jesus and list out all the worries, distractions or things that disturb your peace and take Jesus's place in your life. Then ask the Father, to come and transform your mind and replace all those things with Jesus's love and peace.



Protected

**"But you, LORD, are a shield around me,
my glory, the One who lifts my head high."**

Psalm 3:3

We are truly a protected people! You can count on God's protection during any time of uncertainty and confusion!

Think about times in the word where God proved that He was the Protector of His people. When David was being chased by Saul and even his own son Absalom, God protected him. Psalm 3:3, penned by David says, "But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the Lifter of my head." or Daniel, when he was thrown into the lion's den, the Lord protected him from its mighty jaws.. What about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? They were thrown into a fiery furnace and came out unscathed and not even smelling like smoke! God protects His faithful... In addition, think of the time of Passover when the angel of death passed through Egypt...the Jews, directed by God, put the blood of a lamb on their doorposts, and the angel of death 'passed over' them. God protected Mary, Joseph and their newborn Son from the hands of Herod. God protected His people and He is faithful to protect you as well because you are His.

In Psalm 91, He even says that He will order His angels to protect you wherever you go! And that's not all! "If you make the Lord your refuge, if you make the Most High your Shelter, no evil will conquer you, no plague will come near your home. For He will order His angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone!" Psalm 91:9-12

Trust in His promises to protect you! He is true and He is faithful! Just like we protect our own children, God, even more, will protect His. He has equipped believers with a shield of faith as it says in Ephesians 6:16.

We must use this and be faithful, as well. Gloria Copeland says, "Your security will be determined by how much time and attention you give to God and His Word in your life. If you give God a little bit of your time, you will have a little faith and get little results." Give God your all, glorify Him in everything you do!

Lord God, You are a Protector of Your people! You will even dispatch angelic help to us in time of need! We stand inside Your hedge of protection right now, You are our refuge and our place of safety. We trust that You will never leave nor forsake us. We are Your people and You are our God!! Let us be like David, Lord...a man/woman after your own heart!

Dancing with Jesus

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

If you've ever watched professional ball room dancing, you know that it's a thrill to the eye and you've seen the skill, agility and strength it takes to execute the dances well. Put that together with the music and a partner, you've got the makings for a disaster if not done in the right sequence of steps and rhythms. To be able to accomplish this beautiful expression of art the two dancers must be in perfect step to the timing of the music. Each needs to stay in their position, at all times trusting the one to lead and the other to follow while bending and lifting, spinning and swaying, yielding and pressing through. When this is achieved the two partners flow as one.

A long time ago, when I was young in the faith, Jesus invited me to dance with him. I remember thinking to myself; I don't know how to dance. But he assured me that I could trust Him to teach me as long as he was the lead. He actually said a lot more, but for the sake of brevity the invitation was to dance one continual dance through life right into eternity with him. Now, I'm not much of a follower. I prefer to lead. This could've been a problem, but Jesus wasn't intimidated. So, on that day I took his hand of invitation and began to learn to dance with him.

At first the disciplines were difficult in order to learn the skills. Then slowly my strength and balance grew to dance with greater ease. As each step was learned, Jesus would introduce another. This required more of my trust and focus on him. In time, Jesus and I became pretty good dance partners. I really enjoyed the results in my life and the direction we were going.

Then came the day when the most difficult dance of my life was introduced. The intensity and pain of it could be overwhelming.

And, at times I felt like I lost his lead hand and was falling. I wanted the music to stop so I could quit and then I'd try to rush through so it could be done. But Jesus knew me and he never let go – he held on as a great partner will do. And then, once again, I'd remember to let him lead in the dance and I'd find rest in his arms; yielding the self-reliant struggle. Jesus is Lord of the dance.

The gift of peace is given to the one who learns to dance with Jesus while still trusting His heart even when you can't see His hand.

How's your dance looking? Does it look more like a wrestling match? Are you tired of tripping over your own feet and falling? Maybe it's time to let Jesus take the lead as you follow him in the dance of life. He's our perfect example as Jesus only did what he saw his father do.

This is what Jesus said to the people in John 8:12; "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Prayer: Jesus, I yield myself to you today. Teach me your steps and show me the way to follow you. Help me to trust your heart even when I don't see your hand at times. I want to learn to dance well so that when the world sees us they will want to dance with you too. Amen



Grace to Rise up Again

When the men came to Jesus, they said, “John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the One who was to come, or should we expect someone else?’” At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sickness and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So he replies to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard. The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.”

Luke 7:20-23 (NIV)

John had been languishing in prison for months, and the work of Jesus hadn't brought the results he'd expected. His disappointment was natural. John wanted reassurance and perhaps help out of jail even. So he sent his disciples to get an answer for his surfacing doubts. “Are you the One whom we've been waiting for that will help us?

Instead, Jesus points to his healing and life-restoring miracles. No promises of jail breaks and overturning the government but clear evidence reflecting the ministry of the Messiah foretold in the OT. Then Jesus ends with an unusual statement; “Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.” What was Jesus really saying? He's saying; “The blessing of heaven comes upon those who never lose their faith in me no matter what happens.” (TPT)

Like John the Baptist, the challenges of life can be monumental and devastating at times. Some challenges come of our own accord, some by others choices and then there are those that come upon us because life happens. During these challenging times we can get stuck in prisons of disappointment and doubt. Seeking and questioning only to get answers we did not expect and waiting longer than we care to for the release. It's in these times that God's grace is there for you. It's a supernatural amazing grace that allows faith to rise up.

Maybe you blew it with a spouse, your family, a friend, co-worker, or boss. Maybe they let you down or you let yourself down. It could be a tragedy struck home. Whatever it may be don't let troubles and regrets keep you from rising up. Grace is there for you right now. Does the sun stop rising because on some days storm clouds overshadow its' light? I think not. It's kept by the grace of God. You are too! He renews you daily – His grace is sufficient. Rise up!

Speak the words of 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. Make it personal and let them encourage you today. “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (NIV)

A Love Like That

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

There came a time in history when God set His plan into motion to restore broken man back to Himself. It would take a force so powerful that not even death could hold it back. What could be stronger than sin's hold on man – what could overcome the darkest evil – what could conquer the devil's plan to destroy God's created man? According to the Word the answer is LOVE. It's the great truth that motivated God's plan of redemption.

A LOVE LIKE THAT set aside the eternal to take on the temporal form of man. God proved his love for us first because He gave the only son he had in who was found much delight. God formed for him a body to carry the eternal Word bringing light into the darkness.

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. In him was life, and that life was the light of men." John 1:1-2, 4

A LOVE LIKE THAT denied self-interest – self-promotion – self-preservation. Seeking to give to and not take from. It always adds value, wellbeing, position and purpose to others. "You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness." 1Thessalonians 5:5

A LOVE LIKE THAT went beyond living for one to dying for all. It breaks every bond of earthly chains, ripping the barrier open and shattering the darkness to restore us to God. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness, made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." 2 Corinthians 4:6

A LOVE LIKE THAT has a name – JESUS! Love came down and rescued me – Love came down and set me free. Now I'm forever His! Can you say that today? Are you saved from death to life believing in Jesus Christ? If not; then you must know that God's love is pursuing you right now. From the beginning His plan is to save you out of darkness and bring you into the light, giving you eternal life through the finished work of Jesus Christ.

A LOVE LIKE THAT went to the cross to die for your sins. Jesus' shed blood then broke the cycle of sin and death holding mankind captive as its prisoner. And, for those who have received forgiveness, they walk in the light. Knowing this, we can celebrate the great truth of that kind of love every day, but especially at Easter time on Resurrection Sunday!

If you want that new life pray:

Lord Jesus, for too long I've kept you out of my life. I know that I am a sinner and that I cannot save myself. No longer will I close the door when I hear you knocking. By faith I receive your gift of salvation. I am ready to trust you as my Lord and Savior. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for coming to earth. I believe you are the Son of God who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day. Thank you for bearing my sins and giving me the gift of eternal life. I believe your words are true. Come into my heart, Lord Jesus, and be my Savior.
Amen

Dressed in Your Best

“The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The Lord has clothed and girded Himself with strength; Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved.” Psalm 93:1

At the end of each school year titles were given for Best Dressed.

Only two people received this for showing up every day looking stylish, well fitted and put together in their outfits. Yet the beauty of the Lord goes beyond this description. How do we know? We only have to look and see how creation reflects Him dressed in the beauty and splendor of His glory.

In a grand entrance spring bursts in with vibrant beauty. Muddled bulbs of daffodils and tulips break open revealing bold and brightly colored attire to parade on a carpet of vivid green grass. Buds pop with delight beaming fresh colors of life. Soon summer explodes on the scene with a prismatic new look for the season. Every tree clothed in its own unique style and shade – a perfect fit and match to adorn each branch. This look is complemented with a colorful display of well-placed, flamboyant wildflowers. Summer gently moves on as fall enters ablaze, bringing the wow factor! Dressed in it's regalia of royal deep stained hues against the backdrop of azure blue skies, the eye is tempted looking everywhere as nature displays the best dressed. Quickly, fall's glow fades away as iridescent glistening winter whites reflect every color of the spectrum hidden within it's layers. Delicate flakes glittering like an endless sea of diamonds. And over all this is the one essential basic part of the entire wardrobe for every season; the sun. For without it's radiant brilliant light one could not see the best dressed show on earth.

How does God speak to you through this? Are you showing up in life dressed in your best? Let's consider that when we first come to Jesus Christ, we're in filthy old rags of self, which are then stripped off and replaced with white robes of righteousness. Colossians 3:10-14 has something to say about how we can best dress for every season of life. “Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe, custom made by the creator with His label on it. From now on you're defined by Christ. So, chosen by God for a new life of love – dressed in the wardrobe picked out for you; you'll never be happier nor look more better than when you show up wearing, compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength and patience; be even tempered; content with second place; quick to forgive an offense, just as the Lord forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love over it all. It's your basic all purpose garment. It's the perfect bond of unity completing the new look. Never be without it.” (MB) That is how you can be perfectly dressed in your best. Now, take these words to heart and wear them daily.

We'll finish with these last verses 15-17; this is how to experience joy and inner peace dressed in your best. “Let the peace of God keep you in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. Cultivate thankfulness! Let the Word of Christ – the message – have full run of your house. Give it plenty of room in your life. And, help one another to learn and know this life of meaningful purpose. Sing your heart out to God – let every action, word and thought be done in the name of Jesus – thanking God the Father every step of the way.”

This is for His Glory!

