

Jan & Susan van der Merwe

DAILY NUGGETS

Nuggets from God's Word

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DAILY NUGGETS

Nuggets from God's Word

Practical teachings and application of God's Word,
giving us answers to the challenges and problems
... that we face daily,
... to help us be victorious in our lives,
... by building a real & personal relationship,
... with God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Jan & Susan vander Merwe

A Love Resolution.

Love is the key!

As you consider the new year, and what your goals should be.
Have you considered the impact that God's grace and faith can have on your life?
We know that God wants us to use faith so that He can provide for us,
and that through His grace God wants to bless us.
But, when it comes down to things happening in my life,
... is it faith? ... is it grace?

is there any connection between faith and grace?

The Bible makes the following statements about going to God for help.

*... **without faith** it is impossible to please Him,
for he who comes to God must believe that He is,
and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

--- Heb. 11:6

*Let us therefore come boldly to the **throne of grace**,
that we may obtain mercy and **find grace to help** in time of need.*

--- Heb. 4:16

Is God going to do things in my life ... because of faith or grace?

What is the connection between faith and grace?

God Himself!

And about God, the Bible says,

*And we have known and believed the love that God has for us.
God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*

--- 1 John 4:16

So how does faith connect to grace?

*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything,
but faith working through love. --- Gal. 5:6*

Faith works through love ... Grace works by love!

and God ... is Love!

Therefore Love says to us,

believe in me and put your trust in me ... (Heb. 11:6)

come to Me boldly in faith ... (Heb. 4:16)

come live with me, step into My love ... (1 John 4:16)

Where I can bless you (enable & provide) through My grace

God wants us to come to Him (to Love),
in a faith relationship ... knowing what His heart is – to give!

So that in love, He can reach out to us ... through grace!

How do you step into grace?

... he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

--- 1 John 4:16

*So he answered and said, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' "*

--- Luke 10:27

God wants us to live in His love ... to live out His love.

And as we reach out in love to our neighbours,
nothing will hinder God from loving us ... and from blessing us!

... 2 ... Promises

Great and precious promises.

Promises!

Have you ever wondered why God gave us all those promises?
Is it just so that He can bless us and supply our needs?
Is it just so that we can benefit from His goodness?
... or is there more to God's promises?

Why has God given us all those promises?

*Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises:
that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature,
having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
--- 2 Pet 1:4*

and they are not just promises, but **great and precious promises!**
not only to supply our needs and benefit us in our physical lives
... **BUT** ...

Promises that make us partakers of God's divine nature!

*According as his divine power hath **given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness,**
through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
--- 2 Pet 1:3*

God does not just want us saved and on our way to heaven ... **No!**
He wants us to have life and have it more abundantly (*John 10:10*)
Prosperous ... spirit, soul and body! (*3 John 1:2*)

Great and precious promises

*... that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature,
having **escaped the corruption that is in the world** through lust.
--- 2 Pet 1:4*

Promises through which we escape, and are free of the corruption in this world!
... **Corruption** ...

... which not only tries to corrupt our relationship with God,
but also wants to corrupt our goods and our health ...

What should I do?

Accept & receive those precious promises.
Accept & receive all things that pertain to life and godliness.

Don't be satisfied with your situation.
Even if you do not know how God can change it.
... **HE CAN** ...

So make up your mind,
that you want to prosper and be in health,
and that you want your soul to prosper,
For God is ...

*... **able** to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,
according to the power that worketh in us, --- Eph 3:20*

God is able ... if you let Him!

If you lay hold of His ... great and precious promises ... to YOU!

Which way are you going?

Going somewhere?

As the saying goes,
All roads lead to Rome!
And, if you are travelling in Italy, ... that certainly is true!
In every little town there is at least one, mostly more road signs,
showing the way to > > >> **Rome.**

But ...
Beautiful as Rome is!
once you have arrived there,
you are simply just in another city,
A city with roads, buildings, shops and homes.
Yes they all have their own character,
but in essence it's just another city!

What else will you find there?
Culture and tradition? ... Yes!
City and night life? ... Yes!
But ,
**you won't find Life,
unless you find Jesus!**

**Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life:
no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**
--- John 14:6

Yes there are many ways that lead to Rome.
But there is only one way that leads to the Father,
there is only one way that leads to salvation and life eternal!

There is nothing wrong with going to Rome,
or any other place on earth,
... but before you take even another step,
First go to Jesus!
Let Him show you the Way!
Then ...
Filled with life ... life eternal.
Go with Jesus,
and you won't be alone or get lost!

... and, lo, **I am with you always,
even unto the end of the world. Amen.**
--- Matt 28:20
*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come,
he will guide you into all truth:
... and he will shew you things to come.*
--- John 16:13

Where ever you are going ... there is but one way to go.
Jesus is ... the way, the truth, and the life:

... Read ...
*John 14:1-14
John 3:16-17*

... 4 ... God's Word

Taking hold of God's Word.

Take hold of God's Word!

God means every word that He says!

Not only does God mean what He says,
but what He says will both happen and it will prosper.

*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void,
but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

--- Isa 55:11

...

God says ... My word, My promises, My blessings,

that I have written and spoken over you,

they are going to work in your life!

they are going to work where you are!

Therefore ...

*If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you,
ye shall ask what ye will, and **it shall be done unto you.** --- John 15:7*

But ...

You have to reach out and receive it!

Are you ready to receive His promises and His blessings?

Are you ready to receive and take hold of God's word?

What does that mean?

How do you do that?

Have you taken hold of a word from God,

...that you expect Him to do for you?

Have you taken hold of a promise from God,

... that you expect to happen for you?

What is it that you need?

Healing? Strength? Peace? Work? Finances? Whatever?

What does God's Word say?

What are you doing with God's Word?

Are you taking hold of it and mixing faith with it?

*For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them:
but the word preached **did not profit them,**
not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. --- Heb 4:2*

Don't let God's Word be unprofitable in your life!
Take hold of His word ... a word that you want Him to do for you,
putting it into your heart and into your mouth,
by believing it and confessing it!

*Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen:
for I will hasten my word to perform it. --- Jer 1:12*

God is ready ... are you?

... Read ...

Heb. 11:1-6

Deut. 28:1-13

Jesus our example.

Copying Jesus!

*For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus unto good works,**
which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

--- Eph 2:10

God has planned a good life for us ... (*John 10:10*)
and re-created us in Christ Jesus for good works,
God not only planned it and prepared the way for us,
but He also shows us the way ... through Jesus.

*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and
with power: **who went about doing good, and healing**
all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*

--- Acts 10:38

And Jesus said,

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me,
the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works
than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

--- John 14:12

God is a God of increase!

So ...

What are those good works ... those greater works?

How will we do those good, those greater works?

Just follow instructions ... (and imitate Jesus)

*And **these signs shall follow them that believe;** In my name shall they
cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take
up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them;
they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.
... And they went forth ... the Lord working with them,
and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*

--- Mark 16:17-20

Not only did Jesus instruct us what to do,
but He gave us a Helper (*John 16:13*) and anointed us too.

*But **the anointing which ye have received** of him abideth in you ...*

--- 1 John 2:27

We have what it takes ... all we have to do ... is do it!

Be ye imitators (followers) of me, even as I also am of Christ.

--- 1 Cor 11:1

Paul said it ... Let us do it!

Spend time with Jesus ... imitate Him,

say what Jesus says and do what Jesus does.

Copy Jesus!

... Read ...

John 14:15-31

... 6 ... Abundant Life

Have your pockets got holes in them?

In need & short of money?

Does it seem that as fast as you get money in, it is gone again?

There just never seems to be enough!

Does it seem as if your pockets have got holes in them?

Does this sound familiar to you?

***Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.** --- Hag 1:6*

More often than not ... that would seem to be the case!

... and if it is, then God says this to us...

*Thus saith the LORD of hosts; **Consider your ways.** --- Hag 1:7*

If you just never seem to have enough, then God says,

Consider your ways!

There must be something that you're **doing wrong**,
or maybe there is something that you're **not doing**.

The problem is not with God's promises or provisions,
it is just that we are not always benefiting from them!

What is wrong, why are we not benefiting as we should?

*Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? Saith the LORD of hosts. **Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.** --- Hag 1:9*

You are not benefiting as you should because,
your own things are more important to you than God's things!
You are only building your house and not God's house!

What does that mean?

You are trying to build with God's blessings,
Instead of building on God's blessings!
You are putting your desires before God's desires!
What then should you be doing?

Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD. --- Hag 1:8

Take your eyes off the problem, off the need,
in fact God says, take your eyes off of His promises.

Put your eyes on God, and build a relationship with God!

As His ways become your ways,
As His heart becomes your heart,
His promises also will become your promises!

For then God will not only take pleasure in you, but says,

*Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause:
yea, let them **say continually, Let the LORD be magnified,**
which **hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.** --- Ps 35:27*

and let God have pleasure in You ... and your prosperity!

Mere existence ...or... Life?

Go for life!

The world says and even believes that it has life,
but when you take a closer look, you soon realize,
... **that's mere existence ...**

In trying to fill an empty existence people engross themselves in,
... a career ... work ... parties ... fitness clubs,
simply anything that would give meaning to their existence
On the one hand,
they do not want to commit to lasting relationships.
On the other hand,
... the fear of loss, in the relationships that they do make,
often makes them possessive and even aggressive!
That's just existing ... that's not life!

There never will be, nor can there be,
any meaning to our existence ... without Life!
And,
There is only one way out of mere existence into Life,

***Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life:
no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
--- John 14:6***

There is a way from existence into Life ... Jesus!
And Jesus is not just the way and the life,
but Jesus is also the truth ... the Truth that sets you free!

*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
--- John 8:32*

Delivered & Redeemed

Free ... to be the you God created you to be!
Free ... to have meaningful relationships!
Free ... from a meaningless existence!
Free ... from the law of sin and death!
Free ... to walk in health and healing!
Free ... to enjoy life, abundant life!

Gloriously ... Free !!!
for,

*If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.
--- John 8:36*

Stop wondering about just making it,
Start thinking about LIFE ... life in abundance!

... Read ...
John 10:10
1Pet. 2:24
2Cor. 5:17

... 8 ... Repentance

Does Jesus love me just as I am?

Fit for use!

*But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver,
but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.
--- 2 Tim 2:20*

**“Jesus loves me just as I am” ... and
“That’s the way God made me, after all God also has wood and clay pots”**
... are two very familiar sayings,

Does Jesus love you just the way you are?

Yes! Jesus does love you the way you are ... (John 3:16)

But ... Jesus does not want you to stay the way you are!

No! He wants you to change and conform to His image!

*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate
to be conformed to the image of his Son ...
--- Rom 8:29*

**Yes Jesus loves you, but ... He does not love your sin,
He does not love your bad habits or unfriendly behavior!**

Jesus loves you, but He cannot make you change ... that’s up to you.

***If a man therefore purge himself from these,
he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use,
and prepared unto every good work.
--- 2 Tim 2:21***

It is up to us whether we are vessels of honor or of dishonor!
Where do I start...?

*If we **confess our sins**, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
--- 1 Jn 1:9*

Confess your sin, big or small,
repent and start living in line with God’s Word.

*For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore
sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy:
--- Lev 11:44*

God wants us to change ... He wants us to be vessels of honor.
He wants to bless you and give you ... a future and a hope!

*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD,
thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
--- Jer 29:11*

Yes, Jesus does love you the way you are.
But, He can bless you more ... the way you should be.
Purged ... sanctified ... and conformed to His image!

**... Read ...
Rom. 8:28–39**

Alpha & Omega ... the Beginning and the End!

Beginning & End!

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

--- Rev 1:8

Praise God that our Lord, the Lord Jesus,
is the Beginning and the End of everything!

For in him we live, and move, and have our being; ...

--- Acts 17:28

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

--- John 1:3-4

Jesus is the beginning of life, and without Him there is no life,
In fact, as it is written in the first chapter of John,

He is the life and the light of mankind!

What does that mean in your life?

Simply this,
that in Jesus you will find life,
for life starts with Jesus,
and without Jesus you have no life,
for Jesus is Life itself,
and through Him we have the right to the tree of life!

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

--- Rev 22:13-14

Is Jesus your Alpha and Omega?
Has He become your life ... your beginning and end?

And is He ... first and last in your life?

What does that mean?

Jesus should not just be the beginning of your life.

Jesus should be ... all of your life!

The first, the last and all in between!

Does your day begin with Jesus?

Does your day end with Jesus?

Do you live your day in between ... with Jesus?

Is He your first ... your last ... your everything?

Jesus gave Himself ... all of Himself for you,
and said,

... I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

--- Heb 13:5

He wants to spend all day with you ... do you want to spend it with Him?

Godly instruction!

A good start!

Do you lack purpose in your life?

Do you feel the need to know more,
to have more wisdom in the daily affairs of your life?

You know you need instruction in good conduct,
to know how to do right and live right!

Then, we have just the source of help and advice you need!

The Book of Proverbs

...and it is not per chance that it has 31 chapters, because,
... one chapter a day ...
will turn your life 'round straightaway!

*The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;
To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;
To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;
To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.*

**A wise man will hear, and will increase learning;
and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:**

*To understand a proverb, and the interpretation;
the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.*

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge:
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

--- Prov. 1:1-7

Take Solomon's challenge and his advice ...

Start reading and studying the book of Proverbs.

Start your day with words of instruction, wisdom and knowledge.

Start relying on the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths that you are reading,
... by ...

praying Ephesians chapter one, verses 17 – 19
every time before you read the Word.

*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,
may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:*

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened;

that ye may know what is the hope of his calling,

and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

**And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe,
according to the working of his mighty power,**

Eph. 1:17-19

and see how you increase in knowledge and understanding,
and come to know that wonderful plan God has,

... for your life ...

... Read ...

Proverbs ...

More than you can ask or think!

Are you satisfied?

Throughout the Bible we are encouraged to be thankful,
and to thank God,

*O give thanks unto the LORD;
for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.
--- Ps 136:1*

God wants us to be thankful,
... and to appreciate what He has done for us!
But ...

does that mean that God expects us to be satisfied?

To find that out let's look at what God expects and says,

*And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee,
Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in,
and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.
--- Deut 28:2-6*

Are you that blessed? ... Does God really want you that blessed?

*Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all
that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,
--- Eph 3:20*

The first thing God did when He created man ... was to bless man!
God has not changed (*Mal. 3:6*)

and **He still wants to bless us, even more than we expect,**
and is able to do exceedingly abundantly above our expectations!

Of course God expects us to be thankful,
And to appreciate what He has already blessed us with,
but ...
unless you are blessed coming in and going out,
unless blessings are overtaking you,
you are simply not as blessed as God wants you to be!

**STOP and take note of what God has done for you,
and thank Him!**

But look at what blessings God has promised,
blessings that you have not received ... (as yet)
Then reach out to God in faith and allow Him,
to do ... exceedingly ... abundantly ... above,
ALL that you can ask or think.

No!

God does not want us to be satisfied with our situation

*But He wants us to be thankful ... for what we have!
and He wants us to be expectant ... for what He still has for us!*

... Read ...

*Gen. 1:28 Deut. 28:1-13
Mal 3:10 John 10:10
Heb. 11:6 Phil. 4:19*

... 12 ... God's Word

God never teaches through afflictions!

God will never!

Often you hear Christians say,
God allowed that affliction ... to teach me!
God put that sickness on him ... to teach him something!

Well,
maybe that affliction made you think and turn to God,
but,

God never teaches us anything through afflictions or persecution!
Never!

The Bible quite clearly says,

*But the Comforter, which is **the Holy Ghost,**
whom the Father will send in my name,
he shall teach you all things ...
--- John 14:26*

The Holy Spirit, by God's Word ... is our teacher!

Why then does God allow afflictions to come?
Actually ... God has nothing to do with it.

The devil causes afflictions,
and it is up to us whether we allow them to stay or not!
(Deut. 30:19)

*These things I have spoken unto you, that **in me ye might have peace.**
In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;
I have overcome the world.
--- John 16:33*

**Jesus has overcome the devil,
and it is up to us to enforce that victory,**
therefore ...

when affliction of any kind comes, you stand against it in Jesus' name,
and you chase the devil and his lies ... away!

But,
What causes afflictions?
Why do afflictions and persecutions come?

*And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time:
afterward, when **affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake,**
immediately they are offended.
--- Mark 4:17*

Quite simply,
**the devil is trying to steal God's Word,
to stop you from receiving or believing God's promises.**
(John 10:10)

Jesus has already overcome the devil ... (John 16:33)
and you are to withstand that lie, that attack ... with God's Word,
the same way Jesus did ... "It is written ..." (Matt. 4:1-11)

It is up to you,
Don't you accept or allow the affliction or persecution!

**Use God's Word, His promises,
and stand against the devil's attacks in Jesus name!**

God is not mocked!

Don't be deceived!

Isn't it wonderful how God never admonishes or reprimands us,
... without at the same time giving us a great promise or blessing.

*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth,
that shall he also reap. --- Gal 6:7*

God gives us a very stern warning,

not to mess around with Him ... or,
with the laws that He has ordained (established).

A warning and a promise which have awesome/powerful consequences,
both positive and negative ...

What is God saying to us?

If you are going to be negative, sow strife, lie, cheat, speak badly about others,
then do not expect

anything good to happen in your life!

Don't expect to be blessed, to be healthy, prosperous and at peace,

God's law is not mocked ... it will work as God ordained it to!

On the other hand,

God actually ordained this law to serve us and to bless us.

If you will live according to God's ways, sowing good where you are,
giving love, help, finances, time, prayer, whatever need there may be,
to ALL those around you, not just the ones you like or who like you,

trusting God for a return, and not man!

Then,

you will reap blessings, peace, health, prosperity (God's promises).

God's law is not mocked ... it will work as God ordained it to!

How does that work?

The Bible goes on to say this to us,

*Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him
that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. --- Luke 6:30*

Now that seems weird ... but actually it is not.

If you are giving to others expecting them to bless you ... you will be disappointed,
if you are expecting those who stole from you to repay you ... you will be disappointed,
but,

if God is the source of your trust, your giving, your harvest,

God is not mocked ... you WILL reap a harvest the way God ordained it!

*For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption;
but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*

And let us not be weary in well doing:

for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

--- Gal 6:8-9

... Read ...

Gal. 6:1-10

Luke 6:38

Luke 6:45

... 14 ... Righteous Living

Honor the Lord!

Be fruitful!

Everyone wants to honor God.
Everyone wants to honor the Lord Jesus.

But,
what does it mean to honor God?
How do you honor the Lord?

**Honor ... to value, to esteem highly, reverence.
To honor ... to show the value of, to exalt!**

How does one do that?

For instance ...

We honor athletes, winners, achievers by giving them something,
We give them medals, certificates, promotion etc.,
something that shows others that they are special,
that they have done something others have not done.

In others words ...

We honor them by highlighting their achievements!

*For he received from God the Father honour and glory,
when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory,
This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

--- 2 Pet 1:17

How can you honor God?

By showing up God's Goodness,
His provision, His promises, His character, His love!

You honor God,

by showing others what He has done in your life,
by showing others what He wants to do in their lives,
by reaching out to others with His love!

*Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit;
so shall ye be my disciples.*

--- John 15:8

How can you live a fruitful life ... a life that honors God?

By living out what God has done in you!

*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:
old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by
Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;*

--- 2 Cor 5:17-18

God gave you a new life... Jesus gave you abundant life (John 10:10)

Receive from God what He has given you,
and start showing others what He has for them,

*And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,
and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind;
and thy neighbour as thyself. --- Luke 10:27*

... Read ...

Rom. 13:8-12

A Prayer Warrior ... not a prayer worrier!

Warrior ... not worrier!

Stop right there!

What does your prayer life look and sound like?

Are you complaining to God about your problems?

Are you nagging God for an answer or a solution?

Are you worrying God, asking why you've not received an answer?

STOP!

"But,

am I not supposed to tell God my problems?

am I not supposed to ask and expect of God?"

Yes, but not by majoring on the problem,
but by majoring and speaking out the solution to it!

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

--- 1 Pet 5:7

Yes ... tell God your problem and what your need is.

But ... do it once ... in faith!

... in faith ... that God has heard you!

... in faith ... that God cares for you and your need!

... in faith ... that God will answer and do what He promised!

...

Don't be a prayer worrier ... become A Prayer Warrior!

Jesus said,

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

--- John 14:14-15

So do just exactly what Jesus said,

Ask anything that God has promised in His Word ... in Jesus' name

Provision, health, healing, restoration, favor, deliverance,

... in faith ... **believing and trusting that God will do as He promised!**

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

--- Heb 11:6

Then in that trust, that faith ... start speaking out your victory,

The victory that you have ... in Jesus ... over the need you have in your life!

Tell the devil to shut up and stop believing his lies!

And,

Thank God for the answer and for Him honoring His Word ... in your life

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

--- Isa 55:11

God said it and will do it,
you don't have to nag Him.
you just have to trust Him!

... Read ...

Heb. 11:1-6

... 16 ... Healing

Is it a Fact or the Truth?

Fact or Truth?

Should I say I'm sick, when I feel sick?
... *is that not the truth?*
Should I say I'm healed, when I'm sick?
... *is that the truth?*
Is it not a lie to say I am healed, when I am sick?
No! it is not!

Take God as an example,

*(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,
before him whom he believed, **even God**, who quickeneth the dead,
and calleth those things which be not as though they were.
--- Rom 4:17*

If saying things that are not as though they were ... is a lie,
then you would have to call God a liar ... which He isn't!

To say you are sick when you feel sick, is simply stating a fact!
and there is nothing wrong with doing that,
but,

Is that the truth about your health?

For God says in 1 Pet. 2:24 ... that you were healed!

That is the truth ... and

that is calling what you are not (as yet) as though you were (already).

The fact is, you may be sick,

but the truth is ... by His stripes you ARE healed!

*While we look not at the things which are seen,
but at the things which are not seen:
for the things which are seen are temporal;
but the things which are not seen are eternal.
--- 2 Cor 4:18*

We do not deny the fact that something is wrong,
but we deny the sickness the right to be in our body!
It is stating the truth, that ... **the fact is subject to change!**
You are not concentrating on what you see or feel,
but you are concentrating on what God says about you,
and what you believe to be the truth!

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
--- Heb 11:1*

Should I say I'm sick when I feel sick?
it is a fact, but why bother!
Rather say what God says about you,
that Jesus is your healer,
and,

*... by whose stripes ye were healed.
--- 1 Pet 2:24*

Words are important!

Did you say that?

Have you ever regretted having said something?
Have you regretted having given a hasty answer?

Well if you are like most everyone else,
then you will often have been sorry for what you've said!
not only that, but,
You will often have been guilty of answering without thinking!
And,
you will often have had to repent for the words you spoke!

... WORDS ...

Words are important, very important, in fact the Bible tells us,

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue:
and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.
--- Prov 18:21*

An awesome thought ... but true!

In the beginning when God created everything,
He created it all with words!
Then God created us in His image and likeness,
and gave us dominion on earth;
Dominion that we exercise ... through the words we speak!
There is power in the words we speak.

So whatever we say ... *like it or not* ... has results!
The words we speak,
**bring forth either ... life,
or they bring forth death!**
For that reason God warns us saying,

*A soft answer turneth away wrath:
but grievous words stir up anger. --- Prov 15:1
A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: --- Prov 15:4
The heart of the righteous studieth to answer:
but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things. --- Prov 15:28*

Therefore take David's advice,

*I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue:
--- Ps 39:1*

Make this your decision and prayer today!

*"Oh Lord, help me put a guard at the opening of my lips
so that I sin not with my tongue."*

... Read ...

*James 3:1–12
Gen. 1:1–24
Gen. 1:26–28
Gen. 2:1–20*

Fear Not!

Fear not!

Did you know,
... that fear is the devil's counterfeit for faith!
... that the devil uses fear to get his will done!

And did you know,
In the same way that God has given us faith to lay hold of His promises,
The devil is trying to give us fear to stop us from receiving from God!
God knows the devil's plans and schemes
and that he is using fear against us.

Therefore God encourages us saying,

*Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God:
I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea,
I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.
--- Isa 41:10*

The devil tries to torment us with thoughts of fear,
And he tries to torment us with thoughts of failure and defeat!
But those are all lies from the devil,
from the one whom Jesus calls ... "the father of lies"

Throughout the Bible we are encouraged to "Fear not!"

*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear;
but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
--- 2 Tim 1:7*

**Take hold of that power, that love,
and become God inside minded!**
Realize that the One Who promised to never leave you,
is not only on your side,
but dwells inside of you!

Grab hold of God's promises today,
Grab hold of His promise of power, love and a sound mind!

*Submit yourselves therefore to God.
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
--- James 4:7*

And here is how you do that.
Praise God for His faithfulness,
for His love and His strength ... in you,
Then resist the devil,
by rejecting fear and all satan's lies!

... Read ...
*Psalm 91
Heb. 13:5-6
John 8:44*

Rise up and walk!

Rise up and walk!

People make issues out of anything,
... and they tend to doubt everything!

One of the most topical issues has always been ... healing!

... Does God heal?

... Is healing for today?

... Is healing part of salvation?

No matter how easy God makes it, we complicate everything!
In fact God's Word is simple straightforward facts and statements,
... and often put into story form to make understanding it even easier!

Yet as much as God reaches out to us ... we put up barriers!
Talking about whether God heals,
Jesus was one day at a gathering together with some scribes.
While He was preaching the Word to them,
one who was sick with palsy was brought by his friends,
and lowered down to where Jesus was so that He could heal him.

*When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy,
Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.
--- Mark 2:5*

Instead of hearing and receiving what Jesus said, the scribes said to themselves,

*Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?
--- Mark 2:7*

Jesus, knowing how we think, answered in this way,

*Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee;
or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?
But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins,
(he saith to the sick of the palsy,)
I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.
--- Mark 2:9-11*

Does God heal?

Answer this ... Does God forgive sins?

If Jesus is your Savior ... then Jesus is also your Healer!

Don't listen to satan's lies,
Healing, restoration, prosperity, abundance, blessings etc.
Are all part of salvation,
salvation that is available to everyone ... TODAY!
Rise up ... receive the fullness of salvation ... and walk!

... Read ...

Titus 2:13-14

1 John 1:7-9

1 Pet. 2:24

John 10:10

... 20 ... Love

Perfect love casts out fear!

Perfect Love!

Have you ever thought what ... **“for God so loved”** ... really means?

Sure, we know that,
Love ... gave us Jesus,
Love ... provided salvation,
Love ... went to the cross for us,
Love ... Shed His blood so that we could be free!
But,
... is that all there is to love?

... **Does God’s love not mean more than that?**

*Herein is our **love made perfect,**
that we may have **boldness in the day of judgment:**
because as he is, so are we in this world.
There is no fear in love; but **perfect love casteth out fear:**
because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.
--- 1 Jn 4:18*

Yes! ... there is more, much more!
There is a place where there is no fear, in God
... in Love!
There is a place of strength and boldness, in God
... in Love!

*And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us.
God is love; and he that dwelleth in love
dwelleth in God, and God in him.
--- 1 Jn 4:16*

Herein do we know the love that God has for us,
that,
God has reached out to us ... in Jesus ... in Love!
And ... Herein is our love made perfect,
When we reach out boldly ... in trust ... in faith ... to God
and receive the fullness of His promises,
... His Love!

Put your trust in His Love ... and fear not!
Reach out, believe and receive that love ... today.
Love is on your side ... what or who can stand against you?
Love never fails!

... **Read ...**
*Psalm 91
Psalm 23
1 John 4:7-21
1 Cor. 13:8*

Promises ... too hard to believe?

Too good to be true?

Are God's promises just too good to be true?
Can I really believe them? ... Can God really do this?

*Take heed, brethren,
lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief,
in departing from the living God.
--- Heb 3:12*

Not believing what God has promised,
or staggering at those promises,
instead of receiving God's Word,
that's unbelief!

In Hebrews 11:1–6 Paul teaches us about faith
and tells us that,
**believing & receiving God's promises,
is faith,**
and that **pleases God!**

It is for that reason that the Bible calls Abraham,
"the friend of God"
Why? ... because,

**He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief;
but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;
And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised,
he was able also to perform.
--- Rom 4:20–21**

Have you allowed unbelief to dominate your thinking?
Have you staggered at God's promises?
**... Turn from that doubt,
... Repent of that unbelief!**
Make up your mind today that **God's Word is true.**

*God is not a man, that he should lie;
neither the son of man, that he should repent:
hath he said, and shall he not do it?
or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?
--- Num 23:19*

God has said it,
... and He will also do it!
Receive it,
... and let Him do it,
... for you!

... Read ...
*Titus 1:2
Isiah 55:11–13*

... 22 ... Protection

A Shield of protection ... surrounded by love!

A shield of protection!

*For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous;
with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.
--- Ps 5:12*

*He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous:
he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.
--- Prov 2:7*

If there is one thing that David knew ... it was God's protection!

*But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me;
my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.
--- Ps 3:3*

And it is a promise that was not only for David, but is for everyone,
Everyone whose heart is turned towards God,

*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth,
to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.
--- 2 Chr 16:9*

But what is this shield that God surrounds us with?

The Bible in Psalm 91 says this to us,

*... his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.
--- Ps 91:4*

And Psalm 5:12 is also translated as,

... surrounding them with your shield of love.

God is love,

and He not only showed us His love in Jesus!
He not only shed His love abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit!
But ... **He wants to surround us with His love,**
God wants to surround us with His very presence,

*And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us.
God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.
--- 1 Jn 4:16*

Not only does God want to surround us with His love,
but also promised, saying to us

*... I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
--- Heb 13:5*

*Receive the fullness of God 's love ... receive Jesus!
Receive the fullness of God's love in you ... through the Holy Spirit!
Let the fullness of God's love envelope you ... in the Father's presence!*

Whom do you believe?

Whom do you believe?

Woke up with pain in your body this morning?
Been there for a while already?
Sure it is real, and God also does not deny that!
Your body is sending you a message ... "I am sick"

BUT,

God is also sending you a message,
And He has not just sent a message, **He also ...**

*... sent his word,
and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.
--- Ps 107:20-21*

God sent Jesus ...

*who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree,
that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--
by whose stripes you were healed.
--- 1 Pet 2:24*

So ...

as far as God is concerned, **you are the healed** ... 2000 years ago!
Jesus suffered those cruel stripes,
... **THEN,**
In order for you to be healed,
... **NOW!**

Satan may be challenging this fact with all sorts of symptoms,
but he is a liar.
God is challenging all those pains and symptoms, with His Word,
and **He does not lie** (*Num. 23:19*)

Who are YOU going to believe?

*While we look not at the things which are seen,
but at the things which are not seen:
for the things which are seen are temporal;
but the things which are not seen are eternal.
--- 2 Cor 4:18*

Are you going to accept that pain as final?
Don't ... ! it is subject to change!
Are you going to accept God's Word?
Do! ... For it is eternal and **it is final!**

... Read ...
Titus 1:2

... 24 ... God's Word

But by every Word!

Every word!

Man shall not live by bread alone!

is a statement from the Bible that most everybody has quoted!
And ... Yes! it is still as real today as it was when Jesus spoke it!
Bread or physical nourishment is enough to exist,
but it is not enough to live, or be alive unto God.
Breathing and having a full stomach keeps your body going,
but it is not going to strengthen or build up your inner man!

*... I am come that they might have **life**, and that they might have it **more abundantly**.
--- John 10:10*

When Jesus spoke those words He spoke to people who were physically alive,
saying that He came to give them life ... life beyond physical existence,
life in abundance ... life ... spirit, soul and body!

And that is what Jesus meant when he said,

*... It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word of God.
--- Luke 4:4*

But by every word of God ...!

If you are going to receive that abundant life Jesus came to give you,
You will have to live by every word of God,
... and not just by bread!

BUT,

Jesus did not say ...

... by some of the word of God, or ... by one of the words of God!

But by every word of God ...!

... not just by the word that says you are saved!
... not just by the word that says you are healed!
... not just by the word that says you have peace!
... not just by the word that says you are blessed!
... not just by the word that says God will protect you!
... not just by the word that says you're no longer poor!
... not just by the word that says you're sins are forgiven!
... not just by one or two of God's words,

But by every word of God!

By every word, every promise, every blessing,

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and cometh down from the Father of lights,
with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.
--- James 1:17*

If you want to have that abundant life Jesus came to give you,
then start living by EVERY word and promise God has spoken!

... Read ...

Phil. 4:19

Eph. 3:20

2 Pet. 1:3

Free in Jesus!

Free in Jesus!

*If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.
--- John 8:36*

A wonderful promise ... often quoted!
Yet ... very seldom understood!

What are you free from?
Free to do as you want to do?
Free from laws and regulations?

*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus
hath made me free from the law of sin and death.
--- Rom 8:2*

Yes!
You are free from the law of sin and death,
... *through* ...
The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus!
Yes!
You are free from satan's hold over your life,
... *free* ...
to live victoriously in the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus
but ...
Free in Jesus does not mean you are not subject to any law!
because ...
it is being subject to the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus,
that sets you free ... free indeed!

Not free to do just what you want to do,
but ...
Free ... to receive healing, health and restoration!
because of,
the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus!

*... by whose stripes ye were healed.
--- 1 Pet 2:24*

Free ... to receive the fullness of God's promises!
... *through* ...
the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus!

*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things
that pertain unto life and godliness,
through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
--- 2 Pet 1:3*

Free ... in the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus ... indeed!

... Read ...
*Matt. 18:18–20
1 Pet. 2:15–17
John 10:10
Gal. 3:13*

... 26 ... Abundant Life

Abundant Life!

Abundant Life!

What did Jesus mean when He said,

*... I am come that they might **have life**, and that they might have it **more abundantly**.
--- John 10:10*

Some people seem to think that life means,
an abundance of problems and pressure,
because they only read the first half of *John 16:33*,

... In the world ye shall have tribulation ...

Read the last line ...

... the problems and pressure are overcome!

*but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
--- John 16:33*

When Jesus spoke about abundant life,
... He was summing up Deut. 28:1–14

*... blessed ... in all that thou settest thine hand unto.
--- Deut 28:8*

Not blessed with problems ... but blessed with solutions!

Not living in lack ... but all your needs provided!

Not troubled with doubt ... but led by the Holy Spirit!

Not suffering from sickness ... but blessed with healing and health!

Not subject to fear ... but blessed with power, love and a sound mind!

Blessed coming in and blessed going out!

Don't run from His blessings ... run into them,

*And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee,
if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.
--- Deut 28:2*

God has provided life in abundance for you,

but that abundance is in Him!

It is up to you to go to God ... where His blessings are,

God has not only promised and prepared abundant blessings,

He has also invited us to come to Him and receive,

*Let us therefore **come boldly unto the throne of grace**,
that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
--- Heb 4:16*

... Read ...

Psalm 36:7–8

Titus 3:4–7

Eph. 3:20

Steer clear of Strife!

Steer clear of strife!

Have you noticed how easily strife gets into a family?
Have you noticed how quickly relationships get under pressure,
and how often friendships are torn apart?
Why are those who are so close to each other ... under such pressure?

The reason is not such a mystery at all!
In telling us why, Jesus repeatedly said this to us,

*Again I say unto you,
That if **two of you shall agree** on earth
as touching any thing that they shall ask,
it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.
--- Matt 18:19*

What a wonderful promise, what a powerful promise,
... and what a threat to the devil!
If we can agree together upon God's Word and His promises,
as a family, in a relationship or in a friendship!
Then nothing can stop us ... nothing and nobody!

The devil however most certainly wants to stop us!
But how is he going to stop us from using *Matt. 18:19*?
... through STRIFE ...

*For where envying and strife is,
there is confusion and every evil work.
--- James 3:16*

One quick way to open the door to the enemy is to let strife in.
And how does strife come into a relationship?
*When I only consider myself!
I have needs! ... I don't like that! ... I, me, mine!*

That is the quickest way to step out of love and into strife,
And strife in a relationship is hell on earth!

... The choice is yours,
Strife and hell ... or ... Love and blessings

Every time an opportunity presents itself to get into strife,
... resist that devil in the name of Jesus!
Make up your mind that you're going to walk in love today,
... no matter what or who is going to come against you,

The choice is yours,
Make that choice today,
make it love, make it blessings!

... Read ...
*1 John 5:5
Deut 30:19-20*

... 28 ... Repentance

Wouldn't it be wonderful!

Wouldn't it be wonderful!

Wouldn't it be wonderful,
... if God would just come and sort out all your problems!
Wouldn't it be wonderful,
... if God would just come and change your life around!

Do you know that God wants to do!

*My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.
Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.
For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.
Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.
--- Prov 4:20–23*

God wants to change your life around!
God wants to come and sort out all your problems!
God wants to give you life, health, blessings, whatever you need!
and all you have to do is turn!

Turn away from sin, from speaking, living and doing wrong!
Turn your back on the past and your way of doing things!

*But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice,
blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.
Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;
And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge
after the image of him that created him:
--- Col 3:8–10*

Turn to Jesus and accept Him into your life!

*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:
old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
--- 2 Cor 5:17*

Turn to God and His words of Life!

Receive His words of life and blessing into your life,
then,
receive His promises for your life.
Let His Word change your life around.
Let His promises sort your problems out!

Wouldn't it be wonderful,
if you let God come and sort out your life!

Let Him in ... and He will!

... Read ...
Deut. 28:1–14

God is listening & God is willing!

God is willing!

Are you facing an impossible situation?
Do you have a pressing need?
If you do ... then God says to you,

*Call unto me, and I will answer thee,
and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.
--- Jer 33:3*

... Pray! ...

NEVER underestimate the power (force) of prayer!

... Pray! ...

God did not just say that because it sounds good,
For ...

*the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth,
to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.
--- 2 Chr 16:9*

God wants to help ...

He is listening and looking to see who needs Him!

And to make sure we get His help ...
God even gave us a Helper to help us in our weakness,

*Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities:
for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit
itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
--- Rom 8:26*

Call on God ... He is listening!

Listen to the Holy Spirit --- He is leading!

Look to Jesus ... He is interceding!

Turn to God ... He is waiting!

Trust in God ... He is willing!

*to shew himself strong in the behalf of them
whose heart is perfect toward him.
--- 2 Chr 16:9*

... Read ...

Heb. 12:2

Heb. 7:25

Rom. 8:34

James 1:5-8

Let the peace of God!

Let the peace of God!

Today it seems as if the world is more in a turmoil than ever before,
and talking about having peace seems light years away!
Yet God and His Word are still the same and they say to us,

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts ...
--- Col 3:15

How can you have peace amidst of all these problems and pressure?

You can have peace inside of any situation,
no matter how hopeless it looks,
If you know whom you are trusting!

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to an idol,
And were threatened with a fiery death.
Yet they had peace and answered king Nebuchadnezzar saying,

*... our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace,
and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.*
--- Dan 3:17

They knew whom they trusted, God,
and they let His peace rule their hearts, and their situation!
Not only did His peace rule their hearts ... but His presence kept their lives,

*... Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?
... Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt;
and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.*
--- Dan 3:24-25

You too can let God's peace rule your heart!
And you too can let His presence rule your situation!
Jesus made us this promise,

... and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
--- Matt 28:20

*And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them,
and confirming the word with signs following. Amen*
--- Mark 16:20

And not only did He make a promise ... He kept His Word!
Jesus' disciples obeyed His Word ... and Jesus performed His Word!

Let Jesus perform His Word in your life,

*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth,
give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*
--- John 14:27

... Read ...
Prov. 3:5-6
John 14:18
Gal. 5:22-23

Have a little patience!

God is at work!

Patience is a totally misunderstood concept!
Most people think it means to wait,
... hoping something will eventually happen.
But that is not at all what patience is,

*Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
But let patience have her perfect work,
that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.
--- James 1:3-4*

Patience is not waiting and hoping something will happen.
No!

Patience is standing and knowing that ... God is at work!
Knowing your trust in God, your hope in His Word ... is working!

*That ye be not slothful, but followers of them
who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
--- Hebrews 6:12*

But how do I stand in patience?
As James 1:3 says ... standing in faith produces patience.
In other words ...
knowing Who you trust is the strength in which you wait,

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;
and lean not unto thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge him,
and he shall direct thy paths.
--- Proverbs 3:5-6*

In other words ...
your trust in God and in His promises is what you stand on,
His Word,
trusting in His Word is what gives you the strength to stand.

That is patience ...
that is the faith through which you receive His promises,
that faith in His Word is what God will honour!

Therefore,

*... let patience have her perfect work,
that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.
--- James 1:3-4*

... Read ...

*Rev. 2:19
2 Thess. 1:4
Titus 2:2*

Pleasing God!

Pleasing God!

Have you ever thought what it takes to please God?
The Bible is quite clear about it,

*But without **faith** it is impossible to **please him**: --- Heb 11:6*

What does it mean ... *without faith it is impossible to please God?*
What must you believe or have faith in, that will please God?
The Bible goes on to say,

*... for he that cometh to God must **believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder** of them that diligently seek him. --- Heb 11:6*

Well that seems rather easy ... all God wants us to do is to,
1. Go to Him
2. Believe and trust in Him ...
3. Accept all that He has purposed for us to have.

Great, but how do you do that?
Easy ...

1. Accept God's offer in John 3:16 ...

*For by grace are ye **saved through faith**;
and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: --- Eph 2:8*

2. Receive God's Gift, Jesus and make Him Lord in your life?

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus,
and shalt **believe in thine heart** that God hath raised him from the dead,
thou shalt be saved. --- Rom 10:9-10*

3. Receive God's promise ... that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him,

*For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith:
as it is written, **The just shall live by faith**. --- Rom 1:17*

Trusting God and receiving all that He has promised us ... that pleases Him!

God not only wants you saved and that Jesus be Lord in your life,

God wants you to have the fullness of salvation,

spirit, soul, body, material and financial.

The fullness of what Jesus came to give you ...

*... I am come **that they might have life**,
and that they might have it **more abundantly**. --- John 10:10*

God wants us to have faith in Him and in His promises ... (Heb. 11:6)

God wants us to daily trust Him for all our needs ... (Rom. 1:17, Phil. 4:19)

By receiving all that Jesus has done for us ... (John 3:16, John 10:10, Rom. 10:9)

That is what God wants for you,
and if that is what you are putting your faith in ... and trusting God for,
That is ... what pleases Him!

A Personal God!

Personal!

Building a relationship with God ... means getting close to Him,
... means getting to know God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit,
... **personally!**

But ... God is in heaven and I am here on earth.
Is it really possible to have a personal relationship with God?
... **Yes ...**

As David so graphically put it,

*What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and **the son of man, that thou visitest him?**
--- Psalms 8:4*

God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit ... our personal God, Savior & Helper!

God is a personal God!
God personally spoke to Adam & Eve,

*And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?
--- Gen 3:9–21, Gen 2:19–20*

... God even personally clothed Adam and Eve (*Gen. 3:21*)
He walked with Enoch (*Gen. 5:24*) ... Visited with Moses (*Ex. 24:1–3*)

Jesus is our personal Savior.
Jesus personally came to save mankind!

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
--- John 3:16*
*I am come **that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly**
--- John 10:10*

He personally saved Daniel ... even the king knew that (*Dan. 6:16*)
He personally went to save Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (*Dan. 3:25*)

The Holy Spirit is our personal Helper
The Holy Spirit personally came to ... teach, guide and comfort ... us!
And to do that ... He simply moved in ... Personally!

*And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter,
that he may abide with you for ever ... even the Spirit of truth,
... but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.
--- John 14:16–17*

The Holy Spirit came to the earth on the day of Pentecost (*Acts 2:1–4*)
And has been with us ever since, helping as much as we allow (*Rom. 8:26–27*)

*Let God in as YOUR God, let Jesus in as YOUR Savior,
And the Holy Spirit as YOUR Helper,
... **and build a personal relationship with Them,
... beginning today!***

... Read ...
Rev. 3:20

... 34 ... Commitment

Sticking by your choice!

Sticking to your choice!

Choosing to serve God is one thing,
but sticking with your decision under pressure, well that's something else!

Will you really trust in God ... when you are in a hot spot?
Will you really deny all else if your life is at stake?

...

In Babylon three Jewish men ... Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,
chose to worship God rather than king Nebuchadnezzar.

When threatened with a fiery death, they stuck to their choice, saying,

*... our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace,
and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.*

--- Dan 3:17

God honored their choice.

He not only delivered them, but promoted them! (*Dan. 3:20–30*)

Joshua chose to commit his entire life and family to God,

*And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.***

--- Josh 24:15

God honored Joshua's choice,

and everywhere that his foot treaded ... God gave him victory! (*Josh. 11:23*)

David made a choice to trust and serve God,

*David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion,
and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.*

--- 1 Sam 17:37

God honored David's choice ... and not only gave him victory over Goliath,
But made David king ... and called him "a man after mine own heart" (*Acts 13:22*)

Paul made a choice to serve Jesus, kept to it and God honored him,

*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:
Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge,
shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

--- 2 Tim 4:7–8

Take Paul's advice, make the right choice and stick to it,

Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

--- 1 Cor 11:1

And let God honor your choice as He did for Shadrach, Joshua, David, Paul,
**and everyone else who chose Jesus and dared to stick to their choice,
... no matter what!**

Things God said ... about healing!

Things God said ... (about healing)!

*And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God,
... for I am **the LORD that healeth thee.** --- Exod 15:26*

If you will hear the Lord ... **He will HEAL you!**

*And ye shall serve the LORD your God,
and I will **take sickness away** from the midst of thee. --- Ex. 23:25*

If you will serve the Lord ... **He will HEAL you!**

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:
Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who **healeth all thy diseases;** --- Ps 103:2-3*

If you will bless the Lord ... **He will HEAL you!**

*Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses.
He sent his word, and **healed them,** and delivered them from their destructions.
--- Ps 107:19-20*

If you will cry unto the Lord ... **He will HEAL you!**

*Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.
It shall be **health to thy navel,** and marrow to thy bones. --- Prov 3:7-8*

If you will depart from evil ... **He will HEAL you!**

*My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.
For they are life unto those that find them, and **health to all their flesh.** --- Prov 4:20-22*

If you will attend to God's word ... **He will HEAL you!**

*But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise
with **healing in his wings;** --- Mal 4:2*

If you will Honor, respect and reverence God ... **He will HEAL you!**
Not only is it God's will to heal us ... but Jesus has already paid the price!

*Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?
Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows ...
yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities:
the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and **with his stripes we are healed.**
--- Isa 53:1-5, (1 Pet 2:24)*

Do you need healing?

If you will hear and obey God's Word, turn from your ways and serve Him.
If you will honor, respect and reverence Him, call on Him, and trust in Him.
He will HEAR you ... & ... He will HEAL you!

... Read ...

Jeremiah 33:3 Heb. 11:1-6 Matt. 7:7-11
Mark 11:24-26 1 John 5:15

... 36 ... Prosperity

It's not God's fault!

Make some room!

Many people wonder why God is not blessing them,
or why they are not receiving all those blessings God has promised.
God has promised so much ... yet I have received so little!
Why?

*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.
--- Isa 55:11*

If God has said it or promised it ... He will do as He promised.
So,
if God is giving lots and you are receiving little ,
then there is something wrong with your receiving!

How does that work?

Lets assume that someone says to you,
"I have a Dining room table for 8 with chairs, a dresser,
2 three-seater leather couches and a double bed for you,
come over and fetch it this afternoon!"
If you pitch up to collect that in a 2 door compact runabout,
... how much of what you have been promised will you get? ... Very little!
However ... if you pitch up with a furniture truck ... you'll get it all!

God has promised you blessings in abundance,

*Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now
herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you
out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.
--- Mal 3:10*

How much room have you made in your life, ... for God and His blessings?

Is your life cluttered up with everything else ... but God?
Is your life full of self, disobedience, rebellion or sin?

If you are not making place for God by getting rid of self and sin!
Then there's no room for God ... and there's no room for His blessings!

Make place for God by getting rid of self, disobedience and sin!
Make place for God's blessings by reaching out with what you have!

*Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down,
and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.
For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.
--- Luke 6:38*

... and see God work in your life!

... Read ...
Deut. 28:1-14

Tongue tied ... no way!

Nothing to say?

God has given us (mankind) a wonderful ability,
the ability to speak and to communicate!

The ability to communicate with each other and with Him!

It is a tool or ability that is powerful, in fact,
if used correctly it is creative and devastating, if not controlled! (*James 3:1–13*)

... and upholding all things by the word of his power ... --- Heb 1:3
And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity ... it defileth the whole body ... is set on fire of hell.
--- James 3:6

It is this ability that God gave us that makes us unique!
... in fact God says this to us ...

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: --- Prov 18:21
... therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: --- Deut 30:19

God gave us a wonderful and powerful ability ... not for destruction,
But a creative tool and ability that God wants us to use ... for Him!
And,
God wants us to use our tongues to speak His words of life wherever we are,

*... as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach
the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*
--- Rom 10:15

God wants us to carry and communicate His words of life with our tongues,
but I'm tongue tied ... what will I say?

If you really don't know what to say, then ask the Holy Spirit,

*... he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance,
whatsoever I have said unto you. --- John 14:26*

... and you will never be tongue tied again!

Then go out and speak the words of life Jesus told you,

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
--- Mark 16:15

... and the result of your words will be,

*And these signs shall follow them that believe;
In my name shall **they cast out devils**; they shall **speak with new tongues**;
They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing,
it shall not hurt them; **they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.***
--- Mark 16:17–18

There is much God wants you to say ... and every word can be a word of life.
Give God your tongue ... and you will never be tongue tied again!

... 38 ... Living in the Light

Praise God ... It's Morning!

It's a new day!

Wake up!
It's Morning!
And it is a glorious new day!

***This is the day which the LORD hath made;**
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
--- Ps 118:24*

Are you rejoicing?
Maybe you don't feel like rejoicing or being glad?

Did you wake up thinking ... **Oh No! Not another day!**
Did you wake up with yesterday's pressures still on your mind?
... **Saying to yourself ...**

What is there to be glad about or to rejoice over?
None of my problems have been solved,
and it is all just the same as yesterday!

Well, it need not be the same as yesterday,
Because,

*It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed,
because his compassions fail not.
They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.
--- Lam 3:22-23*

God's mercies ARE new EVERY morning!
And His unfailing love for YOU ... never ends!

David found this out when everything in his life looked bad.
He said to himself,

*"even though I am walking through the valley of the shadow of death
I will fear no evil, for You Oh Lord, You are with me!"
"I will not look at yesterday's pressures and disappointments"
"I will not bring yesterday's problems with me into today!"
"And you Oh Lord make me to lie down on green pastures, I need not worry"
For ... surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.
--- Ps 23:4-6*

Praise God ... It is morning!
God's goodness and mercy are new for me,
especially just for me,
...this morning!

... Read ...
Psalm 23
Psalm 91

Let God do the thinking!

Don't think!

Most problems, arguments and strife start with,
"Well I think"!
And that is exactly what we should NOT be doing!
Jesus very candidly told us to,

Therefore take no thought, saying ...
--- Matt 6:31

*... take no thought how or what ye shall speak:
for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.
For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.*
--- Matt 10:19-20

What Jesus was telling us to do, is,
Stop thinking and let God do the thinking!
That is exactly what Jesus did whilst He ministered here on earth!

*I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just;
because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.*
--- John 5:30

*... then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself;
but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.*
--- John 8:28

And ... that is also what God wants us to do,
Saying what God says ... and doing what God does,
... and let God's Word be your guide and God's will your path!
(Psalm 119:102-106)
How do I stop trying to be in control and let God do the thinking?
Let God renew your mind for you,

*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,
that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*
--- Rom 12:2

How does God renew your mind?

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,
--- Eph 5:26

Through His Word ... the same way Jesus did it,
spending time in the Word and with the Father! ... *(Luke 2:46-52)*
and ...

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
--- Phil 2:5

Let God's Will ... govern your thoughts!
Let God's Word ... shape your words!
And,
... let God do the thinking!

... 40 ... Faith

Abundantly Above ... All that you Ask!

All that you can ask!

Quoting scripture is easy!
But believing, and knowing that you know that it works,
that is not so easy!
That God does what we can understand ... is one thing,
but when the Bible says God does beyond what we can understand,
well that's something else,

*Now unto him that is **able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, --- Eph. 3:20***

Exceeding abundantly above all that we ask?
Exceeding abundantly above all that we think?
Does God truly do that?
Where? When? How?
Show me!

Take Abraham as an example ... having a child at 100 years old, he did well.

There is also ... Moses ... Joshua ... Job! ... they all did well, but,

... was that Exceeding Abundantly Above All ?

Is there really an example of God doing ... Exceedingly Abundantly Above ALL?

*In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night:
and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. --- 1King 3:5*

God said to Solomon ... "Tell Me what you want Me to do for you?"
Solomon asked God for wisdom ... This pleased God and He said to Solomon,

*Behold, I have done according to thy words: ... And I have also given thee
that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall
not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days. --- 1King 3:12-13*

... Exceeding Abundantly Above ... ALL ...

God gave Solomon Exceeding Abundantly Above All that he asked!

... Why? ...

Solomon put God in control of his life ...

"Give me your wisdom so I will be able to do things your way!"
and because Solomon put God's way and God's will before his own,
God could do for him ... even more than he asked!

God was able to do it for Solomon and God is able to do it for you!

For I am the LORD, I change not; --- Mal 3:6

But how will I please God the way Solomon did?

But without faith it is impossible to please him: --- Heb 11:6

Solomon pleased God by trusting Him ... so can you!

... Read ...

1Kings 3:1-14

1Kings 4:21-34

1Kings 5:1-7

Heb. 11:6

After God's Word, there's no but!

After God's Word!

I know ... but!
There is no but ... after God has spoken,
... for what God says ... is!
In Genesis,

*And God said, Let there be light: **and there was light.** --- Gen 1:3
And God said, Let the earth bring forth ... grass ... seed ... fruit,
... after his kind ... **and it was so.** --- Gen 1:11*

And that was not only so in creation, for God also said,

*So shall **my word** be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it **shall not return unto me void,**
but it shall accomplish that which I please, and **it shall prosper** in the thing whereto I sent it.
--- Isa 55:11*

Not only do the things God says ... happen!
Not only does God's Word ... accomplish and prosper!
... but God has also said,

*For I am the LORD, I change not; --- Mal 3:6
God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent:
hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?
--- Num 23:19*

If God has said it ... He meant it!
If God has said it ... He will also do it!

As God's Word brought forth creation ... when He spoke it out!
As God's Word accomplishes and prospers in all that He has sent it to do!

So also ... God's Word will accomplish and prosper in your life.

If you are willing to receive His Word ... and not reject it!

God said ... you are healed (1Pet.2:24) ... there is no but!
God said ... you are blessed (Deut. 28:1-14)) ... there is no but!
God said ... you have abundant life (John 10:10)) ... there is no but!
God said ... you have peace (Isa 26:3, John 14:27) ... there is no but!
Etc...

After God's Word, there is no but ...

... unless you reject Him, the way the people in Nazareth did!

*And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.
--- Matt 13:58*

But, what about ... if?
God never said ... If My Word works then obey!
No! ... God said, if you obey ... my Word works!

Jesus' disciples obeyed and stepped out on His Word,

*And they went forth, and preached every where, **the Lord working with them,**
and **confirming the word** with signs following. Amen.*

--- Mark 16:20

... 42 ... Authority

Under Attack!

Under attack!

Jesus said this about the kingdom of God ...

*And from the days of John the Baptist until now
the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.
--- Matt 11:12*

We are under attack ... like it ... want it ... or not!

Jesus also said to us,

*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace.
In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
--- John 16:33*

And if we are going to make it, if we are going to survive,
... we are going to have to use our position and authority ... in Jesus!
... we are going to have to stand up and fight ... in Jesus!

Jesus said,

The violent ... those who are energetic and willing to use force,
will take what is rightfully theirs with the power and might at their disposal!

And,

we should be taking back what the devil has stolen from us or cheated us out of!
Claim and take back by force, in Jesus name, what is rightfully yours!

If your body is under attack with sickness or disease,
... take your health back by force ... in Jesus' name
(1 Pet. 2:24) (Acts 10:38)

If your finances are under attack of lack and poverty,
... take your prosperity back by force ... in Jesus' name,
(Phil. 2:19) (2 Cor. 8:9) (John 10:10)

If your mind is suffering the violence of fear and oppression,
... take your peace back by force ... in Jesus' name,
(2 Tim. 1:7)

*In the world ye shall have tribulation:
but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
--- John 16:33*

Jesus has overcome sickness and disease!

Jesus has overcome lack and poverty!

Jesus has overcome fear and oppression!

But,

that does not mean the devil cannot and does not mess in our lives

No, he does! Therefore we need to,

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion,
walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
--- 1 Pet 5:8*

Don't put up with the devil's attacks.

Stand against him ... and take what is rightfully yours,

By Force ... with the authority you have ... in Jesus Name!

Does God respond to our need or want?

Want something from God?

We all have needs and there are many things we want to have.

We even have “*want lists!*”

But.

Do you know ... God can do nothing about a “*want list!*”

The Bible in the book of James puts it this way,

Ye lust, and have not:
ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain:
ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.
--- James 4:2

We all lack things and we all want things,
and there is nothing wrong with that,

... but God says,

“*your lack and your wanting will get you nowhere!*”

Because,

God does not respond to lack!

God responds to faith! ... (prayers in faith)

But I thought God wants to supply in our need or lack?

Yes He does!

... and He will do it abundantly (*Phil. 4:19*)

And that's not all!

Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth
what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

--- Matt 6:8

God already knows what you need,

... before you ask!

But God also does nothing about it,

... until you ASK!

God is waiting for you to go to Him with your needs,
God is waiting for you to go to Him with your want list!

But,

God will not act upon your lack or want.

God will only act or respond to your asking.

God will only respond to your faith!

Do you really desire for God to do something for you?

Then go to Him and ask of Him!

He will hear you and He will answer you!

God knows even before you ask ... but God does nothing until you ask!

... Read ...

Jer. 33:3

Phil. 4:19

Mark 11:24

Heb. 11:6

... 44 ... Authority

Resist that lie!

Resist those thoughts!

Woke up with a pain in your body,
... a pain that came from nowhere at all!
And these thoughts flashed through your mind,
Flu, fever, heart, some incurable disease!

Where did those thoughts come from?
I can tell you quite plainly ... they did not come from God!
For,

***Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and cometh down from the Father of lights,
with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.***
--- James 1:17

So where did that thought come from?
From the one who is trying to steal your health,

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.
--- John 10:10

Therefore God warns us,

***Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion,
walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.***
--- 1 Pet 5:8

You are not the sick trying to get well,
you are the healed and satan is trying to steal your health.
Don't let him! ... Resist him with the truth, with God's Word.
Set your mind on God's Word not the devil's lies,

Submit yourselves therefore to God.
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.
--- James 4:7-8

Do what Jesus did in the wilderness when satan came to tempt Him,
Tell the devil what God's Word says about you,
Devil ... it is written ... (Matt. 4:3-11)

***"Jesus" ... Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,
that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness:
by whose stripes ye were healed... "and that includes me!"***
--- 1 Pet 2:24

If it's not a good and perfect gift ... It's not from God!
And if it's not from God ... then it's not for me!

It is up to you whose word you believe!
It is up to you whose lie you receive!

Reject the devil's lies ... and receive God's Word!

Working with Him ... Personally!

What's more important?

God is a personal God,
and He takes what happens to His children ... personally!
As Jesus said to Paul on the road to Damascus,

*And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him,
Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? --- Acts 9:4*

Paul was putting Jesus' disciples in jail,
yet Jesus said to Him ... "*Saul why are you persecuting Me?*"

What does that mean?

If you hurt a disciple of Jesus' ... then you hurt Him!
If you hurt a child of God ... then you hurt God!

What was Paul doing?

He judged the Church based on his own knowledge and expectations!

And Jesus was saying,

The way you treat people ... is the way you treat God!

...

We are all guilty of that, but praise God,
... in His love He does not hold that against us,
... but reaches out to us in love,
... and tells us to do the same,

*Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.
Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not,
and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:
Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down,
and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.
For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.
--- Luke 6:36-38*

Start using God's measure ... Love!
Stop judging others for their weaknesses,
but rather reach out to them ... with God's love!

God wants to reach out in love to the world ... to people
...and He wants to do it personally ... through us!

But how can He ... unless we do it for Him,

*If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar:
for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen,
how can he love God whom he hath not seen?
--- I Jn 4:20*

Paul's personal response and action was,

... Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? --- Acts 9:6

... and God worked mightily through him!
What about you?

Will you let God work through you ... personally?

... 46 ... Trust

Oh no! ... not another day!

Not another day!

Which way did your day start?

Good morning, God!

or ...

Good God, it's morning!

Did you go to sleep having put your problems in God's hands?

or ...

did you go to sleep still hanging on to those problems and pressures?

For this very reason, Jesus said to us,

*These things I have spoken unto you, **that in me ye might have peace.***

In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;

I have overcome the world. --- John 16:33

And you can have peace in your life, but,

... unless you make Jesus Lord of your life, your day and your problems,

... unless you make Jesus Lord over your troubles and tribulations,

... unless you are trusting Him for an answer, to provide the way out,

... those pressures and problems remain yours!

And your morning will start in the same bad state the previous day ended!

How do you get rid of those cares, pressures and problems?

Just do what God tells you to do,

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. --- 1 Pet 5:7

God is saying,

Don't wait till tomorrow ... in fact ... don't wait at all!

Don't wish them away! ... Don't wrap them up and send them to God!

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. --- 1 Pet 5:7

Throw them out!

If God says throw ... He means **THROW!**

Obey Him and throw those cares onto God.

Let Him deal with those cares and problems!

Why throw?

Because it is the fastest way of getting rid of something!

Obey!

Today!

Now!

Throw ... those cares away!

God is BIG enough to sort your life out!

Let Him in ... so He can take care of all your need,

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

--- Phil 4:19

... Read ...

Psalms 23

Help God help you!

Helping God!

It is easy to say,
"God, people are being laid off everywhere ... even Christians!
God ... why are you not helping?"

Howev, the question should rather be,
Are you helping God, so He can help you?

You surely can't help God, can you?
Sure you can,

*Be not deceived; God is not mocked:
for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
--- Gal 6:7*

Now what has that got to do with helping God?
... Everything!

Let's say that you are afraid of being laid off?
What will it take to keep you and your co-workers employed?
Simple ... a business that is growing and making money!
What are you doing to make that possible for your boss?

Are you ... praying for your boss' life, that he/she gets to know the Lord?
Are you ... praying for your boss, daily, that he/she is blessed and increasing?
Are you ... praying for your boss' business, that it is blessed and growing?
Are you ... praying for ideas to help your boss increase business and profit?
Are you ... praying for ability and skill, to help your boss and his business?
If you are ... then you are sowing and helping God make that business grow!

Don't pray not to be fired!
Start sowing in the physical and in the spiritual!
Start investing into your boss' life and his business,
for,
If that business is growing because of you prayer and efforts,
You don't need to pray ... not to be fired,
... you will be too important to be fired,

... The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.
*Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are,
and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain:
and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.
And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.
Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;
Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way
shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.
--- James 5:16-20*

If you will sow into the lives of others, no matter what your need is.
You will be helping God ... help you,
and you will be helping God prepare a harvest for you!

... 48 ... Loving Others

Have you seen God?

Have you seen God?

Have you ever wished that you could see God?
... and ...
Would you like to know what heaven is like?

Sure ... we all would like that.
Yet ... the Bible tells us that,

No man hath seen God at any time. --- 1 Jn 4:12

And ... whilst we are in this sinful flesh,
we just cannot stand in God's presence.
Yet that has not stopped God from having a personal relationship with us!
Although we most often make it difficult for Him with our attitude,
God continues to desire to have a personal relationship with us!

How can we have a personal relationship with God?

And how is it possible for us to get close to God?

John gives us the answer to that, saying to us,

*... If we love one another,
God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.
--- 1 Jn 4:12*

The Bible talks of John as "the disciple whom Jesus loved"
Not,
because Jesus loved John more than the other disciples,
... for Jesus loves no one more than any other,
but,

because John showed love and got close to Jesus.

Therefore,
John experienced Jesus' love more than the other disciples,
... more than those who didn't get that close.

Sure ... you cannot see God in the physical,
but you can have a love relationship with Him.
How?

By reaching out to the people around you!
Because if you do ... you have this promise, that,
God will dwell in you ... and make His home in you!
And ...

His love will be perfected in you!

*Are you ready to see God?
To see who He really is ... and where He really is?
Are you ready for heaven here on earth?
... for God's love to be perfected in you?*

Look no further ... search no more ... it is in you,
waiting to be shared with others!

... Read ...
1 John 4:7-21

Focus on the truth!

The Truth is!

You have some problems in your life,
and you are told... "Don't talk about it!"
You are feeling sick,
and you are told ... "Don't say you are sick!"
Whatever is wrong ... you are told to act as if it isn't!
Surely that is not right?

And you are right ... you can't just act as if nothing is wrong.
Unless you are acting on what will change what is wrong!

Sure it is a fact that there is lack,
Sure it is a fact that there is sickness,
Sure it is a fact that there are problems,
Sure it is a fact that we are under pressure,
Sure it is possibly also a fact that you are sick,
And ...
Focusing on these facts will not remove or alter them.
Focusing on these facts ... will only produce fear!

But ...
Taking hold of and focusing on what can change what's wrong!
Taking hold of and focusing on what your situation could be!
Focusing on what God says your situation should be!

*While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.
--- 2 Cor 4:18*

Focusing and acting on God's Word that can change your situation.
Focusing on the Truth of what your situation should be,
... will produce faith ... will drive away fear,
... will change a fact that should not be,
... into a truth, an answer, a blessing and a provision ... in your life!

How do you do that?
You agree with what God says in His Word ... about your life!
To the sick God says ... "You are healed!" (1Pet. 2:24)
To the needy God says ... "I will meet your needs!" (Phil. 4:19)
To the fearful God says ... "I have given you a spirit of power!" (2 Tim. 1:7)
And to all of us God says,

*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.
--- Isa 55:11*

No matter what the facts may look like ... we don't live by them,
for they are subject to change!
We live by God's promises, His truth ... and by His Word!

*For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written,
The just shall live by faith. --- Rom 1:17*

... Read ...
Psalm 103

Faith comes!

Faith comes!

*So then **faith cometh by hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.*

--- Rom 10:17

What does it mean when the Bible says,
"faith comes by hearing ... the word of God!"

Of course it means to read the Bible ... God's Word!

But,

simply just reading the Bible does not necessarily produce faith,
because many, many people read the Bible regularly,
yet God's promises don't seem to be manifest in their lives!

So ...

How does faith come by spending time in God's Word?

Faith does not come by just reading God's Word,
but ...

Faith comes ... as you respond to God's Word,

Faith comes ... as you accept God's Word as true,

Faith comes ... as you receive God's Word and act upon it,

*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God
must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

--- Heb 11:6

It means to make place for God ... in your life!
It means to allow God to do in your life what you cannot do!
It means to allow God to do in your life what you cannot do!
It means that God's Word becomes alive ... in your life!
so that ...

As you read God's Word, and read one of His promises,
your response to that promise is,

"God means to have this happen in my life!"

That is the way you must go to God and to His Word!

That is the way faith comes by "hearing" His Word!

Faith comes by,

hearing, receiving, accepting and acting upon ... God's Word!

Make space for God!

Make place for God and His promises ... in your life!

For,

as you allow God, His Word and His ways into your life,

His Promises and provisions come with Him,

as well as the faith to receive His blessings,

for Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith! (Heb. 12:2)

*Now the just shall live by faith:
but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*

--- Heb 10:38

You've got what it takes!

Be of good cheer!

When you are under pressure,
faced with all kinds of problems,
everything seems to be going wrong,
and you don't know what to do!

Know this,

You've got what it takes!

Jesus not only told us there would be problems & pressure,
but He overcame them for us,

*In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;
I have overcome the world. --- John 16:33*

Not only did Jesus overcome problems and pressure,
but,
... He gave us what it takes to be overcomers!

He gave us what it takes to stand against those attacks!
He gave us what it takes to beat the problems and pressure,
and the tribulations in our lives!

Peter, speaking to everyone who is faced with life's challenges, said,

*... to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through
the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:*

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you
*through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,
According as his divine power hath given unto us all things
that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge
of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

*Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises:
--- 2 Pet 1:1-4*

Yes!

You have the faith you need!

Grace and peace have been multiplied to you!

His divine power gives you all you need for life and godliness!

You have been given great and precious promises!

... and ...

In Jesus you can overcome all that comes against you!

Receive the fullness of what is yours ... from God!

Receive those precious promises you have ... in Jesus!

And,

Realize what power has been released in you ... by the Holy Spirit!

And yes,

You have got what it takes!

... Read ...

2 Peter 1:1-11

2 Cor. 9:8

A Lie is a Lie!

Lie not!

Ever wondered why lying is so bad?
Ever wondered why God is so against lying?
Ever wondered why God says to Christians,

*Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;
--- Col 3:9*

*Lord, I was only trying not to hurt them!
Lord, no one was hurt because of that little white lie!*

But God says that lying is at the root of all sin.
It started with satan in the Garden of Eden ... (Gen. 3:1)
God said it to Adam ... and says to us,

***Death and life are in the power of the tongue:
and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.
--- Prov 18:21***

... Our words bind or loose us!
... Our words condemn us or set us free!
... With our words we shape our lives!
And,
... if you don't speak the truth, you also won't live the Truth!

*If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar:
for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen,
how can he love God whom he hath not seen?
--- 1 Jn 4:20*

If you are not truthful with the people around you,
are you truthful when you speak to God?
Did you mean it when you said to God ... "please forgive me I did not mean that!"
Did you mean it when you said to God ... "please forgive me I won't do that again!"
If your neighbor or brother can't believe you, then neither can God!

*Verily I say unto you, **Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven:**
and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
Again I say unto you, That **if two of you shall agree on earth** as touching any thing
that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.
--- Matt 18:18-19*

v.18 says that ... you are bound by what you say,
... therefore if you lie, you are bound by your lie!
v.19 says that ... if two agree, God will respond to that,
... can your brother or God really believe you?

The truth is the truth ... and a lie is a lie!
The truth gives life ... and a lie leads to death!

... Read ...
*Rev. 2:19
Rev. 13:10*

Who should God listen to?

I asked, but God didn't answer!

Having a wet party ... again?
You planned a garden party, a barbecue around the pool,
and as the day approached, the weather turned bad,
you got together with your friends,
prayed, agreed and asked God for good weather,
but lo and behold,
another wet party!

I thought God supplies all our needs?
Why did God not answer that prayer?

Well, did you consider the possibility that someone else also prayed?
Did you consider that maybe your neighbor prayed for rain!
it could be that he planted grass and trees, then asked God for rain!
Which prayer should God answer?

Is the answer to invite all your neighbors to your parties?
No! of course not!
How then should you pray so that God will or can answer?

*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that,
if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:
--- 1 Jn 5:14*

Firstly,
If you want God to answer your prayers,
then you must pray according to His will!
Now that would seem easy
but,
How do you find God's will about things not written in the Bible?
How are you going to find God's will for a party?
Simple,

Whatever you plan ... plan it with God

*A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.
--- Prov 16:9*

If you make plans and afterwards ask God to bless them,
then you are likely to have a wet party!
But ...
If you **make God part of your plans**, and,
If you ask God to bless the planning and not the party!
Then,
your plan and your party will be blessed!

*In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
--- Prov 3:6*

... Read ...
Prov 16:3

... 54 ... Authority

Shut off that noise!

Shut off that noise!

Are thoughts of guilt, fear, despair or hopelessness,
running around in your mind?
Are accusations, condemnation, blame and guilt,
attacking your mind?
Are doubt and uncertainty filling your mind?
Are you tired of the devil lying to you?
Are you tired of the devil making a noise in your head?
If you are ... and you should be!
Then it is time to shut off that noise!

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary **the devil, as a roaring lion,**
walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: --- 1 Pet 5:8*

He is a **mouse with a microphone** making a lot of noise,
...and he has only one weapon ... his lying noisy mouth!
But ... do you know,
You have the same weapon!
... except that your words spoken in faith,
... have all of heaven backing them up!

*And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God: --- Eph 6:17*

So put on your heavenly earphones and take your spiritual sword,
and start speaking God's Word,
over your situation, and,
against the devils attacks!
But, I have tried that,
I have told the devil to go away ... but he still comes back.
I have told the devil to shut-up ... but he still makes a noise
I have shouted at the devil ... but even that did not help!
What must I do?
How do I shut him up?

Submit yourselves therefore to God.
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. --- James 4:7-8

How do you chase the devil away?
How do you make him shut-up and go?
Get God on the scene, get into His presence,
for that is the one place where the devil cannot and will not stay!
How do I get God in on the scene?

*But thou art holy, O **thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.** --- Ps 22:3*

God will come where His people (you & me) are praising Him.
Wanna get rid of the devil's noise?
**Turn up your praise sound level,
and blow him away!**

... Read ...

Psalm 16:11, 1 Chr. 16:27, 1 John 1:1-7

Finding nothing?

Finding nothing?

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

--- Matt 6:33

I am seeking the kingdom of God.
Yet, nothing seems to be ... being added unto me!
I am regularly going to church,
I am spending time in the Word,
I am spending time in prayer to God,
Yet, nothing seems to be ... being added unto me!

Why?

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness ...

--- Matt 6:33

Yes you are seeking the kingdom of God,
but are you also seeking His righteousness?
No! ... not your righteousness (*which is a gift from God. Rom. 5:17–18*)
His righteousness, His character and His ways!
How much of His righteousness are you seeking in your life?

*LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?
He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness,
and speaketh the truth in his heart.*

--- Ps 15:1–2

How much has the kingdom of God changed you?
How many of His ways ... have become your ways
... not ...
How many of His promises have become your promises,
... but ...

How much of His character has become your character!

*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?
Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings,
and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:*

*He is like a man which built a house, and digged deep, and laid the
foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently
upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.
But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built
an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently,
and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.*

--- Luke 6:46–49

Don't be seeking God's kingdom ... just to find His blessings,
Seek God's kingdom ... to find His righteousness and His ways!
... and all these things shall be added unto you!

Thy will be done!

Thy will be done!

Twice it is recorded that Jesus prayed to the Father,

*Thy kingdom come. **Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.***

--- Matt 6:10

Once at the beginning of His ministry,
when His disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray, and
when He was in the Garden of Gethsemane just before His crucifixion!

Now ...

If Jesus prayed ... "Thy will be done"
Should I also pray ... "Thy will be done"?

... Yes! ... Definitely!

Of course we want God's will to be done!

But ...

If we ask God to do His will in our lives,
we must also know God's will for us in the same way that Jesus did!

In fact the Bible is quite clear about that, saying,

*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that,
if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:*

--- 1 Jn 5:14

When Jesus told His disciples, and also when He Himself prayed,

*... saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me,
except I drink it, **thy will be done.***

--- Matt 26:42

Jesus knew exactly what God's will was for that situation!
Jesus knew before He came to earth that that day would come,
and His prayer was not to find out what God's will was, but,
it was to confirm God's will so that it could be done in that situation!

So ...

Do not pray for God's will to be done ... unless you know it!
And if you do not know God's will ... ask Him and ask the Holy Spirit

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth:**
for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear,
that shall he speak: and **he will shew you things to come.***

--- John 16:13

**Find out what God's will is ... in His Word and in prayer,
Then, pray His will back to Him, so that His will can be done,
in your life and in your circumstances.**

... Read ...

Joshua 1:8

Jer. 33:3

James 1:5

Honesty ... in my life!

Honesty!

If you were asked ... **“Are you honest?”**
You would think it strange and probably feel insulted!
But if God asked you that question,
It would be neither strange nor insulting ... but it would be to help you!
For with God,
honesty is not just about stealing or doing things wrong!
But,
honesty with God is more often about,
what we should be doing ... and should be doing with the right attitude!

It is so important that God wants us to check ourselves,
and He gives us the following instruction,

*Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.
And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments,
and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.
--- 1 Jn 3:21–22*

Is your heart condemning you or not?
Check and see ...
Are you keeping God’s commandments and pleasing Him?
Or, are you keeping God’s commandments, to please Him?
That simply means ...
Are you spending time with God because He said so?
or ... because there is nothing else you’d rather do?
Are you giving to others because God said so?
or ... because you want them to know Jesus the way you do?

Are you doing it out of compulsion or compassion?

How honest are you with yourself?

God is saying to us,
Be honest with yourself about the things you do or should do?
Are you looking for a reward?
or ... preparing for a blessing?

What you should be doing is,
Living God’s commandments instead of trying to do them,
looking at others through Jesus’ eyes ... with His compassion!

...

That is doing those things that are pleasing to God.
That opens the way for God to do for you ... what He has planned!

*And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments,
and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.
--- 1 Jn 3:21–22*

... Read ...
Acts 5:1–11
Psalms 37:1–6

... 58 ... Living in the Light

Forgive ... and forgiven!

For sinners only!

We have all asked God to forgive us,
not just once, but many times,
And God does forgive us,

*If we confess our sins, **he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,**
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

--- 1 Jn 1:9

Yet,
so often we don't feel as if God has forgiven us!
so often we don't feel free or released from the sin!
Although we know God says that He has forgiven us,
we just don't feel forgiven or released!

**Is it possible that we are not forgiven?
Is it possible that we are not free?**

Yes! it is ...

It started in the Garden of Eden ... (*Gen. 3:1–13*)
Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the devil.
Nobody took the blame ... nobody forgave and nobody got forgiven!
Instead of man stepping away from sin,
he got more and more involved with sin!

Jesus explained that to His disciples, saying to them,

*Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them;
and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.*

--- John 20:23

... and Jesus warned all of us, saying,

*And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any:
that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.*

--- Mark 11:25

Unforgiveness ... keeps you in a sin syndrome ...

And although God has forgiven you ... you are not free,
because you are retaining the sin of others,
and thereby binding yourself!

*Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.
Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: **condemn not,**
and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:
Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure ...*

--- Luke 6:36–38

Forgive and you will be forgiven ... and FREE!

... Read ...

Matt. 22:37–39

1John 4:20–21

A Question of Honor!

A question of honor!

No one wants to be the under-dog.
We would much rather receive honour.

Yet,
Jesus says to us,

*But I say unto you, That ye **resist not evil:**
but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek,
turn to him the other also. --- Matt 5:39*

Should we just let someone attack us, even harm us,
without even attempting to defend ourselves?

Does Jesus want us to be the underdog?
It doesn't seem right, does it?

Does Jesus really mean that?

No! ...

Jesus is not expecting us to be the underdog,
but He is also not expecting us to react like the world does!

What Jesus is saying, is ...
When someone comes against you with lies and deceit,
looking for a fight and causing strife.

Don't react to the devils strife, and get into a fight
but act on God's principles and respond in love!

***It is an honour for a man to cease from strife:**
but every fool will be meddling. --- Prov 20:3*

The world will tell you that to fight back is honourable,
But God says no! ... for true honour is to,

***Submit yourselves therefore to God.** --- James 4:7
Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God,
that he may exalt you in due time: --- 1 Pet 5:6*

Submit yourself to God and to His ways.
Let God's principles be your standard,
and let His love be your weapon.
Do things God 's way, the way of love!
Don't you fight for your honour,
let God fight for your honour,
and let Him be the One who honours you.

That is how you oppose wrong, that is how you,

***Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**
--- James 4:7*

It is a question of honour ... true honour!

... Read ...
1 John 4:7-11

A good decision or a God decision?

Needing to make a decision?

We all have to make decisions, all the time!
And making the right decision ... is most important!
A decision is not just about what you say or do today!
Because ...
Your decision determines your direction, and,
Your direction determines your destiny!

You have to make the decision ... not God,

A man's heart deviseth his way ...

--- Prov 16:9

But your decision had better be a God decision!
Therefore God gave us the Holy Spirit to guide us,
... and to ... "Show us things to come!" (*John 16:13*)
... so that we can make the right decisions!

Yet there will always be an element of faith involved,

*But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*
--- Heb. 11:6

For God to be involved in our decisions ... faith has to be involved as well!

But ...

How do I make a God decision ... in faith?

Firstly ...

God says to us ... "**Ask for wisdom!**" (*James 1:5*)
and He will give you the wisdom to make the right decision!

Then ...

It is up to you to step out in faith ... on that decision!

What if you did that, yet your decision was not the right one?
... maybe you listened ... but not well enough,

A man's heart deviseth his way: ... but the LORD directeth his steps.

--- Prov 16:9

If you step out in faith ... on that decision,
... trusting God to direct your steps!
Then even if your decision was not the best,
God will direct you ... into His best!

The way is God's,
but the decision is yours ... in faith!

***The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD:
and he delighteth in his way.***

--- Ps 37:23

New on the inside!

New on the inside!

God's kingdom is more than knowing about God,
... it is about God Himself!
... it is about God in you!

When we accept Jesus into our lives ... something happens,

*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:
old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
--- 2 Cor 5:17*

God put of Himself in us when He created us (*Gen. 2:7*)
God restored what Adam lost when we accepted Jesus as Lord (*2 Cor.5:17*)
and put His life, His characteristics, His ways ... back in us!

But it is up to us to respond to that,
God will not make us change,
We have to live out what God has put in us,
As Jesus said,

*Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit;
so shall ye be my disciples.
--- John 15:8*

God did not put new life into us ... just for it to lay dormant in us.
You know what happens to things that lie dormant ... don't you!

No! God put new life into us for it to grow,
and to affect the lives of those around us!

Jesus wants us to bear fruit,
the fruit of the new life that is in us, His life!

**Jesus wants ...
His characteristics and His ways ... to become our ways!**

How?
By letting the love that He shed abroad in our hearts,
flowing to others and touch the lives of others,
... through us!
(*Rom. 5:5*)

That is fruit,
That is life,
that reveals Jesus in our lives ... to others!
And,
that glorifies God ... in our lives!

... Read ...
John 15:4-5
2 Pet. 1:3

... 62 ... Authority

Have you dared to asked?

Dare to ask!

If there is one thing that is sure,
... ye have not, because ye ask not.
--- James 4:2

Have you dared to ask of God?

May sound easy,
Yet it is something that many people have a problem with.
As my daughter said to me the other day,
God knows everything ... Why must I ask Him when He already knows?
A good question with an equally good answer!
God created us special,

*What is man, that thou art mindful of him?
and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
For thou hast made him a little lower than God (Elohim),
and hast crowned him with glory and honour.
Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands;
thou hast put all things under his feet:*
--- Psalm 8:4-6

God put us in a place of authority ... and told us to use that authority,

*... I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing:
therefore choose life ... --- Deut 30:19*

**God made us special with a right that none other in creation has,
... the right to choose.**

So whether we have is up to us ... it is our choice, not God's,
God blessed us and gave us dominion ... we have it all! (*Gen. 1:28*)
All we have to do is ... make a choice,
and exercise our right by asking and expecting of God!

But how will you know what to ask?

How will you know God hears you?

*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that,
if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:
And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask,
we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*
--- 1 Jn 5:14

It is not a guessing game,
God has told us exactly what He has for us!
Life & blessings, Healing, Deliverance, Peace, Joy, Restoration, etc.
The choice is yours ... what do you want?

... Read ...

*Luke 4:18-19
John 8:36, John 10:10, John 14:27
1 Pet.2:24
Gal. 5:22*

Pressure or Prayer?

Need a breakthrough?

Have you got a problem in a relationship ... that has to change?
Have you got family or a friend ... who needs to get to know the Lord?
Have you been talking, preaching and pushing all you can,
but the situation just is not changing?

How much more will it take to get their attention?

How much more pressure must you put on to get through to them?

None!

But what then should you be doing?
What you should have done long ago, is
Stop the pressure ... Start the prayer!

*... The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.
--- James 5:16*

Pressure is the world's way of getting results!
Pressure is the devil's way of trying to get change!
Pressure is applied from the outside ... and only causes damage!
God works on the inside ... in the heart,
and responds to our requests.

As He did in David when David needed to change,

*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
--- Ps 51:10*

For something to start ... there needs to be a connection!
For something to change ... there needs to be a softening!
For something to happen ... there needs to be a receiving!

And unless you make it possible for God to work from the inside,
... through prayer.

And unless you protect them from pressure from the outside,
... with prayer.

There will be no change ... there will be no breakthrough!

*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,
and watching thereunto with all perseverance
and supplication for all saints;
--- Eph 6:18*

Want to see people or situations change?

Lift them up to God ... in prayer!
And,
protect them from the devil ... with prayer!

Don't put on pressure ... Put on prayer!

... Read ...
Phil. 1:3-6

... 64 ... Victorious Living

Whose report!

Received some bad news?

Have you received some bad news?
Lost some money? Lost your job?
Has some of your things got stolen?
Is your body sending you some negative signals?
Flu, pain or worse ... the doctor gave you a bad report?

Like reading the newspaper or watching the news on television,
... **you have a choice!**
Keep on reading, keep on listening ... or turn it off!

Are you going to keep listening to that report?
Are you going to believe what you see, hear or what you feel?

Adam and Eve were faced with a similar choice,

*But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden,
**God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it,
neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.**
And **the serpent said** unto the woman, **Ye shall not surely die:**
--- Gen 3:3-4*

Whose word or whose report was true? ... God's or satan's?
???

We also have the same choice set before us,
... as Jesus said,

**The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:
I am come that they might have life,
and that they might have it more abundantly.**
--- John 10:10

Jesus' disciples made a choice,

*Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go?
thou hast the words of eternal life.
--- John 6:68*

What will you choose, and whom will you believe.
Whose report will you believe?

*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth,
to shew himself strong in the behalf of them
whose heart is perfect toward him.
--- 2 Chr 16:9*

... Read ...
Gen. 2:15-17
Gen. 3:1-7
Isa 53:1

God's counsel costs!

Paying for advice?

But ... I thought that God's counsel is FREE?

No! ... It is not free!

... God's counsel costs!

So ... before you ask God for advice,

...make sure you are willing to pay the price!

But wait now,

... God didn't say anything about paying when He said,

*Call unto me, and I will answer thee,
and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.*

--- Jer 33:3

*Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise
the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:*

--- Heb 6:17

Nobody said anything about God's counsel costing money!

Money cannot buy God's counsel or advice.

It is much more valuable than money can pay!

God said,

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

--- Isa 1:19

Are you willing to pay the price?

Are you willing to put Pride and Self aside ... and hear what God IS saying?

Are you willing to put Pride and Self aside ... and hear God's instruction to you?

Are you willing to obey God's Word?

Are you willing to hear AND to do what God says to do?

Are you willing to heed God's counsel and act upon it ... no matter what?

Are you willing to step out in Trust?

Are you willing to trust God's Word and act upon it without question?

Are you willing to step out in faith, faith that God will do as He promised?

Are you willing to trust God and act on His Word!

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

*Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands,
ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*

*Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning,
and your joy to heaviness.*

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

--- James 4:7-10

It costs ...

Willingness and Obedience, setting aside, Self and Pride

The benefits of God's counsel,
no amount of money can buy!

... 66 ... *Spiritual Warfare*

Stand fast in Liberty.

Stand your ground!

Like it or not ... the devil is going to attack us,
therefore God tells us to,

*Put on the whole armour of God,
that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
--- Eph 6:11*

Yet God did not just say ... *"put on My armour"*
God said ... *"take the whole armour!"*
... *"and no matter how great the attack ... do all and stand!"*

*Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be
able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
--- Eph 6:13*

But ... God did not give us His whole armour,
... just so we'd have a choice of weapon we could fight with.
No!

God gave us His whole armour so we can defeat the devil!

*(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal,
but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)
--- 2 Cor 10:4*

Why is the devil coming against us?

He is coming against us to try to defeat us and to try stop us!
Therefore God says to us,

***"Don't (just) resist the attack ... pull down that stronghold,
overcome the opposition ... move forward and establish your position!"***

*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free,
and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.
--- Gal 5:1*

In John 16:33 ... Jesus said ... *"I have overcome!"*
In Matthew 28:18–20 ... Jesus said ... *"Go therefore ... I am with you!"*

We are not sent just to stand,
We are sent to take the land!
We don't just stand against the devil's attacks,
We pull down those strongholds ... and send the devil packing!
Therefore,

Put on the whole armour of God, and,

*Submit yourselves therefore to God.
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
--- James 4:7*

In God, we don't just resist the devil's attacks,
We stand our ground ... and take the land!

... Read ...
Eph. 6:10–18

Are you happy with life?

Dissatisfied with life?

Are you happy with life, with your situation?
Are you happy with what is coming your way?
No?

Great...!

Because if you are not happy ... then things can change!

But how do you change things?

Well how did you get what you have today?

It is a result of what you planned and planted ... yesterday!

*Be not deceived; God is not mocked:
for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
--- Gal 6:7*

Ask any farmer and he will tell you straight,
you live and reap today,
what you planned and planted yesterday and the days before!

How do you change your situation around?

Start planning and planting today ... what you want to live and have tomorrow!

But remember ... it is not up to God, it is up to you,
for you are the only one who can change your situation!

*I call heaven and earth to record this day against you,
that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing:
therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:
--- Deut 30:19*

You choose and you reap ... the result of your choice, and your sowing!

I am trusting God to change things in my life!
Great! ... but unless you also do what God says,
you will never receive His change in your life!

So ... how do I receive from God?

Don't make a list of the things that are wrong!
But,

make a list of the things that you want,
a list of how your life should be,
liberally apply God's promises to it,

then Plant and Sow what God can make Grow!

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
--- Heb 11:1*

If you plant and sow out of God's Word and His promises,
then the Bible says to you,

*Be not deceived; God is not mocked:
for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
--- Gal 6:7*

Does God remember everything?

Can God forget?

Well I thought that God remembers everything!
I mean, He is God Almighty, the creator of heaven and earth, isn't He?
Sure He is!
And I thought that God knows everything, even before we ask of Him?
Yes He does!
As God says in Hosea,

*And they consider not in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness:
now their own doings have beset them about; they are before my face. --- Hosea 7:2*

No one said that God cannot remember everything,
of course He can,
but, does God really remember everything?
No!
Is it possible that God does not remember everything?
Yes!
And He is particular as to what He remembers or forgets,

*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness,
and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. --- Heb 8:12*

That's God's grace!

Praise God!
God does not want to remember our sins and our iniquities!
God does not in any way hold our mistakes against us!
Not only that, but God promises us that,

*As far as the east is from the west,
so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. --- Ps 103:12*

But what is it that God DOES NOT forget?

*And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you
and every living creature of all flesh; --- Gen 9:15*

God does not forget the Covenant He has made with man,
with Adam, with Noah, with Abraham, with Moses, with David,
and with us through Jesus,
His promises of blessings, favor, protection and prosperity!

Praise God that He does not remember our mistakes!
For,
all we have to do is to ask Him to forgive us.
Then,
all our mistakes, failures and sins ... are forgotten ... forever!

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. --- Ps 23:6*

Praise God for,
... His Goodness ... His Mercy ... and His Grace!

... Read ...

Jeremiah 31:34, Heb. 10:15-17

What are you doing with God's gifts?

Showered with gifts!

*Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high,
he led captivity captive, **and gave gifts unto men.***

--- Eph 4:8

Jesus did not only give us the Gift of Life.

No! ... we have been showered with gifts.

The gift of the Holy Spirit ... Righteousness ... Spiritual gifts ... etc.

Wonderful gifts, gifts that God wants us to desire to have,

But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

--- 1 Cor 12:31

A more excellent way?

... Yes! ... love! (give)

God did not give us gifts to keep to ourselves or put on a business card,

They are for God's calling card ... not yours!

For ... they are powerful gifts that God wants us to use!

And God wants us to use the gifts for the benefit of others! (1 Cor. 13)

What are you doing with those gifts?

Does anybody else except you know that you have gifts?

God wants to use you ... God wants to promote you!

But are you and the gifts He gave you available to Him?

What have you done with God's gifts?

*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth,
to shew himself strong in the behalf of them **whose heart is perfect toward him.***

--- 2 Chr 16:9

God is looking your way ... what is He seeing?

Is He seeing someone who is ready and available to Him?

Is He seeing someone whose heart is perfect or loyal towards Him?

Is He seeing someone with a life full of gifts ... ready to share?

No, it is not whether you are good enough or capable enough,

that is why God gave us gifts,

so that He can do through us what we cannot do on our own!

All you have to be is ... available!

All you have to do is ... desire to be used!

All you have to have is ... a heart that is loyal to God!

And He will do the rest!

*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all
that we ask or think, **according to the power that worketh in us,***

--- Eph 3:20

Receive those powerful gifts from God,
and let Him use them through you!

... Read ...

1 Cor. 12:1-11, 1 Cor. 13:1-8

... 70 ... God's Word

Are you spending time in the Word without any benefit?

A **waste** of time?

God says spending time in the Word ... should benefit you,

*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth;
but thou shalt meditate therein day and night,
that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein:
for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous,
and then thou shalt have good success. --- Joshua 1:8*

But ...

IF you are reading the Bible just because the Bible tells you so,
then you are wasting your time!
IF you are reading the Bible just because of the wonderful promises in it,
... then you are wasting your time!
Unless you start doing what it says,

*For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer,
he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:
For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way,
and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.
But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein,
he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work,
this man shall be blessed in his deed. --- James 1:23–25*

How do you become a doer of the Word?
By doing what we are taught in Hebrews 11:6,
Meditate or spend time in the Word,
then go to God according to His Word.
Observing what is written in the Word,
and receive from God through His Word!

When ... **you read** in 1 Pet.2:24 ... by Jesus' stripes you are healed,
Then ... **you must** accept this word as true and receive it by proclaiming,
By Jesus' stripes I AM healed!

When ... **you read** in Deut.28:1–13 ... your life shall be blessed ,
Then ... **you must** accept this as true and receive it by confessing it over your life!
I AM blessed coming in and going out, because God said so!

When ... **you read** in John 8:36 ... whom the son makes free is free indeed,
Then ... **you must** accept it as true and receive it by acting free and proclaiming,
the devil cannot mess in my life anymore ... because Jesus set me FREE!

There are a multitude of promises and blessings to be found in the Bible,
but ... don't just read them,
accept them as true in your life and receive them by acting on them!

be not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work,--- James 1:23–25,

Then you shall be blessed in your deeds ... and not waste your time!

... Read ...

Deut. 28:1–13

Hebrews 11, James 1

Let God take you over!

Take your eyes off of the mountain!

We all have challenges before us ... mountains to cross!

Sometimes the challenge seems just too big,
and tomorrow just too daunting!

What can I do?

How will I cross that mountain?

Start by taking your eyes off of the mountain!

It always looks bigger than it really is!

But what about tomorrow ... it's upon me!

Well,

... there is nothing you can do to stop tomorrow,

but what you do today ... can change tomorrow!

... for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

--- Gal 6:7

Act today ... on what you need tomorrow!

Sure ... but I still have that mountain to cross!

and the closer I get the bigger it gets.

Like I said ... take your eyes off of the mountain,

and take the step you can take right now!

Put your eyes on the step you can take,

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD:

and he delighteth in his way.

Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down:

for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

I have been young, and now am old; yet

have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

--- Ps 37:23–25

Let your first step be to put your steps in God's hands!

Let God order your steps and let Him uphold you!

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

--- Prov 3:6

*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally,
and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

--- James 1:5

Then step out and take that step right in front of you,
trusting in God for wisdom and direction.

Never mind the mountain ... make that God's concern,

you take the step in front of you,

and the next ... and the next,

until you are over ...

***Reaping tomorrow ... on the other side of the mountain,
the harvest of what you have sown today!***

... 72 ... Glory

God's Glory!

Fill the earth!

When God created man, it was for a very definite purpose.
God is love ... and therefore He wanted to share what is His,
His life ... His kingdom ... His image ... His likeness ... and His glory!
with His man (us),
and when He had finished creation ...

*And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply,
(replenish) **fill the earth**, and subdue it: and have dominion ...*
--- Gen 1:28

God had a wonderful plan, and God's finished creation showed it,

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.
--- Gen 1:31

Regrettably, man missed the whole plan,
and instead of doing what God said ... man considered himself only,
God said ... *"Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it!"*
Man thought ... *"have babies, increase the family and rule the people!"*
Sounds good ... but it is not at all what God meant!
God made man special ... like Himself,
and it is what God put in and on man ... that God was talking about!
Be fruitful ... bear fruit that others can benefit from!
and multiply ... more of yourself for God to fellowship with!
fill the earth ... with what God has filled you with!
and subdue ... take authority over what is wrong on the earth!

Man not only missed what God said ... but man missed God's heart!
so God again repeated it to man,

*What is man, that thou art mindful of him?
and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
For thou hast made him a little lower than God (Elohim),
and hast crowned him with glory and honour.*
--- Psalm 8:4-5

God did not just want the earth full of people,
but God wants the earth full of what He put into and onto man,
His Life and His Glory.

God has not changed ... He still wants that to happen,
and Jesus is waiting for it to happen so that He can return,

***That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle,
or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.***
--- Eph 5:27

**God made us special, crowned us with glory and honour,
and is waiting for us to fill the earth with His GLORY!**

So that He can come back for His man!

Miracle faith?

Need a miracle?

Is God a Miracle God?

The Bible tells us that,

*To another the **working of miracles**; --- 1 Cor 12:10*

yet the Bible also says,

*Now **faith is the substance** of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

--- Heb 11:1

So ... is God a Miracle God ... yes or no?

The answer is NO!

But I thought that God was a miracle working God?

Sure God works miracles, there is no question about that.

But ... **God is a FAITH God, not a miracle God!**

...

If God is a Faith God and not a miracle God,
then why does God work miracles?

*And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets,
thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps,
governments, diversities of tongues. --- 1 Cor 12:28*

God is a God of faith who does miracles to help us when we lack faith!

In 1 Cor. 12 the Bible teaches us all about spiritual gifts,

Gifts that the Holy Spirit works through us to help where we lack,

And in 1 Cor 12:28 God puts miracles in perspective for us,

saying,

"To help the church, to help man learn and become an overcomer,

I have given you, first apostles, then prophets, thirdly teachers,

*And after that, to help when faith still lacks,
miracles and gifts of healings and helps"*

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith:

*as it is written, **The just shall live by faith.** --- Rom 1:17*

God wants us to live by faith ... not by miracles,

but where we lack, God is God and will work a miracle ... just for us!

Yet God says to us,

But without faith it is impossible to please him:

*for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

--- Heb 11:6

We must believe that He can and will do as He promised,

And He will,

even if at times ... it requires a miracle!

... Read ...

Heb. 11

1 Cor. 12

... 74 ... Spirit Filled Living

What has God prepared for you?

God's provision!

Why does it sometimes seem so difficult to hear what God is saying?
Why is it sometimes so difficult to know God's plans?
As the Bible says,

*But as it is written, **Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard,**
neither have entered into the heart of man,
the **things which God hath prepared for them that love him.**
--- 1 Cor 2:9*

Why?

Because we are looking in the wrong place!

*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God:
for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them,
because they are spiritually discerned.
--- 1 Cor 2:14*

If you want to have God's wisdom,
If you want to hear what God is saying,
If you want to know what God has planned,
then,
you are going to have to go to where God can reveal that to you!
But,
where is that place where God can reveal what He has prepared?

***But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit:**
for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.
--- 1 Cor 2:10*

That place is in the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit that Jesus promised us (*John 16:7*)
The Holy Spirit that the Father gave us,

*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God;
that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.
--- 1 Cor 2:12*

God made sure that we could know the things that He has prepared for us!
But,
it is up to us to look for the things of God,
in the Spirit and not in the natural.

That's why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit,
to teach us, to guide us and to lead us into all the truth!
And ...

***It is as we draw near to God ... in the Spirit,
that we hear His voice!***

... Read ...

John 14:26

John 16:13

Guard yourself!

Be on your guard!

As children of God ... the Bible tells us that we should,
keep ourselves ... guard or protect ourselves!

*We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; **but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.** And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.
--- 1 Jn 5:18–19*

God is warning you that the wicked one will come against you,
with lies, deceit, pressure, fear, sickness and lack!
But if you guard yourself ... the wicked one cannot touch you!
So,
if you have been under attack,
then it is time to start guarding yourself,
then it is time to build a protective barrier around yourself!

*... that ye may be able to stand **against the wiles of the devil.**
--- Eph 6:11*

How can you protect or keep yourself from the wiles (trickery) of the devil?
How can you build a protective barrier around yourself?

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.
Put on the whole armour of God,
that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities
against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world,
against spiritual wickedness in high places.
Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God,
that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day,
and having done all, to stand. --- Eph 6:10–13*

Put on My armor (My protective covering) says God ...

*Gird yourself with the truth ...
Put on your breastplate of righteousness ...
Pick up your shield of faith ...
Put on the helmet of salvation ...
Take up the sword of the Spirit ...
And surround yourself with prayer ...
So that,
... when you are attacked, you are protected!*

How do you keep or guard yourself?

You let God and all that He has provided ... into your life!

You ...

take hold of what God has provided, His Word and His promises!
you surround or cover yourself with His promises and His blessings!
So that what God has provided to protect you ... can protect you!

... Read ...

*Eph. 6
Psalm 91*

... 76 ... Authority

Become violent, and join the resistance movement!

Join the resistance movement!

Jesus made this statement,

*And from the days of John the Baptist until now
the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.
--- Matt 11:12*

The devil is attacking the kingdom of God ... us!
He wants to stop the kingdom of God from taking the land,
and he not only will ... but he does do everything he can to stop us,
using any form of violence ... physical, mental and spiritual,
against our bodies, our minds and our spirits!

*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:
--- John 10:10*

Who is going to stop him?
Jesus said ... it is up to us to stop him!
it is up to us to stop him from stealing, killing and destroying!
it is up to us to use force against the devil and take back what is ours!

How are we going to do that!
How can we effectively resist the devil and stop what he is doing?
Get to where the power is!

*Submit yourselves therefore to God.
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
--- James 4:7*

Get under God's authority ... under His shadow (*Psalm 91*)
Pick up your armour ... and start using it! (*Eph. 6:13-18*)
Put Jesus in control in your life,
in Him you have authority (*Matt. 28:18-19*)

*And these signs shall follow them that believe;
In my name shall they cast out devils; ...
--- Mark 16:17*

Start using the authority you have in Jesus!
Start standing your ground and taking the land!
Yes,
*the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence,
but,
the violent take it by force.*

So ... join the resistance movement,

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

***Submitted to the Father,
In the authority of Jesus,
And in the power of the Holy Spirit!***

Is Jesus really ... your Shepherd?

Is He really?

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for **thou art with me;**
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.
--- Psalm 23:1-6

A wonderful promise,
... to each of us!

But,

**whether or not Jesus is your Shepherd,
is up to you ... and not up to Him!**

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:
--- John 10:27

Jesus is leading ... *are you following?*
Jesus is speaking ... *are you listening?*

Does Jesus know you ... as one of His sheep?

*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock:
if any man hear my voice, and open the door,
I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*
--- Rev 3:20

Jesus is standing at the door of your heart,
Jesus is calling out to you ... *to open up your life to Him,*
Jesus wants to come into your life ... *to be your Shepherd,*
Jesus wants to come into your life ... *to provide for your needs,*
Jesus wants to come into your life ... *to lead you beside still waters,*
Jesus wants to come into your life ... *to lead you in the path of righteousness,*
Jesus wants to prepare a table for you ... *in the presence of your enemies,*
Jesus wants to make sure ... *that your cup runs over with all that is good.*
But,
... have you let Him in ... as Lord in your life,
... for if you do,
He will come in ... with all His Goodness and Mercy!

If the Lord is your Shepherd ... you shall not want!

Let Him in ... and make Him Lord!

... Read ...
Psalm 91

... 78 ... Obedience

Are you confident towards God?

Pleasing Him!

*Beloved, if our heart condemn us not,
then have we confidence toward God.
And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him,
because we keep his commandments,
and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.
--- 1 Jn 3:21–22*

Are you confident towards God?
You can be ... and you should be!

God wants you to be confident towards Him!

*"I do my best to keep His Commandments, and,
I try to do those things that are pleasing in His sight!
Things like ... loving my neighbour and giving where I can!
But,
I'm not sure whether I have confidence towards God?
It often seems as if something is in the way!"*

Is there something that will stop you from having confidence towards God?

Yes! ... there is,
Sin and Sin consciousness!

How do you stop that?
By getting closer to God.

*We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is
begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.
--- 1 Jn 5:18*

Closer to God means ... further away from the devil!
Closer to God means further from sin and sin consciousness!

So ...

How do you get closer to God?

by starting to do the things God wants you to do,
and start obeying Him from the heart, and not from the mind!

*He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me:
and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father,
and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.
--- John 14:21*

It is not about trying to stop sinning.
But about getting closer to God ... and doing things His way!

**It is about being in that place where sin has no place,
that place of confidence ... in God's presence!**

... Read ...

John 15:1–11

1 John 1:9

Psalms 91

I will never trust anyone again!

Who can I trust?

Have you been lied to ... by a friend?
Have you been let down ... by someone close to you?
Yes?

That has happened to most everyone!
And our response normally is.

"I will never believe or trust anyone ... ever again!"

That may well be how you feel ... but it is not going to help you at all,
because, like it or not,
you are in this world amongst your brothers and sisters!

So ...

"How can I handle this situation?

How will I know what is the truth and what not?"

Do what God says to do,

***If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God,
that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
--- James 1:5***

Most everything around us ... is not the way it seems to be,
and therefore, many people say things without knowing the real facts,
... and not only that,
the devil will try to get people to lie ... willingly or unwillingly!
Therefore the Bible says to us,

***For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?
even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.
Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God;
that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.
Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth,
but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.
--- 1 Cor 2:11–13***

We may not know what is in the heart and mind of another,
... but the Holy Spirit does!

We may not have all the facts ... or know the truth,
... but the Holy Spirit does!

Therefore ...

God has given us the Holy Spirit,
to guide us into ALL truth and to show us things to come,
(John 16:13)

So ...

Put your trust in God and rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance,
then when people don't do what is right,
they won't let you down ... because you trust God,
and you will know the truth ... with the Holy Spirit as your guide!

Therefore ...

Don't put pressure on people, to get to the truth ... get it from God.
Put pressure on the devil, he's the father of lies,
**and you will be free to help others,
see the truth!**

Take a step of faith!

Take a step!

Faith is really not a mystery,
although many people seem to think that it is!
No!

Faith is simply acting on what you believe!
or acting on what you put your trust in!

Of course ...

If you want anything good to happen to you!
Then ...

You must put your trust in God and His Word!
And ...

For God's promises and provisions ... to manifest in your life,
You must act on that trust that you have in God's Word!

*For as the body without the spirit is dead,
so faith without works is dead also.*

--- James 2:26

Yes! ... You must do something!

You have to step out in trust (faith) ... believing that God's Word is true!
You have to step out in faith ... believing that God's Word will work,
... for You!

*But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

--- Heb 11:6

... So ...

That God is the answer to whatever situation there is,
... must be real to You!

That God is the answer to whatever problem YOU have,
... must be real to You!

That God can do what He said in His Word He can do for You,
... must be real to You!

Therefore...

for God's promises to become real in your life,
YOU have to put your trust (faith) in what God has said!
And ...

YOU have to step out in faith ... trusting that His promises are for you!

... So ...

If you feel sick, but God's Word says you are healed ... (1 Pet.2:24)
... what are you going to confess? ... sickness or healing?

If you are under pressure, but Jesus says He has overcome ... (John 16:33)
... what are you going to allow in your life? ... pressure or victory?

The first step to faith is a change in your attitude,
... small as it may seem,
... it will have life changing results ... in your life!

Are you willing to take that first step ... trusting God!
... by taking a step of Faith!

Blows your mind away!

Too much to think!

Living a victorious Christian life,
Living that new life in Christ ... is exciting!

Having made the choice to go God's way,
Having made the decision to follow Jesus,
... the possibilities are endless!
Just think of it,

*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding
abundantly above all that we ask or think,
according to the power that worketh in us,
--- Eph 3:20*

Simply blows the mind ... doesn't it!

What a God!

What a promise!

What possibilities!

God can and wants to do so much more than we even dare ask!
God can and wants to do much more than we are capable of thinking!
As Jesus said,

*... I am come that they might **have life,**
and that they might have it **more abundantly.**
--- John 10:10*

So ... what is stopping Him?

Nothing more than our ... unbelief!

... Therefore ...

Start thinking God is able!

Start thinking ... Abundant Life!

Start thinking ... God will do it for me!

"But ... it is so difficult to think that way!"

God knows that ... therefore He made sure that we could do it,

*For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him?
But we have the mind of Christ.
--- 1 Cor 2:16*

You can think God's way!

You not only have the promise ... you have the way!

Jesus is the way!

Don't worry if it blows your mind away,

... you have the mind of Christ!

So ...

Don't let the devil steal from you ... resist his lies!
Grab hold of the abundant life ... receive His promises!

... Read ...

Deut 28

John 10:10

Salvation, not vacation!

Heavenly vacation!

Praise God ... through Jesus we have salvation,
all lack, problems and pressure have been taken care of !

Really?

Actually No! ... since I have become Born Again,
the pressure has increased rather than having decreased!

But I thought Jesus said,

*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.
--- John 10:10*

Yes He did ... but Jesus also said,

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace.

In the world ye shall have tribulation:

but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

--- John 16:33

Yes, Jesus gave us Salvation ... but He did not give us a Vacation!

Yes, Jesus did come so that we could have life ... more abundantly!
and He has overcome the world for us,
but the devil is still on the loose.

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil,
as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
--- 1 Pet 5:8*

We have to take hold of that life in abundance ... in Jesus!

We have to stand against the devil and his attacks!

It is not a vacation ... but it is salvation.

Salvation in its fullest is ours ... but only as much as we take!

When God created us ... He put us in charge of the earth,
and told us to take dominion and to subdue the earth,

(Gen. 1:28, Psalm 8:4-6)

God has not changed His mind (Mal. 3:6)

and we are still supposed to take dominion on earth,

and we are still expected to subdue what comes against us!

What Jesus did was to overcome the devil,
and take back the authority on earth!

And it is in His authority ... in His name ... that we have the victory!

But, we have to take that authority in His name against the pressures, etc.

That is salvation ...

The victory is ours,

but only to the extent that we take it in Jesus' name!

But ... what about a vacation?

Vacation is the result of salvation!

Salvation in its fullest,

victory over satan's opposition in Jesus' name!

... in whom I am well pleased!

Can God say of you?

Ever wondered why God said this of Jesus,

*And lo a voice from heaven, saying,
This is my beloved Son, **in whom I am well pleased.**
--- Matt 3:17*

Study Jesus' life and ministry here on earth,
and the reason soon becomes apparent,
Jesus Himself summed it up with these words,

*Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man,
then shall ye know that I am he, and that **I do nothing of myself;
but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.**
And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone;
for **I do always those things that please him.**
--- John 8:28–29*

Of course God wants us to obey Him ... (1Sam. 5:22)
but is that what pleases God?
Jesus said ... **I do always those things that please him!**
What was it that pleased God?
... **that I do nothing of myself,
but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things!**

...
When Jesus needed something ... *He went to the Father.*
Before Jesus said anything ... *He went to the Father.*
Before Jesus did anything ... *He went to the Father.*
And whatever Jesus did ... *He relied on the Father.*

...
Jesus trusted the Father for everything He needed or did,
that's called ... FAITH!
As Paul wrote in Hebrews,

But without faith it is impossible to please him. --- Heb 11:6

Jesus did what He learnt from God's Word ... (Luke 2:46–52)
He trusted that if God said it ... it would happen!
Jesus walked in faith ... speaking and doing God's Word
That pleased God!
Do you want to please God?
... then do what Jesus said,

*And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.
--- Mark 11:22*

Trust God for everything that you say and do!

Trust God to supply every need in your life,
Jesus did and it pleased God ... and God supplied His every need!
So you will please God by having faith, that what He said, will happen!

... Read ...
*1 Cor. 1:7–9
Phil. 1:3–6*

What does God respect?

What does God respect?

Have you ever read this scripture,

*Then Peter opened his mouth, and said,
Of a truth I perceive that **God is no respecter of persons:**
--- Acts 10:34*

and wondered what exactly is it that God does respect?

To answer that we must find out what it means to God,

"to be a respecter of"

The Apostle Peter found out that God is not a respecter of persons!

What does that mean?

It simply means that,

God does not treat any person different or better than any other!

and He will do the same and give the same to everyone!

Well, you may rightly say,

that is not so!

because God seems to do things for some people,

that He does not do for some other people!

Not everyone seems to be blessed in the same way!

True ... or not true?

True! ... but it is not because God favors some above others!

Therefore,

It is obvious that God does respect something!

Yes! ... God is a respecter of something,

... **FAITH** ...

In fact the Bible says that not only does God respect faith,

*But without faith it is impossible to please him:
--- Heb 11:6*

Why is God a respecter of faith?

Why does faith please God?

Because,

faith opens the way for God to do His will in our lives!

faith opens the way for God to honor His promises in our lives!

faith opens the way for God to respond to our needs!

faith opens the way for God to bless us the way He would like to,

... **ABUNDANTLY** ...

That is why it seems as if God respects certain people!

But no! ... He does not!

God respects and responds to their faith!

... and ...

God will respect and respond to YOUR faith as well,

when you do what it takes to please Him,

*But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,
and that **he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**
--- Heb 11:6*

... **Read** ...

Deut. 28:1-14

If Jesus did it, so can you!

Jesus did it!

If Jesus had to do it !
So do you!

Jesus came to earth for two reasons ...

Firstly,

... to bring salvation by conquering sin and death!

Secondly,

... to bring abundant life and show us how to live it!

The Bible tells us,

*For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities;
but **was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.***

--- Heb 4:15

How did Jesus manage to overcome those temptations?
What example did He give us so that we can overcome?

*And when **the tempter came to him**, he said,*

*If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.
... Then saith Jesus unto him, **Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written,**
Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

--- Matt 4:3-10

How did Jesus stand against and overcome the devil's temptations?

Jesus spoke out God's Word,

Jesus used God's Word, God's promises and God's commands,
to stand against and to defeat every attack and temptation!

And,

if Jesus, the Son of God, had to do it,
so do we!

As the Apostle Paul said,

Be ye (imitators) followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

--- 1 Cor 11:1

As Paul followed Jesus' example ... so we too should follow Jesus' example!

If Jesus did it ... we should also do it!

But ...

Did Jesus not come and simply fix everything up?

Does Jesus really expect us to do what He did?

Verily, verily, I say unto you,

***He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also;**
and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

--- John 14:12

Are you a believer?

Then do it...!

... Read ...

Mark 16:15-20

... 86 ... Commitment

There is no Testimony without a Test!

Passed the test?

No one really likes to have to pass “yet another” test.
And whilst we are in a trial, it never seems easy!

Yet ...

God says this to us,

*My brethren, **count it all joy** when ye fall into divers temptations; ... **(tested, tried and put to the proof)** Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

--- James 1:2-4

Being tried and tested is not at all fun,
until,

You decide to let your test become a testimony!

*The Bible says, “count it all joy” ... in other words, you should say, “**This test is going to strengthen me ... I’m going to succeed, not only that, I’m going to be built up and my every need met!**”*

Look at the athletes, they thrive on trials and competitions!
and to win gold, **the more the pressure the better the result!**

...

But what if the pressure, trial, test or temptation seems too big to overcome?
God has taken care of that too, and says to us,

*There hath **no temptation** (test or trial) taken you **but such as is common to man:** but **God is faithful**, who will **not suffer** you to be tempted **above that ye are able;** but will **with the temptation also make a way to escape,***

that ye may be able to bear it.

--- 1 Cor 10:13

God is faithful and He will give you the victory!

As God said to the Apostle Paul,

*... My grace is sufficient for thee: for **my strength is made perfect in weakness.***

--- 2 Cor 12:9

Take up God’s challenge,
Face those tests and trials in His grace,
Let His strength carry you through your weakness,
... as Paul did.

So that you also can have this TESTimony!

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

--- 2 Tim 4:7

It’s not another test ... it’s another VICTORY!

... Read ...

Phil. 1:12-20

Heb. 12:1-2

Getting what you said!

It didn't work!

Why is it,
that negative confessions work better than positive confessions?

***Death and life are in the power of the tongue;
and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.***
--- Prov 18:21

Our negative words seem to have much more effect,
... bear much more fruit than our positive confessions!

Why?

Simple ... because we are like Job,

***For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me,
and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.***
I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came.
--- Job 3:25-26

Job put more trust in that which he feared ... than in what God said!

In other words,

Job had more faith in the negative than in the positive!
He believed that what he greatly feared ... would certainly happen!
His great fear happened ... and his little faith got its results ... *little!*

Faith and fear are basically the same.

Faith is believing God and fear is believing the devil!

Whom do you believe?

***For God hath not given us the spirit of fear;
but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.***
--- 2 Tim 1:7

Remember ... fear is a pressure, a pressure to do now, or else!

Faith is the freedom to accept and receive,
and God will never try to pressurize us into a decision,
but the devil will!

So ...

Have you been getting what you are saying?

... without a doubt!

Has what you have been getting been positive or negative?
well that depends on what you have been confessing!
and if you have been getting more negative than positive,
then stop the negative words and start speaking positively!

Know this that only,

***positive confessions based on God's word,
will get you positive results,***

and that is a promise!

***Be not deceived; God is not mocked:
for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.***
--- Gal 6:7

... 88 ... Patience

No instant answers ... It takes time to hear!

It takes time!

I asked God for help ... for I need an answer,
and nothing has happened!
How long must I wait? ... How long will it take?

*Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
But let patience have her perfect work,
that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.
--- James 1:3-4*

God is not a Mc Drive,
... and God's answers are not on the take out menu!
Jesus said,

*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.
--- Matt 11:28*

If you want an answer from God,
... you have to go to Him ... to where He is ... (*Heb. 4:16*)
His answers are not on the take out menu ... they're in His presence!
You have to go in ... you have to sit down,
you have to spend time with God!

In fact the Bible says,

Delight thyself also in the LORD;
and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him;
*and he shall bring it to pass.
--- Psalm 37:4-5*

It takes patience ... in other words ... **it takes time spent with God!**

As you commit your way to Him and let Him direct your steps.
As you spend time with God and put your trust in Him.
As you let God into your life.
As you let His will become your will,
then ...
God's answers will also become your answers!

*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that,
if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:
And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask,
we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.
--- 1 Jn 5:14*

***Let patience have her perfect work,
... by spending time with God!***

... Read ...
Isa. 1:18-19
Psalm 4:3

Christ in you, the hope of glory!

A hidden treasure!

*Even the mystery which hath been **hid from ages** and from generations. --- Col 1:26*

God had a treasure ... a priceless treasure for us,
that He wanted to make sure would be kept safe for us.
Therefore He kept it hidden as a mystery ... so that it could not be corrupted.
Yet God did not intend for the mystery to remain hidden!
But to make sure that it did not fall into the wrong hands,
God made its revelation subject to certain conditions,

*Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find;
knock, and it shall be opened unto you: --- Matt 7:7*

This does seem rather easy to do,
... but what and where should you seek?

I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. --- Prov 8:17

Yet easy as it sounds,
... in reality it is not so easy!

*Then I beheld all the work of God,
that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun:
because though a **man labour to seek it out**, yet he **shall not find it**; yea further;
though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it. --- Eccl 8:17*

It is not by man's wisdom ... but as Jesus told us,

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; --- Matt 6:33

Finally,

What is this treasure that God has kept hidden for us?
What is the secret that God has hidden for ages and generations?
What is the reality of the Kingdom of God for us, here, today?

*Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations,
but now is made manifest **to his saints**: To whom **God would make known**
what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; --- Col 1:26-27*

The secret is out ... the mystery has been solved,
the treasure has been revealed.

And God has revealed to us ... the Church,
what are the riches of the glory of this mystery,

... which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: --- Col 1:27

The manifest kingdom of God on earth ... the hope of glory,
Jesus Christ the Anointed One,
in us ... forever!

... Read ...

2 Cor. 4:6-7

John 10:10, Matt. 13:44

... 90 ... Abundant Life

Blame the one who is guilty!

It's not His Fault!

So often one hears stories from Christians,
and about Christians,
who had a misfortune, lost all they had,
got hurt, sick, landed in hospital or even died!

And ... so often God is blamed for it,
God allowed that to happen, it was God's will,
God put that sickness on them to teach them something!

**How can one blame God for misfortune, lack, sickness or death,
when ...**

*God wants to bless us, coming in and going out ... Deut. 28:1–14
God is the one Who delivers us out of all our afflictions ... Ps. 34:19
God is the One Who heals ... Ex. 15:26, Psalm 103:3
... by Jesus' stripes we were healed ... 1 Peter 2:24*

No!

Don't blame God for something He is not guilty of!

Blame the one who is guilty,

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:

*I am come that they might have life,
and that they might have it more abundantly.*

--- John 10:10

The thief ... the devil is the one who,
steals everything he can lay his hands on!
He will steal your goods, your health and your happiness,
he will try and kill you and your family,
and destroy relationships, marriages etc.

But,

Jesus came to bring life ... in abundance!

So,

Blame the devil for what he does ... not God!

And if you want to,

blame God for what He is guilty of!

Blame God for prosperity ... *John 10:10, Deut. 28:1–14*

Blame God for salvation ... *John 3:16, 2 Peter 3:9*

Blame God for health and healing ... *1 Peter 2:24*

Blame God for righteousness ... *Rom. 5:17–18*

Blame God for rebuking the devil ... *Mal. 3:11*

Blame God for glory and honor ... *Psalm 8:5*

Blame God for every good gift ... *James 1:17*

***No matter what the devil throws your way,
praise God for delivering you!***

*Many are the afflictions of the righteous:
but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.*

--- Psalm 34:19

LOVE!

... with all your heart!

When Jesus was asked,
which is the first and greatest commandment of all?
He answered saying,

*And thou shalt **love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,**
and with **all thy soul,** and with **all thy mind,** and with **all thy strength:**
this is the first commandment.*

--- Mark 12:30

Easy to say ... but is it possible to do?

**How do I love God with,
all my heart, my soul, my mind and my strength?**

Is that at all possible?

Yes it is,

if only you will know one thing, love!

What is love? (Agape)

Love is what God has been doing for man since He created man,

For God so loved the world, that he gave ... his only begotten Son.

--- John 3:16

Therefore,

Give God ... all of your heart!

Give God ... all of your soul!

Give God ... all of your mind!

Give God ... all of your strength!

To do with ... whatever He wants,
for His benefit ... and for yours!

*And the second is like, namely this,
Thou shalt **love thy neighbour as thyself.**
There is none other commandment greater than these.*

--- Mark 12:31

But, what am I going to give to others?
Simply what God has already put in your heart,

*And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God
is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

--- Rom 5:5

As you love God, submitting yourself totally to Him,
making yourself available to God ... for His use,
by reaching out to others for God,
regardless of their position or response!
(1 John 4:1-21)

You are fulfilling the first commandment,
and opening the way for God to bless you!

A Heart for God!

A Heart for God!

*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
--- Ps 139:23*

Have you got a heart that is truly for God?
If God checked,
would He find your heart and your mind on Him?
Remember,
Your heart is not in ... what your mind is not on!

But ...
How do you get God on your mind?
You can't picture Him,
because you do not know what He looks or sounds like!
How does God express Himself?

David, a man after God's own heart ,
was someone who continually sought God's face,
and how did he do that?

*Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually.
Remember his marvellous works that he hath done,
his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;
--- 1 Chr 16:11–12*

God expresses Himself through His character!

When Moses asked God ... *"Who shall I say sent me?"*
God said to him ... *"Tell them I AM sent you"*
(Exodus 3:13–22)
and then God went on to tell Moses what He would do!
As Jesus also said about His disciples,
"You will know them by what they do!"
(John 15:8)
So do what David did,

*I will remember the works of the LORD:
surely I will remember thy wonders of old.
I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.
--- Ps 77:11–12*

If your mind is on God ... then so will your heart be,
and a heart for God ... is one that gets His attention ...

*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth,
to shew himself strong in the behalf of them
whose heart is perfect (loyal) toward him...
--- 2 Chr 16:9*

... **Read ...**
Psalms 105:1–15

Fulfilling His promises!

Fulfilling His promises!

How does God fulfill His promises in your life?
What does it take for God to do what He promised He would do?

Just expecting God to fulfill His promises ... will not work!
Because,
unless you make it possible for Him to,
fulfill His promises in your life.
Unless you allow Him to ... He will not be able to!

The people who lived in Jesus' home town,
like everywhere else ... expected God to fulfill His promises,
but ...
when Jesus went there to do just that,

*And he could there do no mighty work,
save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.
--- Mark 6:5*

**God could not fulfill His promises in their lives,
because they did not let Him!**

The people of Nazareth rejected Jesus,
the very one through whom,
God wanted to fulfill His promises to them!
Today the same is true in our lives ...
Unless we allow God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit,
into our lives,
God will not be able to fulfill His promises ... in our lives!

**You can't demand from God,
neither does He demand from us!**

Yet ... He has given us His promises,
they are available to us.
But,
only as we allow Him to shape and direct our lives,
only as we allow God into our lives,
is it possible for Him to do as He promised,
in our lives!

*... I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing:
therefore choose life ... --- Deut 30:19*

What is your choice?

Are you going to let God into your life?
Are you going to let Him shape your life?
Are you going to allow Him to direct your steps?
If you do,
God will be able to fulfill His promises in your life!

... Read ...
Mark 6:1-6

He has overcome!

A winning attitude!

If you have been a Christian for longer than a day,
... you will have been told to,
Stand!

*Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God,
that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day,
and **having done all, to stand. Stand** therefore --- Eph 6:13-14*

And like most everyone else,
you will probably have wondered to yourself,
“Stand ... sounds good! ... But where, what and how?”
*“Well Brother, Sister,
Stand on His promises ... Stand on the Word!”*

And the only picture that flashed through your mind,
was to put the Bible on the floor and to stand on it!
But seriously,
what does it mean ... *Having done all, stand!*

Yes, we understand that there is a fight,
and we have an armour, but ...
What do we do? ... and ... How do we stand?

Jesus put it very simply for us,

***Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth,
give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.***
--- John 14:27

***These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world
ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.***
--- John 16:33

Jesus said,
*“in this world there will be trouble, pressure, opposition and attacks,
but,
be of good cheer ... I have overcome the world (pressure, opposition etc.)
I have left you my peace ... stand in that!
No! ... it is not the absence of attacks, for they shall come!
But it is the peace in My victory ... for I have overcome!*

Having done all, stand!
Finding out what you have in Christ!
*Accepting and receiving what you have in Christ ... **the VICTORY!***

Stand therefore,
*having put your trust in Christ and in His Word, and therefore,
standing in the peace and assurance that in Christ ... **you have the VICTORY!***

Take unto you the whole armour of God ... Eph. 6:13-18
*Christ is ... the TRUTH, your RIGHTEOUSNESS, your PEACE,
Your SHIELD, your SALVATION, the WORD, your INTERCESSOR,
He has given you the HOLY SPIRIT, and He is your VICTORY!*

Choosing life and blessings, but how?

Act today!

God put this choice or ultimatum before us,
saying to everyone of us,

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you,
that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing:
therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:
--- Deut 30:19

If that is your choice ... and it should be,
choosing life and blessings.
Other than deciding in your mind that it is your choice ,
how do you make that choice real in your life?
Jesus said this to us,

... I am come that they might have life,
and that they might have it more abundantly.
--- John 10:10

Jesus came so that we might have life,
therefore, for you to receive the life that you have chosen,
you simply go to the One Who gives life ... **Jesus!**

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh,
*hath he quickened (**made alive**) together with him,*
having forgiven you all trespasses;
--- Col 2:13

If you have accepted Jesus as your savior,
and, i you have made Him Lord in your life,
then you have RECEIVED life eternal!

BUT ...

Have you not also chosen blessings?
How do you receive the blessings you have chosen?
How do you receive the abundant life Jesus promised?

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.
--- Matt. 6:33

In other words ... start living the LIFE you've received!

By becoming a lover and a giver,
just like the one who gave you life! (*John 3:16*)
Start doing ... (*Matt. 22:37–39, Malachi 3:10, Luke 6:38*)
because of (*Gal. 6:7*)
and then,
(*Deut. 28:1–14*) will happen as God promised!

Make your choice,
and start acting on it ... today!

First in my life!

Most important in my life!

Putting Jesus first in your life!
Easy to say but how do you do that?
Trust!

You put Jesus first by allowing Him into ALL your decisions!
thereby enabling Him to direct your every step!
Unless you trust Him with your personal decisions,
He is not first in your life !

Does that mean that you stop thinking and making plans?
No! not at all!
Of course you make plans and you have dreams and visions,
but ...
what do you do before you follow those dreams?
What do you do before you implement those plans?

*A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.
--- Prov 16:9*

Are you willing to trust God to direct your steps?
Are you willing to let Jesus confirm your dream?
Are you willing to let Jesus be part of your plans?

*And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people
in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee,
but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.
--- 1 Sam 8:7*

Israel put their plans before God's plans ... and demanded a king.
They rejected God ... and suffered the consequences! (1 Sam 8:8–18)

*And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall
have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.
--- 1 Sam 8:18*

Or the rich young ruler ... whose plans and money came first in his life!
and instead of receiving Life, he walked away from it (Mark 10:22)

If Jesus is Lord in your life ... then,
Jesus should also be Lord of your decisions, plans and possessions,
and not your possessions be lording it over you!
Jesus said this,

*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.
--- John 10:10*

If the One you put first in your life ... wants you to have abundant life,
Don't give it a second thought,
put Jesus first in all your life!

... Read ...
Matt. 11:28–30
Matt. 19:16–22

You believe God, now also believe His Word!

Also believe!

Too many people believe in God and even believe God,
but too few people also believe His Word!

*Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well:
the devils also believe, and tremble.*

--- James 2:19

The devil and demons also believe in God,
but they did not believe His Word ... and got cast out of heaven!
Adam and Eve also believed in God, and walked with God
but they did not believe His Word ... and fell because of that!

Just believing God without believing His Word,
is like starving with food in your hand but refusing to eat it!
God very clearly said,

*Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen:
for **I will hasten** (watch over) **my word to perform it.***

Jer. 1:12

and everything that God will do for us,
He does through His Word.

***So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth:
it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please,
and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.***

--- Isa 55:11

Whatever God has said ... is all that He will do!
So ... don't just believe God ... believe His Word also!

If you need money, believe ... *Deut. 8:18* ... also!

If you need peace, believe ... *John 14:27* ... also!

If you need healing, believe ... *1Pet. 2:24* ... also!

If you need direction, believe ... *Ps. 119:105* ... also!

If you need food or clothes, believe ... *Matt. 6:31–33* ... also!

Whatever need you may have, believe ... *Phil. 4:19* ... also!

Jesus, Who used God's Word to defeat the devil ... *Matt. 4:3–11*

Jesus, Whom the Bible calls ... the Word ... *John 1:1–5*

... said this to us,

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

--- John 14:1

Don't just believe God ... believe His Word also!

... Read ...

John 5:46–47

John 6:29–30

John 10:37–38

John 12:46–50, John 14:11

... 98 ... Spirit Filled Living

A stress free life!

Stress free!

Life today is filled with stress ... Everything puts stress on us!
Work, home, travelling, more and more decisions to make ... everything!
And it even seems as if God also is putting us under stress!

God gave us authority and dominion on earth! ... (*Gen. 1:28, Ps. 8:4-6*)
Therefore we are responsible **for what goes wrong** on earth.

That sounds like stress to me!

Death and life are in the power of the tongue! ... (*Prov. 18:21, Deut. 30:19*)
Therefore we are responsible **for what happens** on earth.

That sounds like stress to me!

And ... Jesus said,

Go into all the world and preach the gospel!... (*Matt. 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20*)
Therefore we have the responsibility to **minister life** on earth,

That sounds like stress to me!

...

How are we going to handle all this stress?

I thought being a Christian was supposed to be stress free?

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.
--- John 8:36

And God not only gave us Jesus ... He also gave us the Holy Spirit!

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter,
--- John 14:16

...he shall teach you all things,
--- John 14:26

...he will guide you into all truth... and he will shew you things to come.
--- John 16:13

We are free in Jesus and we stay free in the Holy Spirit!
God gave us a Helper, Comforter, Teacher ... to keep us out of stress!
And therefore,

We should have no stress, unless we are handling things on our own!
So ...

What ever we lack, need to know, need answers for or need help with,
The Holy Spirit is here to do that for us ...

And even if you don't know what to pray ... the Holy Spirit is here,
... to help us pray, build us up and perfect our prayers.
(*Rom. 8:26, Jude 1:20,)*

Then ...

Authority on earth is no problem ... ***if it is in Jesus!***

The power in our tongue is no problem ... ***if the Holy Spirit is in control!***
Speaking out and taking dominion is no problem ... ***if it is in the Holy Spirit!***
So ...

Start living Stress free ... start living in the Spirit!

... Read ...

Eph. 6:18

1Cor. 14:2-4

John 14:18

Keeping God's commandments!

Difficult to keep?

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

*He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments,
is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

--- I John 2:3-4

Keeping God's commandments, and getting to know Him,
seems just too difficult and awesome!

How can I possibly do that?

I don't even know half of His commandments!

How do you keep God's commandments?

**But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love
of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.**

He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

--- I Jn 2:5-6

Keeping God's commandments means keeping His Word,
and if you do, His love is perfected in you!

Keeping God's commandments ... means to walk even as Jesus walked!

And how did Jesus walk? ... in love!

Therefore Jesus said this about God's commandments,

*Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,
and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind,***

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

--- Matt 22:37-40

Keeping God's commandments ... means loving God and loving your brother!

***He that loveth his brother abideth in the light,
and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.***

--- I Jn 2:10

If you love your brother ... you will not stumble!
and loving your brother ... proves your love for God,

***And this commandment have we from him,
That he who loveth God love his brother also.***

--- I Jn 4:21

God is not expecting us to do what He has not already done!
God showed His love for us ... by giving us Jesus ... *John 3:16*
Jesus showed us His love ... by giving Himself ... *John 10:15*
and ...

God made sure we were able to give ... by putting His love in us,
and giving us the Holy Spirit ... *Rom 5:5*

***Do you want to know God and keep His commandments?
Start loving your brother ... by giving to those around you!***

... 100 ... Giving

Lay down your life!

Giving to live!

*Hereby perceive we **the love of God,**
because **he laid down his life for us:** and
we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.
--- 1 John 3:16*

John 3:16 tells us that God so loved the world ...
that He gave us Jesus!
1 John 3:16 tells us that Jesus showed us God's love ...
by laying down His life for us!
1 John 3:16 also goes on to say that ...
we also ought to lay down our lives for others!

... and that is where it gets real hard ...

*I don't want to be crucified for my brother!
neither is God expecting you to do that!*

Laying down your life is not about losing or dying!
Laying down your life is about giving life...!

God gave us something we did not have ... Salvation!
Jesus gave us something we did not have ... Life!

And,

God expects us to give to our brethren ... what they don't have!

*But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need,
and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him,
how dwelleth the love of God in him?
My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue;
but in deed and in truth.
--- 1 John 3:17-18*

The Apostle John goes on to tell us that loving God ...
is not a spiritual thing ... but simply the act of giving!
He says in 1 John 4:7-8 & 1 John 4:20 that...
if you want to show your love to God ... love your brother,
and unless you love your brother ... you don't love God!

Therefore,
start looking around you and see where there are people with needs,
those who need physical help, who need prayer, who need support,
whatever they may need,
and as you start reaching out,
God says this is loving Him ... and that is our confidence.

*Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.
And **whatsoever we ask, we receive of him,** because we keep his commandments,
and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.
--- 1 John 3:21-22*

**Start laying down your life,
by giving into the needs of those around you!**

Just not what I expected!

Not what I expected!

We have all wished that God would rain blessings on us from heaven!

And no one is going to reject such a blessing from God!

or will they?

Don't be too sure,

because that is precisely what often happens!

After God had brought Israel out of bondage in Egypt,
it was not long before they started to murmur against Him,
"Give us something decent to eat" they complained.

And God in His love responded,

*Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold,
I will rain bread from heaven for you;
and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day,
that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.*

--- Exod 16:4

God answered Israel's murmuring by blessing them,
... with bread from heaven!

Wonderful ... God is just the greatest!

Stretch out your hands and receive from heaven!

But,

do you know what Israel said when God rained bread from heaven?

*And when the children of Israel saw it,
they said one to another, ... manna ...*

--- Exod 16:15

When they saw what God had sent from heaven,
they looked at it and said ... **"What is this stuff"**
"What is this stuff that came down from heaven?"

They asked God to bless them and supply their need,

And when He did, they looked at it and said,

"What is this stuff ... it sure don't look like a blessing!"

Are we any different?

Having asked God for something ... and when it comes,
we are disappointed, wondering ... what kind of a blessing is this?

"that's just not what I expected!"

Yet one thing is sure ...

God's answer may not be what we expected, but ...

***Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and cometh down from the Father of lights ...***

--- James 1:17

Every gift from God is good and perfect ... whether we realize it or not!

so before you judge God's manna from heaven,

wait & see ... what a perfect answer it really is!

... Read ...

Ex. 16:1-18

God is not mad at you!

I blew it again!

No! ... you are not the only one who blew it!
You are not the only one who sinned the same sin ... yet again!
You are not the only one who promised God not to ... and blew it!

No! You are not!
We have all done that more than once!

And that is good to know, but ...

how can I face God when I have repented, promised and sinned again?

I know I am free in Jesus,
but I certainly don't feel free to face God again!
and I have no boldness to enter into His presence!

The good news is ... **God is not mad at you!**

Firstly ...

God will do what He expects of us,
and when Jesus was asked about forgiveness, He said,

*Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother
sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?
Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times:
but, **Until seventy times seven.** --- Matt 18:21-22*

Secondly

When God forgives ... it is forever!
If you have asked God to forgive you ... that is what He did,

*As far as the east is from the west,
so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.
--- Psalm 103:12*

So if you sin the same sin after having asked God to forgive you,
it is as if you messed up for the first time!

God does not hold what you did before against you ...
(only if you are deliberate and dare test His patience!)

Remember ...

God is a GOOD God,
and His throne room is the throne room of Grace!
So,
no matter whether you again blew it ... again!
Don't run from God ... run to Him!

*And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient** for thee:
for my strength is made perfect in weakness ...
--- 2 Cor 12:9*

His grace is always sufficient,
His promises sure,
and His forgiveness is ... forever!

... Read ...

*Heb. 10:16-17
Lam. 3:22-23*

Are you fully blessed?

Fully blessed!

Did you know that it is God's desire to bless you?
and not just to bless you,
for God's desire is,

*Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper
and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*

--- 3 Jn 1:2

But, although it is God's desire to bless us abundantly,
so often it is impossible for Him to fully bless us!

Why?

Because ...

God cannot fully bless ... what He cannot fully have!

What does that mean?

Unless God is in full control of your life,

He cannot manifest His blessing fully in your life!

And unless you are willing to trust God with all of your life,

He cannot bless all of your life!

Unless you give God all of your life,

He cannot give you all of His blessings!

God cannot fully fill ... what is not fully His!

One day a young man asked Jesus,
what he needed to do to be fully blessed of God,
"Obey God's commandments and love your neighbor," was Jesus' answer!
To which the young man replied,

The young man saith unto him,

All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

*Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast,
and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven:
and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying,
he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.*

--- Matt 19:20-22

The rich young man was not willing to give God all of his life,
which meant that God could not bless all of his life!

Jesus had that problem in His home town.

As much as Jesus wanted to touch their lives and bless them,

***And he could there do no mighty work,
save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.***

--- Mark 6:5

Because they didn't fully respond to who He was,
He could not fully bless them!

***Can God fully bless you,
or is there a part of your life that you are holding back?***

Who or what is stopping you?

Anything stopping you?

Is there anything or anybody stopping you,
from receiving the fullness of salvation in your life?

*(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted,
and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee:
behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)
--- 2 Cor 6:2*

Salvation (*soteria, soterion*)

Forgiveness, healing, deliverance, prosperity, safety, liberation & restoration!

Simply everything that you need in your life,
and it is available to you ... today!

But,

what is stopping you from receiving ... today?

*You are not restrained by us, but **you are restrained in your own affections.**
--- 2 Cor 6:12*

We blame circumstances, time, the devil, and some even blame God!

The apostle Paul blamed a messenger from satan!

But God put him straight fast,

*And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee:**
for my strength is made perfect in weakness.
--- 2 Cor 12:9*

You restrict yourself, especially when you start blaming all else!

God said ... This is the acceptable time (today)

NOW is the day of salvation, healing, prosperity, deliverance & restoration!

God's grace is sufficient for all your needs!

God's strength is sufficient to pull you through!

NOW is the day!

Don't let pride and envy stop you!

Don't let the devil lie to you!

Don't let ignorance of God's promises stop you!

Find out what the Word says,

take hold of it ... and LET GOD!

He is ABLE!

*Now unto him that is **able to do exceeding abundantly above all**
that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,
--- Eph 3:20*

God wants to ... don't YOU stop Him!

... Read ...

2 Cor. 6:1-18

Collect your inheritance!

It is yours, take it!

Whether an heir knows it or not,
or whether he is expecting it or not!
When someone has bequeathed you something in His will,
it is yours ... like it or not!

*The eyes of your understanding being enlightened;
that ye may know what is the hope of his calling,
and what **the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,**
--- Eph 1:18*

And because so many of God's children,
are not collecting their rightful inheritance,
God is urging all His children,
to get to know what is rightfully theirs!

*Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath **made us**
meet to be **partakers of the inheritance** of the saints in light:
--- Col. 1:12*

Sounds great, but ...
is not our inheritance waiting for us in heaven?
who says that it is for today?

Well, firstly,
you don't have to die to become an heir,
it is the testator who is leaving the inheritance behind who must die!
And ... Jesus has done that for us!

Secondly,
it is for that very reason that Jesus came,
so that we could have life in abundance ... (*John 10:10*)

Thirdly,
even if we want to continue to argue that,
it is God's will that we be blessed in heaven!
That's fine ... because Jesus taught us to pray,

*After this manner therefore pray ye:
Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. **Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.**
--- Matt 6:9-10*

Jesus said, if it is God's will that we be blessed in heaven,
then it is also His will that we be blessed on earth!

It does not matter how you argue.
The inheritance and the blessings belong to God's children ... you!

But,
it is up to you to claim or collect your inheritance!
Are you going to continue to listen to the devil's lies?
Or ...
are you going to take your inheritance?

... Read ...
Matt. 11:12

The Great Challenge!

In His class!

And God said,

*Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:
and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,
and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth,
and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

*So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
--- Gen 1:26-27*

And man said

*When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers,
the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;
What is man, that thou art mindful of him?
and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
For thou hast made him a little lower than (Elohim) God,
and hast crowned him with glory and honour.
Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands;
thou hast put all things under his feet:
--- Psalm 8:3-6*

God created us in His class!

Yes! We are created in the God class!

And, how did God create all that there is?

By saying it. By the words He spoke!

So, consider this,

If we are created in God's class ... and we are,

then we can also do what God did ... create!

How?

By saying it. By the words we speak!

Is not one of the things that separates us from the rest of creation,
the fact that we can speak!

And did not God say that the tongue is powerful? (*Pr. 18:21*)

So,

if we are patterned after God, then our words too, are powerful!

Not only are we in God's class ... but He also put us in charge,
in charge of everything that He has made (*Psalm 8:6*)

An awesome responsibility,

but a responsibility that comes with an awesome ability,
the ability to speak, and the authority on earth!

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me,
the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than
these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

--- John 14:12

What are you doing with your ability and your responsibility?

Rejecting God's blessings!

No thanks...God!

If you asked anyone if they would reject receiving a blessing from God,
what would their answer be?

Never!

Yet, in reality ... that is exactly what happens!

There are many examples in the Bible,
such as for instance the rich young man,
but even worse than that,

so many of God's own children reject His blessings!

Hard to believe?

Jesus told the story about the prodigal son,
in which the older son does exactly that,

Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound.

And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. And he answering said to his father,

Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. And he said unto him

Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.

--- Luke 15:25-31

The older son got mad because the father blessed his brother,
all his life he had worked hard for the father and never received a blessing!
He went on to accuse the father of not even giving him a goat,
never mind blessing him with a fatted calf!

Was that really true?

No!

The father did not treat his two sons differently. He said to the older,

*Son, you are always with me, and **all that I have is yours.***

Son ... You can have as many of my blessings ... as you want!

Son ... You can have as many of my blessings ... whenever you want!

Son ... ALL of my blessings and possessions ... are yours!

The older son never expected to be blessed by the father,

... and did not even see the blessings the father had for him.

So when the younger brother came, expecting just to be received.

... the father blessed him in abundance, and the brother got offended!

Are you expecting God to bless you,
or do you have a closed heart towards God, like the older brother?
God treats us all the same and His blessings are for everyone! (*Acts 10:34*)
... everyone with an open heart ... expecting God to bless him! (*Heb. 11:6*)

*Don't be like the older brother, and get offended if the Father blesses another.
Rejoice with him, and expect to be blessed as well! ... (Mark 6:1-6)*

Don't reject God's blessing ... rather, expect ... and be blessed!

... 108 ... God's Promises

Hungry for the Word!

What's more important?

When it comes to deciding whether you have time to spend in the Word,
the decision is not an easy one!

Mary and her sister Martha had to make this choice,
Jesus came to visit ... and there was food and much else to prepare!
Who was going to do it?

What was the right choice to make?

When Jesus was asked which was right ... this is what He said,

*But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him,
and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to
serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.*

*And Jesus answered and said unto her,
Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:
But one thing is needful: and **Mary hath chosen that good part,**
which shall not be taken away from her.*

--- Luke 10:40-42

But what about Martha's responsibilities?

Who is going to prepare food, serve it and do the cleaning up?
We live in a physical world ... we do live on more than words!

Does not Jesus know that?

Not only does Jesus know that,
but He also knows how to meet those needs!

*Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion
on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have
nothing to eat: and **I will not send them away fasting,** lest they faint in the way.*

*..... **And they did all eat, and were filled:**
and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full.*

--- Matt 15:32-37

Jesus knows we need food to live, but,
He also knows that feeding on the Word first ... is more important!
And if you put God before your physical needs and wants,
then you open the door for Him to supply those needs,
the same way that Jesus did for the four thousand that day,

*But my **God shall supply all your need** according
to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. --- Phil 4:19*

Food supplies in your physical need ... **but God's Word supplies in all your need,**

*According as his divine power **hath given unto us all things** that pertain unto life
and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: --- 2 Pet 1:3*

Jesus is saying the same to us as He said to Martha,

*... your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.
But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
and **all these things shall be added** unto you. --- Matt 6:32-33*

... Read ...

Matt. 6:19-33

You're always welcome!

You're welcome!

Do you realize ... **God's unfailing love never ends!**

*It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not
consumed, because his compassions fail not.
They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.
--- Lam 3:22-23*

Not only does God's love never end,
but His mercies are new every morning!

David had a revelation of God's faithfulness,
having experienced it in his own life,
that no matter what comes against you,
if God is your shepherd and your source,
His protection and His provision are also yours,
and David could therefore boldly proclaim,

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.
--- Ps 23:6*

God's goodness is still the same.
God's mercy is still new every morning.
God still wants us to cast our cares onto Him,
and God still wants us to enter into His rest.
As Jesus said,

***Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.
--- Matt 11:28***

How do you step into that rest?

How do you get to that place,
... where His resources become your provision?
... where His strength becomes your protection?
... where His grace becomes your sufficiency?

*Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.
--- James 4:8*

*God's provision, strength, grace and His rest,
are where He is ... in His presence.*

So draw close to God today!

Get to where He is,
in the Word, in prayer and in the Spirit!
you're always welcome in His presence!

... Read ...
*Psalm 23
Psalm 91*

... 110 ... Wisdom

Unusual, strange or 'just' God?

Seem strange?

When unusual things are happening ... even in Church,
... or the pastor says things that are strange sounding to you!
What should you do?

Don't ...

be quick to judge, or speak your mind.

But rather,

first check with God ... whether it is in His will!

We don't know God's specific plan and all that is to come,

but,

if you ask God to find out what He is about to do (*Jer. 33:3*)
then what is happening may not seem so unusual or strange anymore!
As God said,

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways
higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.
--- Isa 55:8-9*

Take Joseph as an example.

What do you think Joseph or especially Jacob would have said,
If God came to them with His plan to provide food for Israel, in Egypt?
God had already given Joseph dreams and visions of what was to come.

But ...

If God had told Joseph to slip on a caravan headed for Egypt,
get a job there so He could elevate Joseph to a position of authority!
I can guarantee that Joseph's answer would have been ... **No!**

Therefore ...

How was God going to provide for Jacob and His family?
How was God going to keep His promise to Abraham to bless his family?

Simply,

by doing something that seemed strange and unusual!

Remember ...

God will do anything He has to ... to keep His promises!
God will do anything He has to ... to protect His children!
God will do anything He has to ... to keep His Word!

*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth:
it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please,
and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.
--- Isa 55:11*

God will not allow His Word, His blessings and His promises,
to return to Him void!

So ...

Before you judge what may seem strange to you,
check first with God!

... Read ...

Isa. 55

Jer. 33:3

John 16:13

Trusting God above all!

Not my understanding!

That you trust God ... is easy to say,
but is trusting God, all that easy to do?

How do you truly trust God?

The Bible says this to us in Proverbs,

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;
and lean not unto thine own understanding.*

--- Prov 3:5

and in the simplicity of that statement lies the secret!

***Trusting in God, means,
not trusting in your own understanding!***

If you have a decision to make ... regarding anything,

whose advice are you going to seek?

Your own, someone else's, or God's?

Whose advice are you going to heed?

Your own, someone else's, or God's?

Are you going to put your trust in what you think is right?

Or,

are you going to trust what God's Word says?

***Trust in the LORD, and do good;
so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.***

***Delight thyself also in the LORD;
and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.***

***Commit thy way unto the LORD;
trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.***

--- Ps 37:3-5

Trusting God with all your heart ... means that,

... before you take any decision ... you go to God in prayer,

... before you take any decision ... you trust God for direction,

... before you take any decision ... you see what God's Word says!

And then,

when you make the decision ... you base it on God's Word,

and let Him direct your step!

A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

--- Prov 16:9

Yes, your step ... but God's way!

Not on your own understanding ... but God's wisdom!

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

--- Prov 3:6

... 112 ... Obedience

God leaves nothing to chance!

Leave nothing to chance!

Did you know that ...
God leaves nothing to chance!
On the contrary ...
Did you know that God has a plan "B"?
God has got a plan "B"?
Surely not!
Of course He has!

...
God has been so restricted by man ... **in getting man to receive what He has for him,**
God has been so limited by man ... **in getting His blessings to man,**
... so much so,
that God decided to make ... Plan "B"
or as it is better known ... **Plan Blessings!**

To make sure that man can be blessed ... in spite of himself,
God said,
Let's surround man with blessings!
Let's box man in with blessings and favor!
So that the chances that man does not get blessed,
... are reduced to the minimum!

And this is what God said and did to make that possible,

*Then shall thy light break forth as the morning,
and **thine health shall spring forth** speedily;
and thy **righteousness shall go before thee;**
the **glory of the LORD shall be thy reward.***

--- Isa 58:8

*Surely **goodness and mercy shall follow me** all the days of my life
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*

--- Ps 23:6

And God concluded by saying,

*And **all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee,***
--- Deut 28:2

But what does it take to activate plan "B" in YOUR life?

Not much,
because with every promise, God shows us the way to it,
so just **listen to God, and do what He says to do,**

if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.
--- Deut 28:2

Such an easy plan ... (Just do it!)

... Read ...

Gen 1:28

Deut. 28: 1-14

And the rest of the Bible ...

Giving God pleasure ... is easy!

All you have to do!

Yes! ... Giving God pleasure is easy!

*But without faith it is impossible to **please him**: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that **he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.***

--- Heb 11:6

... and all you have to do is receive what He has for you!

That's right,

you cannot do anything to deserve all that God has for you,
except to receive the gifts He has for you!

Start by receiving life and salvation,

... but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

--- Rom 6:23

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

--- John 10:10

The Holy Spirit,

and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

--- Acts 2:38

*And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad
in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

--- Rom 5:5

*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear;
but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

--- 2 Tim 1:7

And not just that ... **receive also faith, righteousness and grace,**

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

--- Eph 2:8

... they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness,

--- Rom. 5:17

... unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

--- Eph 4:7

So much so that Paul writes,

Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

--- 2 Cor 9:15

Gifts that are not just unspeakable but,

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and cometh down from the Father of lights,
with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

--- James 1:17

**Whatever you need ... God has already provided,
All you have to do to please Him ... is to receive it**

... 114 ... Spirit Filled Living

Making contact with God!

Free access!

Need access to the internet?
Want to be free to communicate with others?
Want to access information ... or give out information?
Online ... 24 hours a day?
The ability to speak and communicate,
anywhere, everywhere, at any time!

Communication is powerful ... and God planned it that way,

Death and life are in the power of the tongue:...
--- Prov 18:21

... and has always been God's plan,

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

--- Mark 16:15

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations ...

--- Matt 28:19

*Call unto me, and I will answer thee,
and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.*

--- Jer 33:3

*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth:
it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please...*

--- Isa 55:11

just in a new package!

But like all communication,
it can be either true or false, it can be good or bad,
and like on the internet ... be careful, it could even have a virus!
Therefore,

when God planned His communication system,
He planned a fool proof system,

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:
for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear,
that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

--- John 16:13

So if you are looking to communicate on the best system,
... with the best results and greatest anti-virus protection,
Log-on to God's system ...

Sign-up is free (*James 1:17*)

24 hour free access ... (*Psalm 121:4*)

24 hour hotline ... (*Jer. 33:3, John 14:26*)

24 hour service at no extra cost ... (*1 Pet. 5:7*)

Full support all the time, anytime, anywhere ... (*James 1:5, Heb. 1:14*)

So don't delay ... Sign-up today!

Living for tomorrow!

Tomorrow is coming!

There is nothing you can do about the past ... except to learn from it!
But, there is something you can do about today,

*This is the day which the LORD hath made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it. --- Ps 118:24*

You can draw closer to God,
and draw strength, blessings and provision from Him!

*While it is said, **Today if ye will hear his voice,**
harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.
--- Heb 3:15*

Unless you live today, you have not lived, therefore enter His rest ... **TODAY!**

BUT ...

What about TOMORROW? ... Is tomorrow important?

Yes it is, but ...

Don't live for tomorrow ... PLAN for tomorrow!

If you are going to achieve anything tomorrow ... you must act ... today.
Because the actions you take and the words that you speak ... today,
... lay the foundation for what your tomorrow will be!
For whatever you sow TODAY ... is what you will reap TOMORROW!

*While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat,
and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.
--- Gen 8:22*

Be not deceived; God is not mocked:

for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
*For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption;
but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.
--- Gal 6:7-8*

Whatever YOUR tomorrow will be like ... depends on YOUR choice TODAY!

*I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death,
blessing and cursing: **therefore choose life**, that both thou and thy seed may live:
--- Deut 30:19*

Do you want your tomorrow to be (even) better than today?
Do you want your tomorrow to be full of blessings and joy?
Do you want your tomorrow to be full of health and strength?
Then ...

lay the foundation of your tomorrows on God's promises ... today!
by taking hold of God's Word ... and sowing to the Spirit!

Don't live for tomorrow ... or put off things till tomorrow! No,
PLAN and PLANT for tomorrow ... TODAY!

Remember,
*whatever you sow today ... and you ARE sowing with every decision and action you take!
Is all that you WILL reap TOMORROW!*

... Read ...
Psalm 118

... 116 ... God's Will

God's will be done on earth!

As it is in heaven!

When Jesus was asked by His disciples how to pray,
He taught them what has become known as the ... Model Prayer!

*After this manner therefore pray ye:
Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. **Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.**
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*
--- Matt 6:9-13

The essence of the prayer Jesus taught us is that,
as we put God in control of our lives,
and as we obey His commandments,
God, in His power and glory will meet our needs!

Although that is easy to understand,
most people have a problem with,
What God will do on earth!

What is God's will on earth?

Jesus put it very simply,

Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
--- Matt 6:10

Whatever God will do in heaven ... is what He will do on earth!
Whatever God will allow in heaven ... is what His will is to allow on earth!
Whatever God will not allow in heaven ... is also not His will that it should happen on earth!
Therefore ...
If God does something in heaven ... then He will do it on earth!
And if He does not do something in heaven ... He will not do it on earth!
So ...
Is there poverty and lack in heaven? ... No!
Is there loneliness and fear in heaven? ... No!
Is there sickness and disease in heaven? ... No!
Why not? ... Because it is not God's will!
Therefore,
since Jesus said that God's will on earth is the same as it is in heaven,
... then,
poverty, lack, loneliness, fear, sickness, disease etc.,
are also not God's will ... nor His fault here on earth!

Jesus also said,

***The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come
that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.***
--- John 10:10

If you are praying for God's will to be done in your life.
Know this ... it only includes whatever is GOOD! (*James 1:17*)

God does not expect without being willing Himself!

Always willing!

Sometimes it would seem that God expects so much of us,
He expects us to remember His commandments,
and to do His commandments!

*To such as keep his covenant,
and to those that remember his commandments to do them.
The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.
--- Ps 103:18–19*

Yes God does expect us to obey His commandments,
but it is so that He can bless us,
and give us what He has already prepared for us.
And not only that,
God does not expect anything from us,
that He is not willing to do Himself!

God does not just expect us to do His Word,
but He also does His will, His word, and His promises!
In fact ...
God even tells us to remind Him of His Word,

Put me in remembrance: *let us plead together:
declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.
--- Isa 43:26*

God says ... remind Me of My Word and My promises!

Tell Me what My Word says and what I promised!
And,
of His Word and His promises God says,

*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void,
but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.
--- Isa 55:11*

But why does God need us to remind Him of His Word?
Because in reminding Him ... we remind ourselves of what He said!

We remind ourselves of what we have to do so that God can respond!
We remind ourselves to obey His Word so He can do His Word!
And,
God is always ready ... ready to respond,
... waiting to see our heart,

*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth,
to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him...
--- 2 Chr 16:9*

It is as we obey God's Word, His commandments,
that He is reminded of His Word and His promises!

As I obey His Word ... God will do His Word ... in my life!

... Read ...
Deut. 28:1–14

... 118 ... **Spiritual Warfare**

Put on the FULL armour!

Standing firm!

In teaching us how to live life here on earth,
... the Bible gives us this instruction,

*Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God ...
--- Eph 6:13*

Why do we need to put on all of God's Armour?
Not so that we can impress others,
and also not so that we are weighed down,
but because it is vitally important,

*...that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
--- Eph 6:13*

To stand against who or what?

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion,
walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
--- 1 Pet 5:8*

Yes we have an enemy called satan,
who does not care what you think, or how you feel!
The worse you feel ... the easier a target you are for the devil!
The weaker you are ... the more the devil is going to attack you!

Does it say anywhere,
that if you are weak the devil will leave you alone?
No it does not!
Neither does it say,
that you have to be strong to resist the devil!
But,
what the Bible does say, is ...

*And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee:
for my strength is made perfect in weakness.
--- 2 Cor 12:9*

You don't have to be strong to beat the devil!
No! ... all you need to do is to put on God's armour!
And ... you are not fighting him in your own strength ...

*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal,
but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;
--- 2 Cor 10:4*

It does not matter how inadequate you may feel!
It only matters what you wear and in whom you trust!

*... because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.
--- 1 Jn 4:4*

So, put on the whole Armour of God,
and stand your ground!

Watch out, Someone is watching!

Someone's watching you!

We all at some time or another, have the feeling that,
Someone is watching us!
And with modern technology, and what we see on film and TV,
the likelihood of this being so is great!
But even worse than being watched by man
many people, just like Job in the Old Testament,
believe that God is watching them,
to see whether they are doing anything wrong!

Is God watching us?

*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth,
to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.
--- 2 Chr 16:9*

Sure God is watching us, all the time,
but not to see whether we are doing something wrong!
**No! God is looking to see if He can be strong on our behalf,
just looking for an opportunity to do something good for us!**

God's eyes are scanning the whole earth,
looking to see whose heart is directed towards Him,
looking to see who is trusting Him for help, for answers,
looking to see whose faith He can respond to!

God is not looking to see if He can find fault with us!
No!
And God is not trying to find something to hold against us.
**For God's only interest in our sin,
is to remove it far from us,
as far away as He possibly can,**

*As far as the east is from the west,
so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.
--- Ps 103:12*

Although not everything was right in Job's life ... (Job 1:8)
God considered only the good.
God did not listen to the devil's accusations and lies,
and neither should you listen to the devil's lies nor receive his accusations!

*Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them:
because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.
--- 1 Jn 4:4*

Don't you hang onto those transgressions and sin,
repent ... let them go ... and let God!

Yes! God is watching,
to see if He can be strong on your behalf,
Let Him!

... 120 ... God's Will

Have you made your choice?

Choose today!

When you are given an ultimatum ... you should consider it.

But ... when God gives an ultimatum,
then you had better give it serious consideration!

And ...
God has done exactly that,

*I call heaven and earth to record this day against you,
that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing:
therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:
--- Deut 30:19*

And?

Have you given it your earnest consideration?

God is very serious about the choice He put before us!
And whether you like it or not ... you have to make a choice!

You have to choose

*... whether you want life eternal or not!
... whether you want to be blessed or not!
... whether you want to prosper or not!*

God has given YOU the option of life, blessings and prosperity,

and although it may not be a difficult choice!

YOU still have to choose ... Yes or No!

Sure ...

No one will choose death and curses,
when there is life and blessings to be had!

But ...

**Unless you do choose life and blessings,
you are stuck with death and the curse!
whether you want it or not!**

Yes ... God has given us that wonderful option!

But the question is not only ... **What have you chosen?**

The question actually is,
HAVE you chosen?

All through His ministry here on earth, Jesus asked people this question,

*And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said,
What will ye that I shall do unto you?
--- Matt 20:30-34*

Today ... Jesus is asking you the same question,
the same question God asked in Deut. 30:19

What is your answer ... what have you chosen?

... Read ...

*Mark 10:36
Mark 10:49-52*

Enter into God's rest!

Dump those problems!

"Wouldn't it be just great if you didn't have to worry about anything!"

"Wouldn't it be just great if God took care of all your problems!"

Well,

it's not just a wonderful thought,
but it's exactly what God wants to do!

In *Genesis 2:2* we read that after God had finished creation,

... **he rested** on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

In *Hebrews 3:7–12* Paul refers to that same rest, saying,

*"Do not harden your hearts through unbelief, but **enter into God's rest!**"*

How will entering God's rest change my situation?

When did God enter His rest?

When all the work was done!

So if God is telling us to enter His rest,

then God is telling us that the work is done!

In other words ...

God is saying, stop striving and trying to do the works yourselves!

Whatever needs to be done ... is done!

How do you enter God's rest?

Simply by believing God's Word and trusting in Him!

So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. --- Heb 3:19

To enter God's rest, His presence, you have to have faith in God,

you have to believe what He said and trust He will do it,

But without faith it is impossible to please him:

for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,

and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. --- Heb 11:6

What happens when you turn to God in faith ... when you enter His rest?

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. --- Heb 4:16

God's rest is His presence, that place of mercy and grace!

that place of unmerited favor and grace in your time of need!

That place where,

But my God shall supply all your need

*according to his riches in glory **by Christ Jesus.** --- Phil 4:19*

Do you want to enter God's rest?

Believe He is Who He says He is,

and will do what He says He will do, for you!

... Read ...

Heb. 11:1–6

Psalms 91

... 122 ... Authority

You are special, just like Him!

You're special!

After God had created nature and all the animals,
God saw that it was good ... *Gen. 1:25*
But when God had made man, He looked again and this time said,

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.
--- *Gen 1:31*

After God had made man, creation was no just good, it was very good!
Why?

Because after God had created everything else,
God did something very special,
God created man, saying,

*And God said, **Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:** and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*
--- *Gen 1:26*

God decided to make something very special,
not like anything else He ever made before,
but ... like Him!

Not like the trees and the flowers, not like the animals,
not even like the angels, or even like the archangels,
who God had created to reflect His characteristics!
No!

God made man totally different,

God made man in His Image and in His Likeness!

Not a plant or an animal or an angel that merely reflects His characteristics.

No, God made a Man ... to contain His characteristics. (*Gen. 2:7*)

God made man.

to have His Glory in him ... The Father Himself (*John 14:23*)
to have His Word in him ... The Lord Jesus (*John 14:23, Col. 1:27*)
to have His Power in him ... The Holy Spirit (*John 14:16*)
Yes ...

Man was created above all else (*Psalm 8:6*)

to have dominion over the rest of creation (*Gen. 1:28*)
to be ministered to by angels (*Heb. 1:14*)
ruling for God ... and containing His character!

Even though man on earth is limited to this earth,
man is responsible for this earth.

That is why it is important,
that we get to know our position and our benefits,
that we start displaying God's character that is in us.
But ...

it is a place and a position in God,
and we will only be able to fill it,
as we acknowledge His Lordship over our lives!

A New Gift, in an Old Box!

Change the wrapping!

... the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

--- Rom 6:23

Praise God for the gift of life ... through Jesus Christ!

A gift that is so wonderful,

... it takes us from spiritual death into life eternal,

and our spirit man becomes a brand new creature!

*Therefore if any man be in Christ, **he is a new creature**:
old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

--- 2 Cor 5:17

A brand new life ... (Rom. 6:23)

Justified ... (Rom. 5:18)

Righteous ... (Rom. 5:17)

Spirit filled ... (Acts 2:38)

Restored unto God ... (Heb. 8:10)

Yes!

God has made us new on the inside,

spiritually alive and restored unto Him,

A brand new creature!

And there was nothing you could do to deserve that!

The new creature on the inside,
is still wrapped in the original wrapping!

So,

what about this new man?

Didn't all things become new?

*That **ye put off** concerning the former conversation **the old man**,
which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;
And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye **put on the new man**,
which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

--- Eph 4:22-24

Yes there is a new man, created in righteousness and holiness.

However,

this new man,

is wrapped inside of the old wrapping!

God makes you new on the inside, but for that to show on the outside,

... You have to strip off the old man!

... You have to put off the old ways!

... You have to be renewed in your mind!

And as you put off the old wrapping, the new wrapping will appear!

There will be a New Creation in a New Box!

... Read ...

Rom. 12:1-2

Eph. 5:26-27

... 124 ... Wisdom

Successful and in control!

A successful life!

You want to live a successful life!
You want to be in control!
You want to rule over the circumstances in your life!

*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over ... every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
--- Gen 1:26*

No problem, because ...
God created us to rule and be in control of our situations and circumstances!
But, if that is so,
why then are we often not in control and as successful as we should be?
What does it take to be successful and in control?

Who is it that put you in control, and gave you to rule over circumstances?
God!
Who do you need to draw from so you can rule over the circumstances of life?
God!

*And it shall come to pass,
if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God ...
... the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:
... And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee ...
... **The LORD shall** command the blessing upon thee ...
... **The LORD shall** establish thee an holy people unto himself ...
... **the LORD shall** make thee plenteous in goods ...
... **The LORD shall** open unto thee his good treasure ...
... **And the LORD shall** make thee the head, and not the tail;
... and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath;
--- Deut 28:1–13*

David read this passage of scripture ... and said to himself,
“WOW God, is that all really for me?”

*What is man, that thou art mindful of him?
and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels,
and hast crowned him with glory and honour.
Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands;
thou hast put all things under his feet: --- Ps 8:4–6*

David realized that God was saying to man,
**“Look man, when you come to the place where you realize that I am God ...
Then I will be able to bless you and put you in the position I planned for you!”**

You want to be successful and in control? Easy,
... all you have to do is,
**let Jesus be in control of your life,
and He will make you successful and in control of your situation,**

... Read ...
*Isa. 55
John 16:13*

What are you going to do?

When trouble comes!

Yes! ... trouble does come, like it or not,

*In the world ye **shall have tribulation**: --- John 16:33
The thief cometh not, but for to **steal**, and to **kill**, and to **destroy**: --- John 10:10
...your adversary the devil, **as a roaring lion**, walketh about, --- 1 Pet 5:8
... that ye may be able to withstand in **the evil day**, --- Eph 6:13-14*

Yes! ... Trouble does come, but what are you going to do about it?
Not only do you have a choice ... but you have to make a choice,
What choice?

You can either accept the trouble ... or ... take up the challenge!
You can pick up the sword and defeat the enemy,
... in the strength you have been given,

*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal,
but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;
--- 2 Cor 10:4*

What are the weapons and where is your sword?

*... and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
--- Eph 6:17*

What or Who is my strength?

The Word ... and the One who is the Word!

Your weapon is the Word of God!
And your strength is in God doing His Word!

Yes, trouble comes ... and satan makes a lot of noise!
The devil wants to distract you,
and he wants to get you into fear!
Because,
only when you take your eyes off of God,
and start looking at the problem!
Only then is there an opportunity for the devil to get in!

**Yes, trouble comes ... What are you going to do?
How are you going to respond?**

No! ... don't concentrate on and accept the trouble!
But ... concentrate on and take hold of the solution!

What does God say about whatever situation you may be in?
That is where your strength lies ... in God!
That is where the solution is ... in His Word!

That is where your victory lies,
in letting God perform His word in your life!

Pick up the challenge,
and let God be God in your life, in whatever may come your way!

Being followed ... or overtaken?

Are you being followed?

Is there something or someone following you?

If you have just watched a scary movie,
you more than likely feel as if something is!

But ...

**Scary movie or not,
something should be following you!**

The very first thing that God did after He created man,
was to bless man,
and that has remained God's intention ever since!

God's blessings should be following you wherever you go!

Moses said ...

God's blessings should follow you wherever you go!

*Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in,
and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.*

--- Deut 28:6

and not only will God's blessings follow you,
... God wants His blessings to overtake you!

And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee ...

--- Deut 28:2

David said ...

God's blessings should follow you ... always!

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*

--- Ps 23:6

Jesus said ...

God's blessings should not only follow you,
but,
God's blessings should follow those around you,
because of you!

*And these signs shall follow them that believe;
In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;
They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing,
it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

--- Mark 16:17-18

So, don't look around to see what is following you
look around to see how close the blessings are!

So,

be careful when you look around,
you may just trip over the blessings,
that have already overtaken you!

Walking close to the Lord!

So close!

Ever thought what a difference walking with the Lord,
would make in your life?

Walking with the Lord and drawing near to Him,
will not only change your life,
but it will touch and change the lives of those around you as well.
What does that mean?

Take the Apostle Peter as an example,
after he had denied Jesus, he was a broken man,
he wanted nothing to do with preaching anymore and went back fishing!
After His resurrection, in John 21... Jesus said to Peter,
"If you love me Peter, feed My sheep!"
In other words, Jesus was saying to Peter,
*"Come back Peter, come and walk with Me,
so that you can touch the lives of others for Me!"*

*... Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? ... He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.
--- John 21:16*

And Jesus is not just saying that to Peter, but to all of us!
... Matt. 28:18–20, Mark 16:15–20 ...
"Walk with Me and touch the lives of others for Me!"

How are you going to touch the lives of others,
by just walking with Jesus?
When you walk with Jesus ... He walks with you!
And that means ...

Where you go, Jesus goes!
Where you go, whatever Jesus can do ... you can do too!

*And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.
Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets,
and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least
the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.
--- Acts 5:14–15*

Peter walked so close to Jesus,
that where Peter's shadow fell, Jesus' shadow fell,
and what happened?
Peoples' lives got touched and changed!
Well that was Peter, what about you?

Whatever Jesus said to Peter ... He is also saying to you!
Whatever Jesus did for Peter ... He will also do for you!

*And they went forth, and preached every where,
the Lord working with them,
and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.
--- Mark 16:20*

... Read ...
1 John 4:4

... 128 ... Obedience

A heart issue!

Are you willing?

Do you want to benefit from God's promises and provision?

You certainly can!

Do you want to have God's blessings manifest in your life?

You certainly can!

Do you want to eat the Good of the Land?

You certainly can!

And all you have to do is to follow the instructions!

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: --- Isa 1:19

Such a simple thing to do,

"Yes Lord I'm willing! ... Yes Lord I'll do what you say!"

It really requires no effort ... at all!

Why then ... is it so difficult to do?

Why do so few people do it?

WHY?

Because to be willing and follow instructions ... **requires TRUST!**

If you trust God and trust that His Word is true,

... then you will have no problem obeying Him!

In fact, doing God's will, will be easy!

Therefore ...

Don't ... Try to be willing,

Don't ... even decide to be obedient,

Willingness and obedience do not come from trying,

they come from trusting with all your heart.

Do what God tells you to do in the Epistle of the Hebrews,

and start pleasing Him by trusting Him,

*But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. --- Heb 11:6*

Start believing that God means what He says, that His Word is true!

Start developing trust in the One Who made the Promises,

Start trusting God Himself, develop a relationship with Him!

Start believing that YOU are the one God wants to bless,

and let God into your life and your circumstances!

If you are willing to trust God with your life,

He will be able to trust you with His riches.

If you are willing to trust God's Word, His promises,

He will be able to supply ALL your needs,

*But my God shall supply all your need
according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. --- Phil 4:19*

Start today ... start pleasing God ... by trusting Him!

Become willing and obedient!

And ...

... ye shall eat the good of the land: --- Isa 1:19

... Read ...

Isaiah 55:11, Psalm 91.

What does God think?

God's thoughts!

Have you ever wondered what,
God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit think?
In the Book of Isaiah, God said this to Israel,

*For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.
--- Isa 55:9*

Does that mean that we will never know what God thinks?
Does that mean that we cannot think the way God thinks?
No!
For God says to those who have made Jesus their Lord,

*For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him?
But we have the mind of Christ.
--- 1 Cor 2:16*

God created us in His Image and His Likeness,
and God wants us to know Him and the way He thinks!

*And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding,
that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true,
even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.
--- 1 Jn 5:20*

We are able to,
and God wants us to **think like Him!**
But ...
what does God think?

*... whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest,
whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure,
whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report;
if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise,
think on these things.
--- Phil 4:8*

And He expects us to do the same!

How do you know God only thinks of good things?
Because His deeds speak for themselves,

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and cometh down from the Father of lights,
with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.
--- James 1:17, Acts 10:38*

Yes! ...
God wants us to think like He does ... and we can!
Because ...
God wants us to do what He does ... only good!

... 130 ... Salvation

Things God said about Life!

About life!

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.
--- Gen 2:7

God not only gave us the breath of life,
but He intended that His life should be in us ... always,
and He says to us,

*Seek the LORD, and **ye shall live**;* --- Amos 5:6

If you will seek the Lord ... **He will give you LIFE eternal!**

*Because he hath set his love upon me, ...
With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.* --- Ps 91:14–16

If you will set your love upon God ... **He will give you LIFE eternal!**

*But we had the sentence of death in ourselves,
that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:*
--- 2 Cor 1:9

If you will put your trust in God ... **He will give you LIFE eternal!**

The question is,
... have you put your trust in Him?
Have you made it possible for Him to give you eternal life?

Jesus came to give everyone who would take it ... life!

***I am come that they might have life,
and that they might have it more abundantly.*** --- John 10:10

And it does not matter who you are or where you come from!
It does not matter what you have done ... good or bad!

***Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life:
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*** --- John 11:25

It only matters whether you take the way that God has provided,

***Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life:
no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*** --- John 14:6

Jesus is the way ... the only way.

Therefore ...

Set your love upon Him!
Put your trust in Him,
and invite Him into your life!

For ...

He is the resurrection and the life!

Life more abundantly!

It's all included!

Ever wondered what the first and best thing is that God did for us?

Then God blessed them... --- Gen 1:28

*The Hebrew word for blessed is "barak"
which means ... "enabled to live a full rich life!"*

Jesus put it this way,

*I have come **that they may have life,**
and that they may have it **more abundantly.** --- John 10:10*

Yes! ... if you will obey God and draw close to Him,
God will make sure that you have a prosperous, full, rich and abundant life!

So ...

What should you do ... and what exactly is,
this full, rich, prosperous, life in Abundance?

Abundant life means ... Favor with God and with man.

*So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.
--- Prov 3:3-4, Luke 2:49-52, Prov.12:2, Prov.8:32-35, Prov.18:22, Mal. 3:12*

Abundant life means ... Abundant blessings.

*Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house,
and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven,
and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.
--- Mal 3:10, Phil 4:19, Luke 6:38, Psalm 23*

Abundant life means ... Protection wherever you are.

*Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid,
neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.
--- Josh 1:5-9, Deut.31:8, Isaiah 58:8, Psalm 23*

Abundant life means ... A blessed and prosperous family life

*And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground;
neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.
--- Mal 3:11, Deut. 28:3-8*

But ... Is prosperity for everyone?

*And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.
--- Gal 3:29, Acts.3:25, Gal.3:16, Psalm 35:27*

How do you get into this abundance...?

*"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death,
blessing and cursing; **therefore choose life,** that both you and your descendants may live;
--- Deut 30:19*

Simply by choosing God and His ways!

... 132 ... *Spiritual Warfare*

Guard your mind!

Protect it!

What thoughts are going through your head?
What thoughts will you meditate on today?

Isn't it surprising how strange thoughts just seem to leap into your mind?
Occupying your mind and trying to dictate your day!
Where do these thoughts come from?

The Bible warns us, saying,

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
--- 1 Pet 5:8

The devil is continuously coming with all kinds of negative thoughts,
trying to influence our way of thinking,
and throwing all kinds of mental trash our way,
But ... you don't have to receive it!
You do not need to be a receptacle for the devil's trash!
And ...
you should not serve his thoughts!
So ...
Be very selective in your thinking.

...bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;
--- 2 Cor 10:5

Examine every thought as to its origin before you ponder it.
If it is a negative thought, say,
this is not my thought, I refuse to let it trouble me!
Then replace it with God's promises and meditate on them.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.
--- Phil 4:8

The most effective way to block out the devil's suggestions,
is to fill your mind with God's praise and God's Word!
Let your mind hear God's truth ... instead of the devil's lies!

Remember ...

You may not be able to stop the devil throwing trash your way,
but it is YOUR mind,
and ...
YOU decide what comes in ... and what stays out!
YOU decide what you receive ... and what you believe!

... Read ...
Phil. 4:4-13
2 Cor. 10:3-7
1 Pet. 5:6-11

Drinking the Good Wine!

Only the best!

If you were asked to do something ... at the wrong time,
something that was not your work to do,
but you felt obliged to do it,
What kind of a job would you do?

Understandably it would probably not be the best,
and certainly not better than was done by others!
Is that good?
To God that is never good enough!

This happened to Jesus at a wedding feast,
and once He had done what was asked of Him, the result was,

*And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.
--- John 2:10*

God just never does anything in half measures,
even though Jesus said to His mother,

*Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee?
mine hour is not yet come. --- John 2:4*

What He did for the Bridegroom ... was simply the best!
It was not just changed water,
It was not just pots of wine,
It was better than the best wine!

And that is the way God has been from the very beginning,

*And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.
--- Gen 1:31*

... and it is the way Jesus is,

*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power:
who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil;
for God was with him. --- Acts 10:38*

... and is the way God always will be!

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and cometh down from the Father of lights,
with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.
--- James 1:17*

All God has is good ... and all God does is good!
So don't you get caught,
giving others less than your best.
Expecting that God will bless others less than the best!
Or yourself,
expecting less than the best from God ...at any time!

Hidden Value?

Hidden value!

What you had to do to receive salvation,
... is also the foundation of your new life and blessings!

So ...

What is it that you had to do to receive salvation?

You gave!

You gave your life to Jesus ... and He made it brand new!

That is the same way that you receive all of God's blessings,

You give!

In Malachi, God tells us that the blessings of tithing,

is in giving the Tithe!

And God instructs us to give so that we can prove His promise to us,

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

--- Mal 3:10

But ... is that not just like trying to buy God's blessings?

No! ... not at all!

... for you cannot possibly buy God's favor or His blessings!

However, unless God and His kingdom are of value to you,

... enough for you to give to God!

He will never be able to give to you!

Jesus, in describing what the kingdom of heaven is like,

... gave us these examples,

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

--- Matt 13:44

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Matt 13:45-46

What value do God and His kingdom have in your life?

Is it big enough that you would give all you have for it?

What value do God's favor and blessings have in your life?

Enough that you believe ...

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

--- Phil 4:19

Then you have found God's value standard,
a value standard that releases you to give,
and releases God to respond!

... Read ...

Luke 6:35-38

Live Today!

You're welcome!

We spend so much time worrying about tomorrow,
and being concerned or involved with what may happen tomorrow,
that we often forget to live today!

Because of this ...

Jesus very specifically told us not to worry about tomorrow,

*Take therefore no thought for the morrow:
for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself.
--- Matt 6:34*

As kids we had this saying,
Today is the **Tomorrow** you worried about **Yesterday!**
Did any of the worrying you did yesterday,
about today,
change anything, except maybe the color of your hair?

No!

Worrying about tomorrow will not change it,
but it will steal your today!

The Bible goes on to say,

*Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city,
and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:
Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow.
--- James 4:13-14*

We do not know what tomorrow will bring,
But we do know what we have today!

***This is the day which the LORD hath made;**
we will rejoice and **be glad in it.** --- Ps 118:24*

Don't let what you can have today be stolen from you,
by worrying about tomorrow,
instead of enjoying it today!

Unless you take hold of the blessings that are before you **today**,
Unless you grab hold of the opportunities available to you **today**,
Tomorrow will come without your having benefited in any way of **today**.

And ...

there is no guarantee that you will have the same opportunities ... **tomorrow**.

So ...

take hold of what is before you today.

Jesus once invited someone to become a disciple and change his life ... **today**.

This person answered Jesus saying ... **Lord I will come tomorrow!**

*And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said,
Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.
Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead:
--- Luke 9:59-60*

Don't worry about the things of tomorrow,
Take hold of what you have ... today!

Is God doing His will on earth?

Does God do His will on earth?

The biggest question in the lives of many Christians,
and non-Christians alike is,

If God's will for mankind is only good,
why then are things not good for mankind?

Why is God not doing His will on earth?

It is certainly not because He does not want to!

But ...

God is not doing His will on earth, because He is not asked to!

And ...

God will only do His will when He is asked!

Jesus was asked by His disciples how to pray,
He taught them the secret of getting God's will done on earth!

After this manner therefore pray ye:

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

*Thy kingdom come. **Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.***

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

--- Matt 6:9-13

That God's will is being done in heaven ... is certain!

Jesus said,

If you want God's will to be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Then,

Pray and ask Him to do His will on earth, in your life!

But why must you ask God to do His will on earth ... in your life?

Because you have a free will and God will not override it!

As God said over 4000 years ago,

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death,
blessing and cursing: **therefore choose life**, that both thou and thy seed may live:

--- Deut 30:19

Yes! ... God's will is life and blessings,

but whether God's will is done in your life ... is up to you!

And for that very reason,

Jesus taught us to pray and ask God to do His will in our lives!

If you ask ... will God really do His will in your life?

*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that,
if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:*

*And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask,
we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*

--- 1 Jn 5:14-15

**God's will is to bless you ... in abundance,
are you willing to find out His will and ask Him to perform it in your life?**

Have you passed the test?

Passing the test!

In every area of life,
at school, college, work, absolutely everywhere,
and particularly so in our Christian life,
we are tested!

*My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
--- James 1:2-3*

And why are we tested?

*that the genuineness of your faith,
being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire,
may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,
--- 1 Pet 1:7*

There is no getting away from that,
so we might as well find out how to pass those tests!

How do scientists pass the test of getting a rocket into the sky?

By memorizing text books? ... No!

But by using the knowledge gained from those text books,
and building a rocket that does blast off into space!

The same applies to our Christian lives,
and also to the testing of our faith!

You're not going to pass the test by just memorizing the Bible.

*But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?
--- James 2:20*

You pass the test by doing the test.

You pass the test by using your faith.

You pass the test by applying God's Word to the test!

But, why does God test us this way?

Actually God is not testing us, but He is allowing us to be tested,

*Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God:
for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:
--- James 1:13*

Why then is God allowing us to be tempted and tested?

***Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried,
he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.
--- James 1:12***

God wants our faith to grow, so that we pass every test,
so that we become the overcomers we are meant to be,
so that we can receive the fullness of His promises!

How?

By hearing and applying God's Word ... in faith!

Have you done all you can?

Have you done all you can?

Have you ... done all you can to overcome what is coming against you?

Have you ... wished, confessed, complained, cried or moaned?

Have you ... gone to God, telling Him how difficult it is?

Jesus said,

*In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;
I have overcome the world.*

--- John 16:33

So ... if Jesus has already overcome,
then surely your problems should also be solved!

The good news is ... Yes, your problems have been taken care of!

*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things
that pertain unto life and godliness ...*

---2 Pet 1:3

Jesus has overcome and given us all we need to live victoriously!

And to help us in this, He promised to be with us always!

Go ye therefore,

*... and, lo, **I am with you always**, even unto the end of the world.*

--- Matt 28:19-20

*And they went forth ... **the Lord working with them** ...*

--- Mark 16:20

However ... although Jesus has already overcome all,
you only become victorious and receive what God has for you,
as you go, and as you act on the Word of God,

You overcome ...

by taking hold of what God has promised,

You overcome ...

by standing your ground when the devil tries to steal what is yours!

For it is as you act on the Word ... that Jesus will confirm His Word!

*Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.***

--- Eph 6:10

Stand on God's promises ... not in your own strength,

but in God's strength,

in the victory Jesus has already won,
and in the power and might of the Holy Spirit.

So ...

DO ALL that it takes ... in God's strength,

to get what is already yours!

... Read ...

Deut. 28:1-14

Eph. 6:10-18

What is written ... about you?

Known in heaven!

What is written about you in heaven?
Is it all good? ... Is it all bad? ... or just nothing?

God is not a respecter of persons, which means,
once you have accepted Jesus as Lord in your life,
once you have made your life right with God.

Then ...
what is written about you in heaven,
is the same as what is written about all of God's children;
the slate is clean.

*And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh,
hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;
**Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us,
which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;**
--- Col 2:13-14*

Praise God for His mercy and grace!
However,
that is only the beginning!
Everything that was written before is wiped clean away,
but what is being written about you today?

What is it that can be written about you in heaven?
The Bible tells us this,

*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth,
where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:
But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:
For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
--- Matt 6:19-21*

Therefore in whatever you do, you are laying up treasure,
treasure that will either be noted in heaven or on earth.

*A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good;
and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil:
for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.
--- Luke 6:45*

God is looking at your heart,
and as unimportant as what's happened before is,
as important it is ... what you are doing today!
Are you reaching out to others ... in love?
Are you reaching out to others ... for God?
If so ... then you are laying up treasure in heaven,
**then what is being written about you in heaven,
is all good!**

... Read ...
2Chron. 16:9

... 140 ... **Commitment**

Have you got time for Jesus?

Have you got time?

If Jesus came to visit today,
would you have time for Him?
Would you stop doing what you are doing and spend the time with Him?
I am sure everyone's answer would be,
of course! No question about it!
Are you sure?

*Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village:
and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.
And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.
But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said,
Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone?
bid her therefore that she help me
--- Luke 10:38-40*

Martha received Jesus into her house,
... and Jesus ministered to everyone who was there in her house!
But what about Martha? ... Did she stop and spend time with Jesus?
No, but she had a good excuse ... **She had to prepare food for Jesus!**
Good reason?
Well let's see what Jesus said about that!

*And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha,
thou art careful and troubled about many things:
But one thing is needful: and **Mary hath chosen that good part,**
which shall not be taken away from her.
--- Luke 10:41-42*

Sure everyone needs to eat, but get your priorities right!
Jesus said to Martha!
*Look at Mary, she has chosen the good part,
and it will not be taken away from her.*
What was Mary's choice?

*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.
--- Matt 6:33*

What was Jesus saying to Martha?
Take your eyes off your problem, and trust Me for an answer?
Spend time with Me instead of with your problem!
Stop trying to make it work in your own strength, let Me do it!
Put aside all of those things that are stealing your time, and spend it with Me!
Let Me in, like Mary did ... I want to help!

If Jesus came to visit today,
would you try to impress Him, or just receive from Him?
Would you be running around doing for Him ... or simply just listen to Him?
If Jesus comes to visit today, and He will,
would you throw aside all that keeps you busy and away from His presence,
spend time with Him ... TODAY!
and receive from Him ... TODAY!

The Glory of God!

God's Glory!

Ever wondered what God's Glory looks like?
Well you are not on your own,

*And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken:
for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.
And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.
--- Exod 33:17-18*

But God said to Moses "No man shall see Me and live"
So God had to hide Moses in a cleft of a rock as He passed by!

However, when you read the Book of Revelations,
John describes the splendor of God's throne room,
and the brilliance and beauty that surrounds God!
So, what about seeing God's Glory?
Is that at all possible?

Jesus said this to Martha, Lazarus' sister,

*Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that,
if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?
--- John 11:40*

So, according to Jesus ... it is possible to see God's Glory!
Maybe not the way we expect to ... in the physical,
But in the true glory of God ... in His character, in life and in love!

What was Jesus referring to when He spoke to Martha?
Martha's brother Lazarus had died and Martha had said to Jesus,
"Lord if You had been here my brother would not have died!"
Jesus answered her,

*Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he
that believeth in me, **though he were dead, yet shall he live:**
And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?
--- John 11:25-26*

So what is Jesus saying that the glory of God is?
God's manifest character ... in our presence and in our lives!
His Love and Life eternal in abundance ... in us!

That is exactly what God did when He created man,

*What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
For thou **hast crowned him with glory and honour.**
--- Ps 8:4-5*

As you put your trust in God's Word and seek His presence
His glory will manifest in your presence!

... Read ...
John 11:1-44

... 142 ... Wisdom

Get wisdom and get understanding!

Need some advice?

Do you need some advice, some counsel – today?

Quite probably.

We all need advice, help or counsel at some time,
if not most of the time!

Where are you going to go for good counsel today?

Depending on what advice or counsel you need ...
you can go to ...

a Business Consultant, a Tax Consultant, a Marriage Counselor,
and,
you could go to your local pastor, who will give you godly Counsel.
The Bible tells us ...

*Where no counsel is, the people fall: but
in the multitude of counsellors there is safety. --- Prov 11:14
Hear counsel, and receive instruction,
that thou mayest be wise in thy latter. --- Prov 19:20*

But, in getting all this counsel ... remember that,

*Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore **get wisdom:**
and with all thy getting **get understanding.** --- Prov 4:7
Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
--- Psalm 119:104–105*

Where will you get wisdom and understanding? ... **from the Word!**

*There are many devices in a man's heart;
nevertheless **the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.**
--- Prov 19:21*

Where will you get the right counsel?
from the Counselor Himself!

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and **his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,**
The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
--- Isa 9:6*

Yes there is good advice to be had from consultants,
but we need to weigh that advice against a standard ... God's Word!
And ...

so that we know what to do with the counsel we have received,
we need the counsel of the Counselor!

*A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.
--- Prov 16:9*

... Read ...
*Psalm 37:23
1Cor. 2:12–16*

Are you listening?

Listen up!

It is simply wonderful to be a child of God,
and to know that,

*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in
Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus
hath made me free from the law of sin and death.
--- Rom 8:1-2*

But God has much more for us,
and He wants us to grow in our relationship with Him,
into the fullness of what He has prepared for us!
How will we get to that place?

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come,
he will guide you into all truth,
... and he will shew you things to come.
--- John 16:13*

The Holy Spirit has come to guide us into all truth,
to lead us into the fullness of God's promises,
to lead us into God's plan and purpose for our lives,
to show us what God has planned for our lives,
to show us things that are to come!
And,
to take us from just being children of God,
to becoming sons of God

*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
--- Rom 8:14*

Why a son and not just a child?
A son grows up, a son takes on responsibility, a son is ready to be led!

God wants each and every one of His children,
to grow up and become sons!
How?

By listening to and being led by ... the Holy Spirit

*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
--- Rom 8:14*

Yes, God wants us as His sons and daughters,
and He has given us the Holy Spirit,
to teach us, to guide us and to show us things to come!
But ...
are you listening to what He is saying?
Are you allowing Him to lead you?

... Read ...
John 16:7-15
Eph. 1:18-20

... 144 ... God's Promises

Expecting God's promises!

Expectations!

God has given us many wonderful promises,
promises of salvation, health, peace, strength and prosperity!
But simply expecting God to fulfill His promises ... is futile!

The only way that God's promises will be fulfilled in your life,
is if you allow God to fulfill them!

For example,

*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being
dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.
--- 1 Pet 2:24*

According to God's Word, your healing took place 2000 years ago.
God already fulfilled that promise. However it is up to you to receive it!

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want Psalm 23:1

It does not help asking God to shepherd you ... He already is!
God is leading. The question is ... are you following?

God has given us His promises,
and they are all available to us!
But in the same way as God does not demand of us,
we also cannot demand of Him,

*I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death,
blessing and cursing: **therefore choose life**, that both thou and thy seed may live:
--- Deut 30:19*

You have to choose to allow God into your life!

You have to choose to allow God to shape and direct your life,
because,
God's blessings and promises are where He is, in His presence!
Moses had learnt that in his life,

*He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.
Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.
He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust:
his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. --- Ps 91:1-4*

Why?

Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;
--- Ps 91:9

As you make God your refuge and His presence your dwelling place,
His promises become your promises!

Remember,
God's promises and blessings don't come, because of Him,
God's promises and blessings come, with Him!

Has anything changed?

Has anything changed?

So often one hears, and agrees with the saying,
"Things just aren't what they used to be!
Things are getting worse daily!"
Or so it would seem!
But is that really so?

What has changed?

Has God changed? ... No! Not at all!

*For I am the LORD, I change not. --- Mal 3:6
Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. --- Heb 13:8*

Has the devil changed or gotten worse?
No! not at all ... He is still the same liar He ever was!

*And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: --- Gen 3:4
Ye are of your father the devil, ... When he speaketh a lie,
he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.
--- John 8:44
The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: --- John 10:10*

Have the people changed? ... No! not at all!
What man did to Jesus, what man did to Stephen,
... and what man did to Paul,

*Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him.
And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, --- John 19:1-2
Where they crucified him, --- John 19:18
And they stoned Stephen, --- Acts 7:59
... in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.
--- 2 Cor 11:23-27*

So what has changed?

Not God ... He is still the same!
Not the Devil ... he is still as rotten!
Not the world ... it is still lost!

However we have!

And the Tools and Technology, the Abilities and Resources,
which God is daily adding and putting in our hands,
make us the generation with the most abilities and opportunities,
to take the land, spread the gospel and open the way for Jesus' return!

Let God open your spiritual eyes,

*... that ye may know what is the hope of his calling,
and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe,
according to the working of his mighty power,
Which he wrought in Christ ...
--- Eph 1:17-20*

A Bad Loser!

Lost again?

No one likes to lose!
We all like to win,
and that is the way God intends for it to be!
We are more than conquerors in Jesus ... and God wants us to win!
However,
if you do not succeed the first time,
it is not a reason for being a bad loser,
but an opportunity to get up and go at it again!

We are the victors ... not the losers!
But there is one loser ... the devil,
who will always be a loser!
Jesus made quite sure of that!

*And **having spoiled principalities and powers,**
he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. --- Col 2:15*

Jesus triumphed over the devil ... **and the devil lost** ... forever!
But the devil did not only lose badly,
he is also a bad loser!

Do not be deceived, although the devil has lost,
he still steals, kills and destroys wherever he can!
Therefore God very specifically warned us, saying,

*Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants
of the earth and of the sea! **for the devil is come down unto you, having great
wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.** --- Rev 12:12*

The devil knows his time is short,
and he is not about to lie down and play dead!
On the contrary, he is trying to **make it hell on earth** for us!
And,
he wants to take as many people as he possibly can, with him to hell!
Therefore God also warns us, telling us to,

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion,
walketh about, **seeking whom he may devour.** --- 1 Pet 5:8*

The devil is not just a bad loser ... he is also desperate!
His time is short and he will use every dirty lie and trick against us,
if we will allow him. But we don't have to,
for in Jesus we can stand against him,

*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace.
In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;
I have overcome the world. --- John 16:33*

We can overcome the devil's every lie, every attack,
... in Jesus,
and keep the devil the sad bad loser that he is!

... Read ...
Rom. 8:37

A co-worker with God!

Are you ready!

God has a call on each of our lives.

God wants to use you to do something for Him!

And ...

whether it is big or small, overseas or at home,
it is no less important, and you have to be equally ready!

God had called Moses to lead His people out of Egypt

*And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians:
and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.*

--- Exod 14:31

It was an awesome task that God gave Moses to do,
... and knowing what would be needed to accomplish it,
... **God prepared Moses for the work that lay ahead!**

God had Moses adopted by Pharaoh's daughter,
... so that Moses was brought up as a prince,
... so that Moses was trained to be a general,
... so that Moses was trained to be a ruler,
... so that Moses was trained to be a leader.

And not just a leader,

but the leader who could lead God's people out of Egypt!

God had made sure that Moses was equipped to do his job!

And God showed Moses what He wanted him to do!

But ...

Was Moses ready for what God wanted him to do?

*And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us?
intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian?
And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known.*

--- Exod 2:10-14

In the physical and according to his abilities ... Moses was ready!

God had equipped him to do the task that lay ahead

Yet,

in the spirit, Moses was not ready at all!

In himself Moses was ready ... God made sure of that,
but in the spirit Moses had to learn to depend on God! (*John 15:5*)

Moses had to learn that working for God,

takes more than physical and mental preparation.

Working for God takes spiritual preparation!

Working for God means having to depend on God!

Depending fully on God to accomplish what He called him to do!

Once Moses had learnt that, he was ready!

What about you?

Are you ready to depend on God ... to do what He wants you to do?

... Read ...

Psalm 91

... 148 ... *Spiritual Warfare*

Don't help the devil beat you!

Don't help the devil!

You are never going to walk in God's blessings,
whilst you are trying to reason them out in your mind!

*This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth **walk not**
as other Gentiles walk, **in the vanity of their mind,***

--- Eph 4:17

The devil does not want you to receive God's blessings,
but ...

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: ...

--- John 10:10

And how does he do that?

By getting you to believe his lies,

*... He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth,
because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own:
for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

--- John 8:44

If he cannot get you to believe that God won't bless you,
then He will do what he did to Adam and Eve.
He will get you to start reasoning in your mind.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

--- Gen 3:4

Did God mean what He said?
Will God really do that for you?
How will God do that for you?

If you start reasoning in your mind, how God's Word works,

the devil will make sure that you get it all wrong!

He is a liar and the father of it!

No!

Don't help the devil beat you!

Don't walk in the vanity or the ability of your mind.

You don't receive God's blessings by your understanding,
but,

you receive God's blessings by going to Him in faith!

You receive God's blessings by accepting God's Word as final!

*But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

--- Heb 11:6

You don't please God by reasoning ... you please God by believing!

... Read ...

Isa. 55:11

2 Cor. 1:20

Spiritual reality or Virtual reality!

“Virtual” reality!

Unseen ... or ... unreal?
Is what you are seeing ... all there is to it?

If there is one thing that computer technology has done,
then it is to make the unreal look real.

Yet,
as unreal as virtual reality is,
it is often closer to the unseen than just the unreal,

What “virtual reality” has only just managed,
God has always been capable of,
making what can't be seen ... seen!
Take the scenario described in *2 Kings 6:15–17*,

*And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth,
behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots.
And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?
And he answered, Fear not:
for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.*

What the servant could see ... was not what Elisha saw.
The **reality of the situation** was that,
there were only 2 of “us” and thousands of them!
That was what it looked like to the natural eye, what could be seen,
but what was God's reality?
What was there that could not be seen?

*And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see.
And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold,
the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.*

The reality in the spirit realm (God's reality) was,
that there were more of God and His hosts
than there were of the horses and chariots of the king of Syria!

This has always been the devil's game,
using natural circumstances to make us fearful,
to put us under pressure by what we see, hear or feel!
Lies and deceit, sickness and pain, bad reports from every side!
But God says ... open your spiritual eyes!
“Look to Me” God says “and not to the circumstances!”

*While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen:
for the **things which are seen are temporal**; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*
--- *2 Cor 4:18*

Virtual reality ... makes the unreal, real!
Spiritual (God's) reality ... makes the unseen, seen!
So look past the devil and his negative pictures,
to the reality of God and His promises!

... Read ...

2 Cor. 4:15–18, Eph. 3:16–21, Eph. 1:17–23

... 150 ... Prosperity

About tithing?

Spiritual blessings?

When it comes to being blessed and prosperous,
too many still believe that God's blessings are in heaven,
and not here on earth, not for today!
And, the following scripture confirms this,

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:
--- Eph 1:3*

Or does it?
Jesus taught us to pray,

*Thy kingdom come. **Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.**
--- Matt 6:10*

**So, if God blesses us in heaven,
then He blesses us on earth!**
Jesus also confirmed this in *John 10:10*,

*... I am come that they might have life
and that they might have it more abundantly.*

But is that really what God intends?
Yes !!!

*Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house,
and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts,
**if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing,
that there shall not be room enough to receive it.**
--- Mal 3:10*

And God is very serious about it as well.
It is the only place where God says to us,
"Put Me to the test and see if I will not do as I promised!"
God did not say "Come prove me in heaven!"
but He said "I will open the windows of heaven!"

But,
are those blessings not just spiritual blessings?
No! ... If God's blessings were only spiritual,
why did He say,
"You will not have enough ROOM to put all the stuff!"

Praise God!
Every blessing that God has already blessed us with in the spirit, in Jesus,
He wants to pour out in the physical for us,
to bless us beyond our every expectation!

... Read ...
Eph. 3:20

Turning pressure around!

Copy Him!

Each time that Jesus taught,
He gave us a nugget, a truth, a key!
But for a long time I missed what Jesus was telling us,
when He said,

*These things I have spoken unto you,
that in me ye might **have peace**.
In the world ye shall have tribulation:
but **be of good cheer**; I have overcome the world.
--- John 16:33*

I thought,
having peace meant the lack of tribulation!
And that,
tribulation had nothing to do with "good cheer!"
So,
I went and had a look at that word ... "tribulation"
In the Greek it is "thlipsis" which means ... "pressure"
Therefore the question is,
How can you turn "pressure" into "good cheer" & "peace"?

This called for very little physics and a lot of Holy Spirit!
"Lord,
How can I make something that is pushing me around, benefit me?"
God's reply was ... "Do what I did!"
What is it that God did?

When the devil tried to pressure God through man's sin,
God did something that to us may seem strange,

*But God hath **chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise**;
and God hath chosen the weak things of the world
to confound the things which are mighty; --- 1 Cor 1:27*

God used what to the world seems weak and foolish,
and turned that pressure into a victory!

***For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,**
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
--- John 3:16*

When the devil was trying to take ... God gave ... Jesus!
When the devil was spreading hate ... God gave ... Love!
Do you want to turn that pressure against you into ... "good cheer & peace?"
Do you want to stop that pressure at work, the lies and jealousy around you?
Then you do what God did,
you reach out to the unlovely with love, and give!
Turn that pressure into a victory, in love, in Jesus!

... Read ...
*1 Cor. 13:1-13
1 Pet. 2:19-23*

... 152 ... *Spiritual Warfare*

Faith in God's Word!

Wiles & Words!

Whether you like it or not ... thoughts come!
And ...
whether you like it or not ... it is up to you what happens to them!

Unless you judge them against the Word of God,
you won't know what seeds you are allowing to develop in your mind!

Jesus warned us of the wiles or tricks of the devil, saying,

*... He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth,
because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie,
he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.
--- John 8:44*

Are you allowing your mind to meditate on the devil's thoughts?
Thought seeds of fear, lack, sickness, poverty or death?
Seeds that will grow and you will harvest the result!
Because if you allow those thoughts to remain in your mind,
you will start to develop faith in satan's ability.

The good news is ...
you can stop your mind from dwelling on those negative thoughts!
Simply do what God told Joshua to do,

*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth;
but thou shalt meditate therein day and night,
that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein:
--- Joshua 1:8*

In other words, God is saying,
"Think of My word, My promises, My goodness, all the time!"
As Paul said to the Philippians,

*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.
--- Phil 4:8*

Why?
Because meditating on God's Word, His promises and His ways,
will allow those seeds to grow in your mind
seeds of life, blessings, goodness, favor and prosperity!
Thought seeds that will develop faith in God, in your life,
and that will give you a harvest accordingly!
As God said,

*for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous,
and then thou shalt have good success.
--- Joshua 1:8*

... Read ...
*1 Tim. 4:13–16
Psalm 145*

The key to God's Treasure!

The treasure's key!

If you fully understand God's salvation plan for man,
then you will know that there is nothing you can do to get saved!
But ...
did you know that you had to do something to receive salvation?

Yes there is something important that you had to do!
You had to give!

You had to give your life to Jesus.
And ... what did Jesus do with your life?
**He made something wonderful out of your life,
that you could never have done on your own!**
He made it brand new!

How did your giving cause Jesus to do what He did?
By giving, you responded to God ... you responded to Love!
And what does Love do?

*For God **so loved** the world, that **he gave** his only begotten Son ...
--- John 3:16*

Love gives!
That is the foundation to your new life,
and that is the way that you receive all of God's blessings.
You give!

In the same way that God made something wonderful out of your old life,
when you gave your life to Him!
**God will also make something wonderful out of all else you give to Him,
your health, your family, your work ... and your finances.**

Whatever you are willing to give to God,
He will turn around, bless and increase!

If you understand this principle,
then you have found the key to the treasure of God's kingdom,
and,
then you will also understand what Jesus meant when He said,

***Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure,
pressed down, and shaken together, and running over,
shall men give into your bosom. For with **the same measure
that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*****
--- Luke 6:38

If you want to be blessed out of the treasures of God's kingdom,
become a giver!
And as you reach out in love to others, giving what you have,
God will reach out to you ... and give out of what He has!

... Read ...
1 Cor. 13:1-13

... 154 ... Wisdom

Be slow to speak!

Be slow!

One of the things that distinguishes us from the rest of creation,
is that we can speak,
that we can express our feelings, emotions ... and our will with words!

Yet,

as great and powerful as this distinction is,
it is potentially also our greatest weakness!

Consider this ...

We need to speak and express our will.

and even today, there are many things we will say,
and,

most everything we are going to say today,
will have eternal results!

But,

how many things that we say today,
will have eternal value?

How many of the things we say today,
will we have to repent of?

God warns us of exactly this, saying to us,

*Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words?
there is more hope of a fool than of him.*

--- Prov 29:20

Therefore don't be hasty with your words and with your responses.
But like Nehemiah, inquire of God before reacting in word or deed ... lest you sin.

*Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request?
So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said unto the king, If it please the king ...*

--- Neh 2:4-5

And the apostle James tells us,

*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally,
and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. --- James 1:5*

Take James' advice and inquire of God before you respond,
before you give an answer and step out of line with your words,
having to repent because you've sinned with your mouth.

**Stop ... Listen ... Think,
Pray,
and then maybe Respond!**

Put God in control of your responses and your words,
and do as James instructed,

*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear,
slow to speak, slow to wrath: --- James 1:19*

... Read ...

Matt. 12:33-37

You don't lose unless you quit!

Don't quit!

Jesus told more than one parable,
encouraging us to not give up,
but to be persistent!

*Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her,
lest by her continual coming she weary me.
--- Luke 18:1-8*

Notice that although the widow was in the right,
the judge did not honor her rights.
But because she didn't quit, did she get her rights!
Similarly,
the devil, like the ungodly judge, is in the wrong,
and even though he is a defeated foe *Col. 2:15*)
he is not about to give up!

For this very reason God says to us,

*Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary the devil,**
as a roaring lion, walketh about, **seeking whom he may devour:**
--- 1 Pet 5:8*

Because you are in the right ... doesn't mean you've won the fight!
The devil will make sure of that, and
he will push and push, until you give up,
or,
until you say, "it is enough!" ... and push back!
Until you, like that widow, stand up and demand your right!

Did Jesus say ... "be of good cheer, you have overcome?"
No! ... He said,

*In the world **ye shall have tribulation:**
but be of good cheer; **I have overcome the world.**
--- John 16:33*

He has overcome ... and the victory is yours!
However,
it is not yours until you take it!

You have to be persistent!
You must insist on the rights you have in Christ!
The devil is not going to step back, just because you have a right.
No!

**He is only going to let go,
when you take what is rightfully yours!**

The right is yours ... and the fight is yours,
You don't lose ... unless you quit!

... Read ...
Luke 11:5-8

... 156 ... Victorious Living

Praise the Lord above all!

Forsaken?

Do you feel like you are on your own,
... **forsaken and no one caring for you?**
Do you feel like this Psalm was written just for you?

My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?
why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?
O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.
--- Ps 22:1–2

At some time or another
everyone has an opportunity to feel that way!
Joseph had the opportunity ... David had the opportunity,
Daniel had the opportunity ... so did many of the prophets,
Not least of all ... Paul and Silas had the opportunity!

And the multitude rose up together against them: and the Magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.
--- Acts 16:22–24

Everyone had turned against them, they were stripped and beaten, thrown in jail, in pain, with their backs bleeding, and to crown it all, they had to sit on the floor with their feet in stocks! If they did not feel forsaken ... then who would!

But Paul and Silas, just like David in the Psalms, did not let the situation they were in get them down! Instead of moaning and complaining,

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God ...
--- Acts 16:25

Yes they felt forsaken in the same way as David did, but they also knew what David knew,

But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.
--- Ps 22:3

They knew that if they praised God, He would come and see what was going on!

And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.
--- Acts 16:26

They praised God in spite of their situation, which allowed God to come and fix their situation!

God did it for David and He did it for Paul, and He will do it for you ... if you give Him praise above all!

Blessed from above?

Blessed from above?

Have you ever wondered how God will bless you?
Have you wondered how God will get His blessings to you?
Most everyone has, especially when you have read,

***Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and cometh down from the Father of lights, --- James 1:17***

And ...

*... prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven,
and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.
--- Mal 3:10*

What does that mean?
How will God do it?
What it means is what Jesus quite plainly told us,

***But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.
--- Matt 6:33***

Unless you are seeking God and not just the blessings,
you will not be blessed!
But...

If God is more important to you than the blessings,
and if you are trusting that God will bless you,

*(knowing) that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
--- Heb 11:6*

Then ...
God will bless you from above!

But ...
What is God going to pour out from above?
God said ...

"I will pour you out a blessing!"

What is that blessing?
And how does it become physically mine?
When you start acting with the same heart as God!
Jesus quite plainly said,

***Give, and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down,
and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.
For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.
--- Luke 6:38***

***God rewards the diligent seeker (of His kingdom)
And His blessings reach the diligent giver!***

... Read ...
*John 3:16
2 Cor. 9:6-8*

Reaching out in love!

Love your neighbour!

It sounds strange that God wants us to
love others in the same way that we love ourselves!
I thought we were only supposed to love God and love others?

No! No! No!

Yes, you are to love God first and foremost!

Yes, you are to love your neighbour as well!

But Jesus said,

*Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with
all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."*

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

--- Matt 22:37-39

What does loving God and my neighbour have to do,
... with me having to love myself?

Everything!

You are to love God with all your heart ... just because He is God!

You are to love God with all your soul and with all your mind,
just because He is God and,

so that you get to know how much He loves you!

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son ...

--- John 3:16

God gave all He had ... because He is Love,
and before you can start giving,
you need to have to give!

You need to know what you have to give!

You need to get to know what you have received,

by getting to know how special you are to God!

by getting to know the love God has for you!

Only then will you know what you have received.,

*And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is
shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

--- Rom 5:5

God not only loved you by giving His all to you,
but He put His love, His righteousness and His ability in you,
to enable you to reach out to your neighbour!

BUT,

... unless you see yourself as worthy,

... unless you see yourself as special to God,

... unless you have something to give,

you will not have anything to give to another,

you will not have anything to show your neighbour,

and you will not be able to love your neighbour.

Because,

you will not have received, for yourself, what God has freely given!

... LOVE ...

(the ability to give)

Direction ... or ... Correction?

A better way!

Relationships in this world, be they personal, at home,
Or out in the world, and in particular at work,
are never all that easy,
especially when others don't do their part,
and take liberties which affect you in a negative way!

Problems with co-workers!

How do you deal with that?

If your co-workers don't do their work, do you do their work for them?

No!... God does not expect you to!

Do you confront them and tell them what they did wrong?

No!... God does not want you to do that!

What do you do?

Do what God did ... give them a way out!

When man had messed up, did everything wrong,
did God confront man and condemn him?

No!

God gave man a way out,

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

--- John 3:16

God gave man **Direction** instead of **Correction!**

God gave man a way out of sin ... into His kingdom!

By showing man what life can be like.

Repentance, taking a new direction, becomes easy to do!

Jesus did the same thing with the woman caught in adultery.

She was wrong, yet instead of condemning her, He gave her direction.

*And Jesus said unto her, **Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.***

--- John 8:1-11

So. what do you do when for instance,

someone did you wrong at work?

What should your response be?

Give them direction, give them a way out,

and thereby,

giving them a way into the solution!

Don't tell them what they did wrong,

but tell them what could have been done to avoid what happened,

without telling them that it is their fault!

Let them find their fault all on their own!

Give them **Direction** instead of **Correction!**

If you give direction ... and a way out!

The necessary correction ... will come on its own!

Decisions ... Decisions!

You gotta make it!

Did you wake up this morning knowing that,
there is a decision you have to make today?
Maybe ...
you even put off making that decision yesterday,
but the problem has not gone away!
The decision, like it or not, remains to be made,
today!

Life is full of decisions!

And ...
God made no secret of it either ... saying to us,

*I call heaven and earth to record this day against you,
that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing:
therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:
--- Deut. 30:19*

What is God saying to us?
God is saying that what happens in our lives,
is up to us!

Making a choice or making decisions,
is our responsibility!

We may put them off or even try to avoid them,
but they remain,
and we still have to make them!

But ...
I don't know what to choose?
I don't know what to say?
I don't have the answer?

If you're in that situation, then ask yourself this ...

**What would Jesus say?
What would Jesus do?**

Do not try and make the decision on your own,
put Jesus in control and let Him make the decision for you!

How?

*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. --- Col 3:2
But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you. --- Matt 6:33
Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. --- 1 Pet 5:7
If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally
and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. --- James 1:5
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. --- Phil 4:7*

Don't worry about it ... ask God for wisdom.
He does care for you!

Direct your thoughts toward Jesus,
make Him Lord of your decisions!

... Read ...
Phil. 4:4-9

It's not your responsibility!

You're not responsible!

Are you feeling guilty?
Do you feel you have failed God,
that you have not achieved what God expects?
Are you sure?
What did Jesus tell us to do?

*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
--- Mark 16:15*

But that is exactly the problem ...
*I just cannot walk up to someone and tell him about Jesus!
In fact I don't think I have affected anyone's life for eternity!*

Hey,
that is not your responsibility!
Not every one is a street corner preacher
Not everyone is a great Bible teacher!
And,
that is also not what Jesus expects of you!
Because ...
when Jesus said ... go tell the world the good news;
He also said,

*... and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
--- Matt 28:20*
*And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them,
and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.
--- Mark 16:20*

When you are doing something for Jesus ... He is with you!
When you are doing something for Jesus ... He works with you!
When you are doing something for Jesus ... He confirms His word!
and that is not your responsibility, it is His!

That is great to know,
but I am still not achieving what Jesus expects!
Well,
what is it that you think He is expecting of you?
To preach to everyone around you?
No! ... Jesus does not expect that,
unless He has anointed you for it and then it comes naturally!
But what Jesus does expect of you,
and what you are responsible for, is to,

***Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
--- Matt 5:16***

You are not responsible to try and get everyone saved!
But,
you are responsible for what Jesus has done in your life,
you are responsible to let that shine through your life,
and that is also what Jesus can work with,
that is what He can use to change the lives of others!

... 162 ... Prayer

God's will be done on earth!

God's will be done!

So often we pray,
"God ... let your will be done here on earth!"
and as often even add **"as it is in heaven!"**

*After this manner therefore pray ye:
Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
--- Matt 6:9-10*

Of course you can read God's Word, find His will,
pray that prayer, and expect it to happen, as God promised!

*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that,
if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:
--- 1 Jn 5:14*

And Jesus meant what He said!
But ...

**What about those situations and problems,
that aren't written about in God's Word?**

Situations like,
your boss has business problems,
his life is in a mess and it affects you!
What is God's will in that situation?

Well Jesus also taught us this,

*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Matt 6:33*

Therefore start by praying God's will for your boss's life, for his salvation,

*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness;
but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish,
but that all should come to repentance. --- 2 Pet 3:9*

And continue to pray for God's favour, for your situation,

*... if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.
Blessed shalt thou be in the city, ...
... and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee ...
--- Deut 28:2-8*

God's will takes care of every need and every situation,
maybe not as instantly or directly as we would like!

But,
**as certain as there is GOD,
there's also His will for every situation!**

More of God in my life!

I want more!

We all want more of God, and more of His blessings!

Yet ...

how do we get to that special place in Him,

where what He has and is becomes ours?

Jesus said,

*Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit;
so shall ye be my disciples.*

--- John 15:8

What does having fruit,
have to do with having more of God in our lives?

Everything!

Jesus showed us through His life,
that bearing fruit is the ultimate expression of love.

(John 3:16)

And love is the expression of God Himself!

For this very reason the Apostle John says to us,

*Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God;
and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.
He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*

--- 1 Jn 4:7-8

If you want to have more of God,

if you want more of God and His blessings in your life,
then ...

you must do those things that express God's character!

You must bear the fruit of love!!!

As you express what God is (love), to others,

God will express what He is, to you!

1 Jn 4:7-8

How do you express God's love?

Start where you are, at home, in your neighborhood, at the office,
by being,

that father or mother to your kids ... that you would like God to be to you!

That brother or sister ... that you would like God to be to you!

That child or parent ... that you would like God to be to you!

That friend or neighbor ... that you would like God to be to you!

Love and reach out to others ... for God,

and do for them what you would like God to do for you!

Luke 6:38

... Read ...

John 15:1-14

1 John 4:7-21

Luke 6:35-38

... 164 ... Spirit Filled Living

What rock are you standing on?

What a rock!

When Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do you say I am", Peter said,

Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Peter's words were so significant, that Jesus replied,

***... Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona:
for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee,
but my Father which is in heaven.***

***And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter,
and upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***

--- Matt 16:16-18

Jesus had already been called the messiah ... who would free Israel!

But Peter declared that,

the messiah, the Christ was not a man anointed of God,
but that Christ, the Anointed One was God Himself!

Jesus Christ the Anointed Son of the Living God!

How did Peter know that,
when not even Jesus had said that before?

As Jesus said,

***"flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee,
but my Father which is in heaven."***

God the Father, through the Holy Spirit, had revealed that to Peter!

Not some knowledge out of a book, or knowledge from man,

but,

revelation knowledge from God!

And ...

Jesus went on to say,

"and upon this rock I will build my church"

This rock of revelation knowledge from God,
the revelation of God's will and God's plans through the Holy Spirit,
of things that man does not know and cannot find out any other way!

Knowledge and wisdom which man needs in order to be victorious!

But ... knowledge that is only available ... in the Spirit!

As Jesus said,

***Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:
for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak:
and he will shew you things to come.***

--- John 16:13

What Rock are you standing on?

The revelation knowledge of God through the Holy Spirit?

Looking like God!

Looking good!

And God said,
Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: --- Gen 1:26

Of course you would like people to say of you,
he looks just like God!
But, what does God look like?
Who has ever seen God or knows what He looks like?
No man hath seen God at any time. --- 1 Jn 4:12

If no one has ever seen God,
how will you know whether you are looking like Him?
How will others be able to see His likeness in you?
How will they know that you look or are like God?
How will they know?
Jesus said this to His disciples,

*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples,
if ye have love one to another. --- John 13:35*

It is NOT what you look like in the physical,
all that looks like is the dust of the earth!

*And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground
and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;
and man became a living soul. --- Gen. 2:7*

... but it is what you look like on the inside!
We only look at the physical, and totally miss the important part!
God looks at our spirit man, our heart, our character, our motives ...

*... and I pray God your whole **spirit and soul and body** be preserved
blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. --- 1Thes 5:23*

Look at yourselves the way God does,
and you will realize it's not the outside that should look like God,
but what is on the inside, our inner man,
and what comes from the inside, that others will see,
that is what should look like God!

When we start talking and acting like God, reaching out in love,
that is when others start seeing God's qualities and likeness in you!

*And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may
be one, even as we are one: **I in them, and thou in me**, that they may
be made perfect in one; and **that the world may know that
thou hast sent me, and hast loved them**, as thou hast loved me.
--- John 13:35*

If His love is seen in you, then you are looking like Him!

... Read ...
John 17:1-26

Prepare for tomorrow!

Take no chances!

Never leave anything to chance!
Because if you do, all that will happen is that,
the devil will mess in your life!
So ...

***Be sober, be vigilant;** because your adversary **the devil,**
as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
--- 1 Pet 5:8*

For unless you are on your guard,
you are not just going to be disappointed,
but you might also get hurt!

When God made man, He left nothing to chance!
Although He gave us a freewill,
to do as we please,
He set before us a choice ...
Life & blessings or death & cursing!
And to make sure nothing was left to chance,
God even told us what to choose! (*Deut. 30:19*)

Not only that, but ...
God even told us what the right choice would bring us,

*In whom also **we have obtained an inheritance,**
being predestinated according to the purpose of him
who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:
--- Eph 1:11
Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called:
and whom he called, them he also justified:
and whom he justified, them he also glorified.
--- Rom 8:30*

Since God has done it all, **there's nothing left to do!**
Yes, there is,
For not only must YOU choose,
but **you must also act on your choice!**

God warned us, saying,

***Where there is no vision,** the people perish:
but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.
--- Prov 29:18*

God wants you to choose Him,
God wants you to take hold of His promises,
and,
PLAN a future with Him!

... Read ...
Heb. 11:1-6
Ps. 37:4-5

Strong on the inside!

Inner strength!

If you want to be victorious and be a conqueror,
you have to be strong!
Or rather that's what everyone thinks!
But Jesus said,

*Blessed are the **poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
--- Matt 5:3*

If being poor in spirit,
is strength in the kingdom of heaven,
then something is not the way it's generally accepted!
And rightly so!
Being poor or dependant in spirit,
is not a sign of weakness,
but the laying aside of self-dependence,
whilst **recognizing your spiritual dependence,**
and your acceptance of God's grace.

*... what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe,
according to the working of his mighty power,
--- Eph. 1:17-19*

You are drawing strength from the Holy Spirit;
His strength that makes the kingdom of God, yours!

That spiritual dependence is a strength that the world cannot handle.
It is a strength that the devil cannot withstand!
**Because it is a strength that comes directly
from the kingdom of heaven!**

Jesus knew it and was not ashamed to say,

*I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just;
because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.
--- John 5:30*

*Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me?
The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself:
but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.
--- John 14:10*

And if Jesus depended on the Father ... so do we!
Therefore,
He made sure that we could spiritually be as strong as He was,
by giving us the Holy Spirit Himself as our helper,

*Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away,
the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.
--- John 16:7*

All you have to do is recognize your dependence upon Him,
... and yours will be the kingdom of heaven!

... 168 ... Wisdom

Abundantly Above ... All that you think!

More than you think!

Quoting scripture is easy!

But believing it ... and knowing how it works ... is not so easy,
especially when considering the following scripture,

*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we
ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, --- Eph. 3:20*

In a previous nugget on the same scripture,
we saw how God did Exceeding Abundantly Above all that Solomon asked!
But what about ... Exceeding Abundantly Above All that we think?

Has God ever done that?

Is there an example that we can learn from, where ...

God did **Exceeding Abundantly Above All that man could think?**

Let's look at another example in Solomon's life,

*And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning
the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions.*

*And she came to Jerusalem **with a very great train**, with camels that
bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: ... 1King 10:1-2*

We all dream of owning great wealth, but how many dream of giving it away?

Not many, yet that is what the queen of Sheba did,
thinking she knew what Abundantly Above was, but ...

*And when the queen of Sheba **had seen all** Solomon's wisdom, and the house
that he had built, And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and
the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent
by which he went up unto the house of the LORD; **there was no more spirit in her.***

--- 1King 10:4-5

She thought she knew wealth and wisdom, until she saw what God had done for Solomon!

God not only gave Solomon Exceeding Abundantly Above what he had asked,
God also did **Exceeding Abundantly Above All** that queen Sheba could think!

Solomon trusted that God would honor His Word, and God did,

Exceeding Abundantly Above All that Solomon had asked or expected!

And God did,

Exceeding Abundantly Above All that the queen of Sheba could think!

Will God do that for you?

Well, are you willing to do what He expects of you?

Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain:

ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. --- James 4:2

*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must
believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

--- Heb 11:6

Are you asking of God, believing that He can do and will do what He has said?

And that He WILL do it for you, the way He did it for Solomon?

Solomon asked, believed and trusted God, above all else,
and God did it for him!

Are you willing to ask, believe and trust God ... above all else?

Then He will do according to His Word for you as WELL!

... Read ...

Heb. 11:1-6, Matt. 6:33, Matt. 7:7, Rev. 3:20-22

Be merciful, even as your Father also is merciful!

A spiritual force!

Getting hurt or being disappointed,
happens easily and often!
However because of the negative spiritual force behind it,
Jesus warns us to not let it affect us,
but to immediately stand against it by being merciful and compassionate

Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

*Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not,
and ye shall not be condemned: **forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:**
--- Luke 6:36–37*

Why is this so important?
Because ...
a hard heart totally stops God's blessings and provision!
Whereas ...
a merciful, compassionate heart opens the door to God's abundance!

***Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down,
and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.
For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.***
--- Luke 6:38

Jesus taught us to simply forgive,
and start giving into problem situations, whatever the need may be,
forgiveness, love, mercy, compassion,
will stop satan in his tracks,
in the same way Jesus did when satan killed John the Baptist,
trying to get to Jesus and to stop His ministry!

Yes, Jesus was hurt and wanted to be alone, but the people followed Him,
... and instead of rejecting their untimely demands,

***And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude,
and was **moved with compassion** toward them,
and **he healed their sick.**
--- Matt 14:14***

**Jesus turned a potentially deep hurt in His life,
through compassion, through mercy,
into an attack directed at the one behind the attack against Him,
not the person, but the devil!**

Look beyond that hurt, those cutting words, that disappointment,
and see who is behind that attack against you!
Then,
be compassionate to the person who did it,
and in the Spirit take care of the one behind it!

Compassion, a spiritual force that the devil cannot withstand!

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
--- Matt 5:7

... 170 ... Pressure

Carefree!

'cause it is not my care!

Do you know that you can be,
carefree today!
And, do you also know that,
no one is supposed to be burdened by,
cares, pressure or stress!

Although Jesus said,

*... In the world ye shall have tribulation:
--- John 16:33*

We are not supposed to try and cope or put up with stress!
Yes! Jesus did say that stress is going to come our way,
but He did not stop there, He went on to say,

*... but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
--- John 16:33*

We are not supposed to cope with cares, pressure and stress;
We are supposed to overcome them!
We are supposed to get rid of them!

Jesus has already overcome the pressures and the stress for us!

So ...

why would we want them back?

God is willing and He is **"BIG"** enough to take care of all our cares,
so why do you want to hang on to them?

Rather do what God tells you to do,

*casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you
--- 1 Pet 5:7*

Remember ... God gave you a free will.

It is your choice ... not God's!

He already made His choice and even told us what we should choose,

*I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that
**I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing:
therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:**
--- Deut 30:19*

God's choice is life and blessings!

God's choice is good cheer!

God's choice is for you to trust Him to take care of your cares!

So ...

Do yourself a favor and make that choice ... today!

*Let Jesus take care of the pressure and the stress,
Let God take care ... of ALL your cares.*

... Read ...

Gen. 2:15–17

John 10:10

Humble and meek, strong or weak!

Strong or weak?

One of the characteristics of a child of God,
that has been more misunderstood than anything else,
... is HUMILITY ...

True humility is not a weakness, neither is it degrading,
but it is one of the most powerful characteristics,
in the kingdom of heaven!
As Jesus put it,

*Blessed are **the meek**: for they **shall inherit the earth.***
--- Matt 5:5

To be meek or to humble yourself, means,
to recognize the greatness and strength of another,
and in God's kingdom that means,
to recognize God's greatness, strength and abilities!
It also means ...
to understand and act upon Hebrews 11:6

*... for he that cometh to God must believe that he (God) is ...
(all He says He is and will do all He says He will do)
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him ...
(and that God will do all He promised, for you!)*

How do you do that?
By humbling or submitting yourself to God,
by being strong in God's strength and not in your own!

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.
--- James 4:10

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God,
that he may exalt you in due time:
--- 1 Pet 5:6

No! ... it is not being weak or pushed around!
But ... it is also not about having your own way!
It is about honoring God ... in your life!
It is about standing up for God's rights ... in His strength!

*And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,
And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves,
and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made
a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple,
..... And said unto them ... Take these things hence;
make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.
And his disciples remembered that it was written,
The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.*
--- John 2:13-17

It is a zeal for God and His ways,
and letting God give you the victory, in love and in His strength.

... Read ...
Matt. 11:7-10

... 172 ... Relationship

You cannot impress God!

You can't impress Him!

Just in case you did not know ...
It is impossible to impress God!

Yet,
throughout the Bible, and still today,
Man has been trying to impress God!

But, try as you may,
you cannot impress God with your belief,
you cannot impress God with your knowledge,
you cannot impress God with your words or deeds!

Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

*The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not
as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.*

I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

*And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven,
but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.*

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other...

--- Luke 18:10-14

You can't even impress God with a sacrifice,

In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

--- Heb 10:6

Have you been trying to impress or get God's attention?
STOP!

God did not create man so that man could impress Him.
No!

God created man to have a relationship with Him!

God wants to have fellowship with us! ... (Gen. 3:8)

And even after man sinned and fell from grace,
God did not change and neither did His intentions towards man!

God still wants a relationship with us,
God still wants to fellowship with us,
and He urges us to come to Him, saying,

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, --- Jer 33:3

... the prayer of the upright is his delight. --- Prov 15:8

*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth,
to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.*

--- 2 Chron. 16:9

The Lord delights in our prayers,
His ears are open to our call.

Our trust and faith in Him gives Him pleasure!

And ...

He takes pleasure when we spend time with Him!

... Read ...

Heb 11:1-6

John 17:20-26

John 3:16

The pressure's on!

The pressure's on!

You don't have to tell anyone that there is pressure all around,
everyone knows it!

*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace.
In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;
I have overcome the world. --- John 16:33*

Jesus said there would be pressure in this world,
but He also said that He has overcome,
and that in Him we are overcomers!
So,
what do you do when pressure comes?
What do you do when things go wrong?
Do what Jesus did!

When the devil came against Him in the wilderness,
twisting the word and trying to get Jesus to act on his lies.
What did Jesus do?
Jesus took the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,
spoke out God's promises and trusted in them,
instead of believing the devil and his lies! (*Matt. 4:1–10*)

When the devil killed John the Baptist through Herod,
trying to discourage and isolate Jesus in His ministry,
what did Jesus do?

*And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude,
and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.
--- Matt 14:14*

Jesus fought straight back,
breaking the power of the devil in the lives of those around Him!
And not only that,
Jesus showed the devil how God's Word really works,
by feeding five thousand from five loaves of bread and two fish!

What was it that Jesus did?
He did what He told His disciples to do not many days before,

*And from the days of John the Baptist until now
the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.
--- Matt 11:12*

When the devil tried to put Jesus under pressure,
Jesus turned around and with every spiritual weapon there is,
He resisted the devil and took the kingdom of heaven!

So ...
What should you do when the devil puts pressure on you?
Do what Jesus did.
You pick up your spiritual armour!
You take the Word of God!
And,
you put the devil to flight!

... 174 ... Prosperity

If you don't have, you cannot give!

Having to give!

Have you ever wondered,
what God really meant when He said,

*Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain:
ye fight and war, **yet ye have not, because ye ask not.***

--- James 4:2

Do you think God said it so that He could meet your financial need?
No! not at all!

Because if that was so, God would not have continued by saying,

***Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss,
that ye may consume it upon your lusts.***

--- James 4:3

God does not want you to ask of Him,
to meet your financial need!

No!

God wants you to ask of Him,
so that you will have a financial seed!

God's heart is to give,
but God never gives just to meet a need,
if He did you would be back tomorrow with the same need!
A person who only plants so that he can live,
is not a farmer, he is a survivor!
A farmer is one who plants over and above his need,
so that he can feed himself and many others!

God does not just give so that you can have,
God gives so that you have to give!
And, if you have a seed, you can meet more than just a need!
But,
how does God meet your need?
He meets it through giving you a seed!

*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
--- Phil 4:19*

A supply that came out of their giving ... (Phil. 4:15–18)
As Paul said to the Philippians,

*Not because I desire a gift: but **I desire fruit that may abound to your account.**
--- Phil 4:17*

Don't ask God to meet your need ... Ask God to give you a seed!
A seed to plant through which God can meet your every need!
As it is written,

*Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken
together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the
same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.
--- Luke 6:38*

The disciple whom Jesus loved!

Loved by Jesus!

*When Jesus therefore saw his mother,
and the disciple standing by, whom he loved... --- John 19:26*

Did Jesus love the disciple John ... more than the others?

No!

Neither God nor Jesus nor the Holy Spirit have any favorites,
... as Peter also found out,

*Then Peter opened his mouth, and said,
Of a truth I perceive that **God is no respecter of persons:**
--- Acts 10:34*

If then Jesus does not have favorites,
what made John's relationship with Jesus special?

*Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples,
whom Jesus loved. --- John 13:23*

Study the Gospel and Epistles of John,
and you find that John was the one who always drew close to Jesus.
Why? Because ...

John had a revelation of God's love, that giving love ... agape!

John understood the tremendous power ... that's in God's love!
John realized the blessings which are released through God's love!
(John 3:16)

John wanted as much of God's love as he could get!

And John knew where to get it ... in Jesus!
And he knew how to get it ... through Jesus!
That is why he wrote,

*He that loveth not knoweth not God; **for God is love.** --- 1John 4:8*

That is not just for John ... Jesus wants us all to be like that.
In fact Jesus challenged Peter to do the same,

*So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter,
Simon, son of Jonas, **lovest thou me more than these?**
--- John 21:15*

Become a lover like John,
and take every opportunity to reach out in love, to Jesus!

How?

By loving those around you, in Jesus!

*... for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen
how can he love God whom he hath not seen? --- 1John 4:20*

For what you sow (love) ... that will you also reap (God's love)
It is intended for everyone ... yet only enjoyed by those who give!

... Read ...

*John 1:1-14, 1John 1:1-4
1John 4, Rev. 1:1-10*

... 176 ... Righteous Living

Always before God!

A loyal heart!

Every one would like to know that they,
or at least their needs and desires,
are before God ... ALL the time!
Is that possible?
We can't see God or what is before Him,
so ...

How can we know whether our needs and desires are before Him?

God said this of Cornelius,

*A **devout man, and one that feared God with all his house,**
which **gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.***

*... and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him,
Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.
--- Acts 10:2-4*

Cornelius had a heart for people and a heart for God!
Cornelius revered God, giving Him honor ...
Cornelius showed others his devotion to God ...
Cornelius gave into the needs of other people ...
Cornelius stayed in contact with God, all the time!

God saw his giving ...
God heard his prayers ...

His heart came up as a memorial before God!
and God responded to that!
In fact the Bible says,

*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth,
to shew himself strong in the behalf of
them whose heart is perfect toward him.
--- 2 Chr 16:9*

God is on the lookout.
Looking at our hearts. Listening to our prayers.
because ...

God wants to answer our every prayer!
He wants to show Himself strong on our behalf!
He wants to meet our every need,

*Delight thyself also in the LORD;
and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him;
and he shall bring it to pass.
--- Ps 37:4-5*

**Our hearts (our giving and our prayers)
are always before God.**

And if our hearts are loyal to Him, to His ways,
God will meet our every need and give us the desires of our hearts!

Have sin and guilt got your attention?

The guilt problem!

We know that if we repent of our sins,
God forgives us every time!

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. --- 1 Jn 1:9*

And it's wonderful to know that no matter how badly you messed up,
you can always go to God for forgiveness!
God will always forgive you no matter what!

And God wants to be most important in your life.

But,

... unless you stop tolerating sin in your life,
... unless you deal with those recurring sins,
... unless you finally deal with those little sins,
the guilt remains, and

God is stopped from being uppermost in your heart and mind!

If you have knowingly sinned ... it will bother you!
If something is wrong ... it will occupy your mind!
If you have not dealt with something ... it holds your attention!

You will start to pray ... and only see that sin!
You want to hear God ... and only hear your harsh words!
You want to see God's face ... and all you see is that thing that's wrong!

It does not matter how small or insignificant it is!
a silly word, a pencil you took or a dirty look!

Whilst that is on your mind ... God is not!
You have a problem ... not God!

You may have said sorry ... but have you repented?
You may have asked God to forgive you ... but have you changed?
Yes, God will forgive you,
and forgiveness will loose you from sin.

But,

**only a complete change in your life and in your ways,
... will set you free!**

*But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy,
filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that
ye have **put off the old man with his deeds**; And have **put on the new man**,
which is **renewed in knowledge after the image of him** that created him:
--- Col 3:8-10*

Don't let the sin and guilt of the old man ... keep your attention!

Repent ... turn away ... change!

Put on the new man who is after the image of God!
Renewed with no sin or guilt between you and God,
free to pray and hear God, free to step into His presence!

... Read ...

Eph. 4:17-32

... 178 ... Victorious Living

YOU are ... God's choice!

God's choice!

Even before creation, God chose YOU to be His child!

*Having **predestinated us unto the adoption of children** by Jesus Christ **to himself**, according to the good pleasure of his will,
--- Eph 1:5*

And not only does God want you to be His child,
But He has chosen,
that you should be like Jesus, and,
that you should be victorious like Jesus!

*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate **to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.
--- Rom 8:29*

That is God's choice!
But what will confirm God's choice ... in your life?
What will open the way for God's plan to work in your life?

It is not what you look like or do on the outside,

*... for the LORD seeth not as man seeth;
for man looketh on the outward appearance,
but the LORD looketh on the heart.
--- 1 Sam 16:7*

God looks at your heart!

So what kind of a heart is it that God is looking for?
What kind of a heart is it that God can work with?
The kind of heart that David had,

*David said moreover,
The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion,
and out of the paw of the bear,
he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine ...
--- 1 Sam 17:37*

David, like God, did not look at what is physically seen,
but David looked at God's heart, and what God would do.
David in his heart said ... "My God is able!"
Of such a person God says,

*... I have found David the son of Jesse, **a man after mine own heart,**
which shall fulfil all my will.
--- Acts 13:22*

**You also can have such a heart,
and become one of God's chosen vessels!**

... Read ...
1 Sam. 17:1-51

Build yourself up in faith!

Build yourself up!

Everyone knows that you need faith,
and that it will be to your benefit to build your faith,
as we also read in Jude 1:20,

*But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith,
praying in the Holy Ghost,*

But what is important to know is,
how do you build your faith?
Praying in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit,
will cement your faith!

But ...
If you don't already have some word in you,
for faith comes from reading and knowing the Word (Rom. 10:17)
then just praying in the spirit will not help you much!

YOU need to spend time reading and meditating on the Word.

YOU need to have a foundation of faith built up,
faith that the Holy Spirit can work with!

YOU need to build YOURself up ... on YOUR most holy faith!

Faith starts with you putting your trust in God ... Psalm 91

Faith starts to develop as you get to know God ... Psalm 23

By spending time in His Word ... Rom. 10:17

By getting to know what He will do ... 1 John 5:14-15

And ...

Faith develops by building on that foundation!

Faith is built by stepping out on God's Word ... Heb. 11:6

Faith is built by acting on what you know!

You build your faith up,

by building on what God has already done for you!
In fact God tells us to remind Him of past victories,
so that we would remember what He has done for us,

*Put me in remembrance: let us plead together:
declare thou, that thou mayest be justified. --- Isa 43:26*

And Jesus said,
If you find it difficult to believe, look at what the Father has done,

*If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.
But if I do, though ye believe not me, **believe the works:**
that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.
--- John 10:37-38*

As you build up your faith,
**acting on what God has done and will still do for you,
the Holy Spirit will come and perfect that for you!**

... Read ...

Matt. 19:16-30

... 180 ... Wisdom

Stop the devourer ... protect your goods!

Protect your goods!

Is your stuff being stolen or simply breaking?
Do you just never have enough left over at the end of the month?

Does your stuff just not last?

Then it's time to do something!

*And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,
and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground;
neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field,
saith the LORD of hosts. --- Mal 3:11*

God says to us,

Let Me look after your stuff for you!

Why would God do that for us?

**Because God is a good God,
and God wants to bless us!**

How will God do that for you?

*Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house,
and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts,
if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing,
that there shall not be room enough to receive it.
--- Mal 3:10*

God will bless you and protect your stuff,
if you will Honor Him, Obey Him and Trust Him!

If you want God to protect ALL your belongings,
YOU have to trust Him with ALL your belongings!
Tithe and give ... so that God can bless you, abundantly,
and He'll rebuke the devourer for you!

Jesus tried to explain that to the rich young ruler,

*Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and **sell that thou hast,**
and **give to the poor,** and thou shalt have **treasure in heaven:**
and come and follow me. --- Matt 19:21*

Jesus told the rich young ruler,

Put your trust in Me and not your riches!

Put your riches in My hands and I will protect them!
And give to others on My behalf ... and I will bless you!

Don't be like the rich young ruler ... trusting in the little you have!

Put what you have in God's hands ... and give on His behalf.

**God will not only bless you,
but He'll stop the devourer and protect your goods!**

... Read ...

Matt. 19:16–22

Living up to God's choice!

A good choice!

Does God give everyone the same opportunity?
Or ...
Does God choose some people above others?

When Israel wanted to have a king,
who was God's first choice?
Saul ... or ... David?

*... and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel,
that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines
And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold
the man whom I spake to thee of, this same shall reign over my people.
--- 1 Sam 9:16-17*

God sought out and chose Saul to reign over His people,
... and instructed Samuel to anoint Saul,
so that Saul would be equipped with strength and ability,
to do what God had chosen him to do ... to save His people!
1 Sam. 10:1

Saul did well and successfully reigned over Israel,
while he honored God and walked in God's anointing.

But when some pressure came,
instead of waiting on God,
Saul decided to do things his own way!

*And Samuel said to Saul, **Thou hast done foolishly:**
thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee:
for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.
--- 1 Sam 13:13*

Saul thought he would lose the support of the people,
and instead of trusting God, who put him in charge of them,
... Saul did things his own way,
... and continued to do things his own way.
1Sam. 15:18-19

God did not reject Saul,
Saul rejected God and God's commandments!

Was Saul a good choice? ... Yes!
Did Saul live up to God's choice? ... No!

You are God's choice! ... What is your response?

... Read ...
Eph. 1:1-12
Rom. 8:28-31
1 Sam. 8:4-7
1 Sam. 13:11-14
1 Sam. 15:10-11
1 Sam. 15:22-23

... 182 ... Healing

What satan does not want you to know!

Problems with healing?

Do you find it difficult to understand,
accept or receive healing?

Well ... you're not alone.

Many people have a problem with accepting and receiving healing!

**Yet, if you put preconceptions aside,
it is really so easy and straight forward!**

Consider the following.

Was there sickness in the Garden of Eden?

No!

When did sickness first appear?

only after man was deceived by the devil and sinned!

As Jesus said,

*The thief cometh not, but for to **steal**, and to **kill**, and to **destroy**...*

--- John 10:10

Plainly, the devil is the one who attempts to,
steal your goods, kill your body and destroy your health!

Therefore,

knowing who the enemy is and what his foul plan is,
let us see what the Bible tells us about healing!

*For this purpose **the Son of God was manifested,**
that he might destroy the works of the devil.*

--- 1 Jn 3:8

Whatever was necessary to destroy the devil's destructive work,
was done by Jesus over 2000 years ago.

**So there is nothing left to do,
except to receive what Jesus has already done!**

As The Apostle Peter said,

*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,
that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness:*

by whose stripes ye WERE healed.

--- 1 Pet 2:24

Healing is a fact, a reality ...

**Accepting and receiving it,
is the necessity!**

And Jesus continued to say in John 10,

*I am come that they might **have life**,
and that they might have it **more abundantly**.*

--- John 10:10

Health and healing is yours ... Don't let the devil steal it!

... Read ...

Isa. 53

Prov. 3:1-10

The bread of life!

Take a bite!

Do you want your every need met?

The 5000 who Jesus fed wanted Jesus to do just that,
... that's why they were following Him around everywhere.

Yet Jesus said to them,
"You're not following Me because of ALL I can do for you,
but just because I gave you some food!"

Then Jesus went on to say,

I am the bread of life,
he that cometh to me shall never hunger;
and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.
--- John 6:35

"I am not just a slice of bread on your plate!" ... Jesus said,
"I am your every provision for life ... the bread of life!"

In the Garden of Eden God blessed man,
... giving him the ability to be prosperous in every area of life!
Jesus came to give us salvation and to restore man's position,

According as his divine power hath given unto us
all things that pertain unto life and godliness,
through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises:
*that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature,***
*having **escaped the corruption** that is in the world through lust.*
--- 2 Pet 1:3-4

Jesus was saying to the people (and to us),
"Come, take a bite from the Bread of Life!"
"As God provided every need your fathers had in the desert,
... even the manna, bread from heaven!"
"I give you the bread of life ... life for the world!"

Even in the midst of the worst situations in your life,

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.
--- Ps 23:5-6

Do you need healing? ... Come take a bite of the Bread of Life!
Do you need strength? ... Come take a bite of the Bread of Life!
Do you need deliverance? ... Come take a bite of the Bread of Life!
Whatever your need ... Jesus is the answer!

... Read ...

John 6:25-38

John 10:10

1 Cor. 11:23-26

Setting the record straight!

Does God give sickness?

Does God give sickness and cause death?
Is God the One who judges us through sickness and death?
Absolutely not!

If God was the one who because of sin, gives sickness and death,
... then why did He not judge Adam and Eve with sickness and death?
And He did not, but instead promised them salvation!
But, to the devil God said,

*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed
and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*
--- Gen 3:15–19

God is not the author of sickness or death,
in fact Adam and Eve lived over 900 years,
a healthy life I would say!
So ...

Why then is there sickness on the earth?

Where does sickness come from?
Where does death come from?
The answer is easy, and you don't have to look very far.
Jesus quite plainly said,

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:
--- John 10:10

Satan is the author of sickness and death!

But,
we have been translated out of the kingdom of darkness, sickness & death.

*This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you,
that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*
*If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the
truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another,
and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*
--- 1 Jn 1:5–7

Where there is light, there is no darkness, there is no sin!
Where there is life, there is no sickness there is no death!
So ...

Where God is there is life and light!
Where God is there is no sin, no sickness and no death!
But ...

Where God is not ... there is no light and no life!
Where God is not ... there is sin, sickness and death!

Is God responsible for sickness and death?
No! ... quite definitely not!

... Read ...
1 Jn 5:11–12

Love makes no demands!

No demands?

Love ... Agape ... to give without expectation!

Is it really possible to give without expecting anything in return?
Would one not at least expect that your gift be accepted?

Has anyone ever given totally without expectation?

When God gave Jesus,

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that
whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
--- John 3:16*

Did God put any expectation on that gift?

No!

**He gave without any expectation or obligation,
... without pressure on anyone to accept His gift!**

When Jesus gave Himself,

*Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this
present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:
--- Gal 1:4*

Did Jesus put any expectation on His giving of Himself?

No!

**He gave without any expectation,
... or pressure on anyone to accept His gift!**

He did the Father's will ... whether or not man would ever accept it!
(Luke 22:42)

When the Holy Spirit came to live in us,

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all
truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear,
that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.
--- John 16:13*

Did the Holy Spirit come with any expectations?

No!

**Not even to speak on His own accord,
but He came ...
willing and ready to Comfort, Guide, Teach & Help us,
whether we expect, receive or even appreciate it!**

God is love ... and He loves to give,

without obligation or expectation,
For He gives in faith ... knowing it will be received
and ...

He gives as much ... as we dare to receive!

... Read ...

Titus 2:13-15

... 186 ... Faith

Have faith in God!

Have faith in God!

Ever wondered why Jesus said,

*And Jesus answering saith unto them, **Have faith in God.**
--- Mark 11:22*

... and why He did not say,
"Believe in God!"
Is believing in God and having faith in God ... not the same?
No! ... Not at all!

The Apostle James was asked that same question,
and his reply was very clear,

*Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well:
the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man,
that faith without works is dead? --- James 2:19–20*

Believing in God is good,
but unless you have faith in God ... you are in trouble!
Where do I get faith ... and what is faith?
To get faith ... is easy,

... as **God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.** --- Rom 12:3

God has given to each of us the measure of faith,
... that means that you have faith!
But what is this faith that you have?

*Now **faith is the substance** of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen,
... But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
--- Heb 11:1 & 6*

Faith is ...
... believing God IS who He says He IS,
Faith is ...
... believing that God will honor His Word,
... and that He will do it for YOU!
Faith is ...
... receiving God's promise before it manifests in the physical,
... trusting God so much that you have it before you get it!

Why then do most people struggle with faith?
Because instead of simply accepting that God can do it,
... they try to figure out how God will do it,
... and because they can't figure it out, they think that God will not do it!

Don't you worry about how God will honour His promises,
All you have to do is accept that He will!
That's true faith in God!
... Read ...

Mark 11:22–23, Heb. 11

Hunger and thirst after righteousness!

Hungry and thirsty!

Whilst teaching on kingdom qualities, Jesus said the following,

*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:
for they shall be filled.*

--- *Matt 5:6*

Hunger and thirst after righteousness?
But is not righteousness a free gift from God?
Does not the Bible say,

*For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they
which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness
shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.*

--- *Rom 5:17*

So surely you can't become more righteous before God?
Correct ... but being righteous with God,
does not necessarily mean that your life and ways are righteous!
Just because God sees you as righteous,
does not mean you should not live according to the new man!

*... put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge
according to the image of Him who created him,
--- Col. 3:9-10*

More than anything else ...
God wants us to be in right standing before Him!
God wants us to hunger and thirst after His presence!

Because, it is in His presence,
**where He can fill us with more of Him,
where He can provide in all our needs!**

As Jesus so specifically said to us,

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you.*

--- *Matt 6:33*

Therefore,
don't allowing anything to separate you from God's presence!
But above all else,
desire to be where God is, in His presence,
desire to live according to His standard!

It is not about what you don't do (not sinning),
but it is about what you do do,
living that new man that He made you to be!

***Blessed are these who hunger and thirst after righteousness,
for they shall be filled with the presence of God.***

... 188 ... God's Provision

He has already provided!

Enter His rest!

Every need that you may ever have,
has already been taken care of by God!
All you have to do,
is to go to Him and receive what He has already provided!

When God had finished with creation, He saw that everything was very good!
In other words ... all that needed to be done had been done!

*... and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.
--- Gen 2:2*

In Hebrews 4, God tells us to enter His rest.
--- Hebrews 4:1-16

Thus telling us that God is still resting from His work!
He is not having to do anything more, He has already done it all!

The writer of Hebrews urges us, saying,

*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace,
that we may **obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**
--- Heb 4:16*

Whatever your need,
God has already provided the answer,
God has already provided a supply!

Do you need deliverance ... from any kind of oppression?
... Col. 1:13 & 1 Thess. 1:10 ... *say it is already done!*

Do you need healing ... from any kind of sickness or disease?
... 1 Peter 2:24 & Isa. 53:5 ... *say it is already done!*

Do you need peace and victory ... in every pressure and tribulation?
... John 16:33 & John 14:27 ... *say you already have it!*

Do you have any other need ... whatever it may be?
... Phil. 4:19 says ... *God has supplied in them all!*
For,

*According as his divine power **hath given** unto us
all things that pertain unto life and godliness,
--- 2 Pet 1:3*

There is nothing that you need ... that God has not already provided,
But,

as the Book of Hebrews teaches us,
we need to go to where God's provision is ... to get our supply,
we need to go to the throne of grace ... to obtain from God!

We need to enter His rest, in faith, knowing He has already provided!

*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God
must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
--- Heb 11:6*

Enter into His rest ... He has already provided!

Protection ... 189 ...

Safe ... under His wing!

A place of safety!

So often one hears,
God put this sickness on me!
God in His mercy let them die!
God did this and God did that!
Does God really put sickness on people or even kill them?
No! Never!

God is light and God is life ... in Him there is no darkness at all!

In fact, if you are where God is ... you are safe!

For ...

*He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, **He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.***

--- Ps 91:1-4

If you are where Light is ... there is no darkness!
If you are where Life is ... there is no sickness or death!
If God is your refuge ... there is safety in His presence!
If God is your fortress ... there is strength in His presence!

And ...

God will shield you under His wings and deliver you from every attack!

So then ...

where do sickness, disease and death come from?

Jesus said this to the scribes about sickness and healing,

*For whether is easier, to say, **Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?***

*But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) **Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.***

--- Matt 9:5-6

Jesus said, sickness and death are a result of sin,
and sin separates us from God.

Therefore sin separates us from His protection!

And,

when you are not under God's protection,
you are subject to satan's wiles and his devices!

You are subject to lack, sickness, disease and death!

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

--- John 10:10

Jesus said ... repent and get away from sin.

Turn to God ... to where light, life, health, healing and prosperity are!

Make God your refuge, your fortress ... your strength and your hiding place!

Where there is only life and light,

under His wings you are safe, healed and restored!

... Read ...

Psalm 91

... 190 ... Holiness

The pure in heart!

A pure heart!

Through sin we become defiled,
and therefore, separated from God!
Through the shedding of Jesus' blood,
and accepting Him as Lord in our lives,
we are cleansed and purified and restored to God!

Being forgiven of our sins, frees us from satan's hold ... (*John 8:36*)
having received the gift of righteousness ... (*Rom. 5:17-18*)
restores us to God and His presence!

But,

that is only the beginning of our walk with God,

*For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves,
and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: --- Lev 11:44*

Being forgiven of sins, being free from the bondage of sin,
does not mean that sin and temptation have ceased!

Having received the gift of righteousness,
restores us to God and His presence,

but does not make us holy!

Therefore,

*But as he which hath called you is holy,
so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;
Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.
--- 1 Pet 1:15-16*

We have to respond to what Jesus has done!

We have to respond to God's holiness!

By changing our behaviour and changing our ways!

The Bible exhorts us to,

*But now ye also put off all these;
anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.
Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;*

And have put on the new man,

which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

--- Col 3:8-10

You have to renew your way of thinking,

and your way of acting,

to line up with God and His ways!

That ... is how you become holy, as He is holy!

That ... is how your heart becomes pure!

That ... is what opens the way to God's presence in your life.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

--- Matt 5:8

... Read ...

Psalm 51

Do you want to prosper?

A good investment!

Except for those who insist in believing satan's lies,
that Christians should not be rich or have anything for that matter!
most everybody would like to have more than only just enough!

And,
God wants us to have more than enough,

*The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich,
and he addeth no sorrow with it.*

--- Prov 10:22, Phil. 4:19,

The one thing that is important however, is how we become prosperous.
There are only 2 ways of becoming prosperous,

God's way or satan's way!

If your only goal in life is to become very rich,
and all your actions are directed towards that,
if making money comes before God, family, people and relationships,
then you are on the wrong path,
and you have fallen for what God warns us of!

*For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after,
they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows
--- 1 Tim 6:10*

How can one be financially blessed and not fall into that trap?
Become prosperous God's way!

**True riches in God are in His way of doing things,
... giving!**

As any good businessman will tell you ... Invest!
Invest in something good!

And it is not a business ... but a God principle!

*Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down,
and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.
For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.
--- Luke 6:38*

A businessman will tell you to invest in GOOD business!

A farmer will tell you to sow in GOOD soil!

But ... Where should you invest? Where should you give?

Invest in God's kingdom ... Become a giver for God!

*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you. --- Matt 6:33*

Bless and give to those around you, without expecting from them!
And give to God and trust Him to bless and increase you!

... Read ...

Deut. 28:1-13

Mal. 3:10

John 10:10

Phil. 4:19

Peace at all costs!

Become a peacemaker!

Blessed are the peacemakers ...

--- Matt 5:9

There is probably more talk about peace today,
than ever before,
and the United Nations and most countries,
have or support a peace corps somewhere in the world!
Yet Jesus made this statement,

*Think not that I am come to send peace on earth:
I came not to send peace, but a sword.*

--- Matt 10:34

Did Jesus really mean that?

Did He send a sword to earth?

Yes!

However ... it is not the kind of sword we think of,
but the sword Jesus spoke of ... is the Word of God,

*For the **word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***

--- Heb 4:12

Jesus knew that peace as we understand it is not possible,
... unless it is founded on God and His Word!

***Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:
not as the world giveth, give I unto you.***

Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

--- John 14:27

What then is a peacemaker?

A peacemaker is not one who tries to make peace between men,
but a peacemaker is one who makes peace between God and man!

A peacemaker is one who takes God's Word to others,
and who opens the way for God to bring His peace to them!

(Matt. 28:18–20, Mark 16:15–20)

There is and never can be peace,
unless God and His Word are the foundation!

Blessed are the peacemakers!

Those who take God's peace to the world,
for they truly are the children of God!

... Read ...

Psalms 23

Rom. 10:14

Human rights ... versus God's rights(eousness)!

My rights!

In the world you are told to fight for your rights!
If you don't stand up for yourself ... no one else will!
You have rights ... take what is yours ... you are important!
That is what the world says,
but what does the Bible say?

*But we are all as an unclean thing,
and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.
--- Isa 64:6*

You cannot prove how right you are or what rights you have,
and being right or righteous,
is not something you fight for or earn,
because,
righteousness is right standing before God,
a position that God places us in ...

*For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they
which receive abundance of grace and of **the gift of righteousness**
shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.
--- Rom 5:17*

**Yes we do have rights,
for instance**

You have the right ... to be helped by God (Heb. 4:16)
You have the right ... to be blessed by God (Deut. 28:1-14)
You have the right ... to have peace in your life (John 14:27)
You have the right ... to go into the presence of God (Heb. 4:16)
You have the right ... to be healed by God ... (Ex.26:15, 1Pet.2:24)
You have the right ... to receive salvation in Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:13)
(John 3:16-17, 1 Tim.2:4, 2Pet. 3:9)
Yet,
these rights are not something we demand of God!
But,
they are all rights which God freely gives to us,
and longs to shower on us!

As God said to Israel ...

*Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and **prove me now herewith**, saith the LORD of hosts, **if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.**
--- Mal 3:10*

How can I receive these rights?

*I receive (righteousness) the right to all that God has promised,
by accepting Jesus as Lord in my life, and,
by submitting to God, in Jesus, through the Holy Spirit!*

... Read ...
*John 10:10
Phil. 4:19*

... 194 ... God's Will

He will do, what He said He will do!

God certainly will!

Often people look to God or to His promises and say,
will God do that for me?
Well, if there is one thing that is sure, it is that,
God WILL do His will!
If God said it, If God promised it ... then He WILL do it!

*So **shall my word** be that goeth forth out of my mouth: **it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish** that which I please, and **it shall prosper** in the thing whereto I sent it.
--- Isa 55:11*

The question therefore is not ... "Will God do His will?"
The question is ... "Can God do His will in your life?"

*Can God do what He promised in your life?
Or are you doing things that stop Him from doing His will in your life?*

"But I thought God can do anything?"
Think again!

Can God do something He said He would not do?

No! He cannot! He will not!
Because if God did go against His own word,
then He would be a liar and subject to the devil!
No! He cannot! He will not!

***God is not a man, that he should lie;**
neither the son of man, that he should repent:
hath he said, and shall he not do it?
or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?
--- Num 23:19*

If God said it! ... then He will do it!

*But,
are you doing things or saying things in your life which stop God?
Are you allowing sin to stick around?
Are you talking negatively or contrary to God's Word?*

Check yourself,
your actions and your words can limit God's will!

*If God said it ... He WILL do it!
But if we stop Him ... He CANNOT do it!*

Do you want God's will and His promises in your life?

Then stop doing what stops God from doing His will in your life!
Then stop doing what stops God's promises from manifesting in your life!

It is not whether God will ... it is whether God can!
And He can, as long as you are open to His ways and His Word!

... Read ...
*Mark 6:1-6
Deut. 28:1-14*

It comes with the going!

As you go!

Have you ever wondered,
why prayers are not answered immediately?

You pray ... and it just seems as if nothing happens!

You pray for strength,
and feel just as weak and tired as before!
You pray for healing,
and cannot seem to feel a change or improvement!
I am sure I prayed in faith,
but nothing seems to be happening!

Yes ... you have to ask in faith!
But what we do once we have prayed ... is as important!
Jesus gave us this example,

*And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men
that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices,
and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them,
he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests.*

And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

*And one of them, when he saw that he was healed,
turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God ...*

*... And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way:
thy faith hath made thee whole.*

--- Luke 17:12-19

The lepers asked in faith for healing, yet whilst they were still leprous,
Jesus told them to go show their healing to the priests,

... healing came as they went!

Their healing came as they stepped out and received it ... by faith!
One even turned back and glorified God before he was declared clean!

...

In Hebrews we read the same truth,

*But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for **he that cometh to God must believe that he is,**
and **that he is a rewarder** of them that diligently seek him.*

--- Heb 11:6

It does NOT say ... those who are rewarded, believe God!

No, it says,

Those who step out believing God ... are rewarded!
It comes with the going!

If you have asked God to strengthen you,
... don't hang around home till you feel you have been strengthened.
No! ... step out and go do what you needed the strength for,
...and God will strengthen you as you step out in faith!

It comes with the going!

... Read ...

1 Kings 17:10-16

Treating you better than you deserve!

Better than you deserve!

Praise God, God is a merciful God,
Who is merciful to everyone who will receive it!
And in His mercy,

God treats us better than we deserve!

But how do we receive mercy?
Jesus said,

*Blessed are **the merciful**:
for they **shall obtain mercy**.
--- Matt 5:7*

God wants to show us His mercy!
But although,
we cannot earn God's mercy,
and though we don't deserve God's mercy,
Yet,

we can stop God's treating us better than we deserve!

Jesus warned us, saying,

***Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.**
Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and
ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:
--- Luke 6:36-37*

And not only can we stop God's blessings in our lives,
Unless we choose to receive from God, He cannot bless us!

*I call heaven and earth to record this day against you,
that **I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing:**
therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:
--- Deut 30:19*

So what should you do?

*Beloved, if God so loved us, **we ought also to love one another.**
--- 1 Jn 4:11*

Start reaching out to those around you ... in love!
Don't judge them for their mistakes and failures,
but forgive them and be merciful towards them!
Treat them better than they deserve,
**and your heavenly Father will be merciful to you,
and treat you better than you deserve!**

... Read ...
1 John 4:7-21

Are you being overtaken by blessings?

Overtaken by blessings!

Have you ever dreamt that someone came up to you,
and gave you a million dollars?

Well ... that's just not God's way of doing things!

Or is it?

What is God's way of doing things?

Will God give us things out of the blue?

Does God want us to be blessed in abundance?

Yes!

In fact God's plan is,

*And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee,
if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.*

Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.

*Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground,
and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.*

Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.

*Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in,
and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.*

--- Deut 28:2-6

Hallelujah!

That means that God sees us blessed all the time,
and God wants us to be blessed everywhere!

Is that really true?

Think about it ... Is God a liar? No!

God is not a man, that he should lie; --- Num 23:19

So ... if God calls us blessed ... then that is what we are!

Therefore, be quick to agree with Him,

even if in the natural, right now,

it would not seem to be so in our lives.

Even if there are situations in our life right now,

that do not line up with God's Word (yet!)

God says ... whatever the situation,

it is subject to change!

While we look not at the things which are seen, (our situation)

but at the things which are not seen: (God's promises)

for the things which are seen are temporal; (subject to change)

but the things which are not seen are eternal. (are valid for ever)

--- 2 Cor 4:18

I don't know about you, but I prefer to believe God and not the devil.

I prefer to accept His promises and His blessings!

So whatever it takes,

Repentance, Obedience and a New way of Thinking and Believing,

let that be your decision ... do what it takes and take the blessings!

... Read ...

Deut. 30:19

... 198 ... **Salvation**

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Sharing Jesus' burden!

Is it really possible that Jesus,
who can do anything ... who has everything,
actually has a yoke and a burden?
Did not Jesus say,

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. --- Matt 11:30

Seems hard to believe, but it's true!
And, when Jesus said that, He included us in it,

*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me;
for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.
--- Matt 11:28-29*

What could that burden be that Jesus wants to share with us?
Getting Mankind to receive His love and blessings.

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that
whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
--- John 3:16*

*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.
--- John 10:10*

Jesus came so that we could be saved and have abundant life.
But, Jesus also knew He could not reach everyone on His own.
Therefore He said to us,
share My yoke and share My burden!

*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
--- Mark 16:15*

Jesus wants everyone to be saved and blessed.
Therefore He says to us,
take My yoke and take My burden.
Go for me and tell others the good news,
of life, restoration and blessings!

But, how am I going to take the Good News to others?

*And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working
with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.
--- Mark 16:20*

All you have to do is GO! ... Jesus will do the rest!
But,
what about my needs ... the reason why I went to Jesus?

*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
--- Phil. 4:19*

Jesus gave us life and that more ABUNDANTLY!
In Jesus,
you have all you need ... life and blessings!
All you need to do ... is receive them and go!

... Read ...
Luke 4:18-19

His peace ... my strength!

Strong in Him!

When you think of what is to come ,
uncertainty, pressure and tribulation seem ever present,
then it is good to remember Jesus' promise to us,

*Peace I leave with you, **my peace I give unto you...***
--- John 14:27

A wonderful promise!

Yet, when we look around us,
it really seems as if the opposite was true!
If Jesus left us His peace,
surely all the pressures and tribulations should not be coming our way!
But Jesus said,

*... **In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;***
I have overcome the world.
--- John 16:33

So ... if we are to expect opposition, pressure and tribulation,
then,
what is Jesus' peace in our lives?
Jesus said,

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:
not as the world giveth, give I unto you.
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
--- John 14:27

*These things I have spoken unto you, that **in me ye might have peace ...***
In the world ye shall have tribulation:
but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
--- John 16:33

The world thinks that peace is the absence of opposition,
But Jesus says,
... peace is overcoming opposition!

Jesus warned us that there would be opposition,
but in Him we would have peace and victory!

So what is peace in Jesus?

Peace is not being troubled ... but having faith in God's Promises! (*Heb. 11:1-6*)
Peace is not being anxious ... but knowing God will keep His Word! (*Isa. 55:11*)
Peace is knowing who you are ... Righteous in Jesus! (*Rom.5:17, 2Tim.4:8*)
Peace is knowing what you have ... all your needs supplied! (*2 Pet. 1:3*)
Peace is knowing where you are going ... to heaven! (*John 14:2*)

So,
when thinking of tomorrow,
don't think of what may come against you,
rather think of the strength you have in you, in Jesus!

Take hold of His peace, His joy,
and in HIM ... YOU'LL have the victory!

... 200 ... **Commitment**

Don't let go ... before it gets good!

Don't let go!

How often don't we let go because it takes too long?
How often don't we give up because we get tired of standing?
Too often ... and too easily!

God did not give up and lose patience with man.
For more than 6000 years God has been patient with us,
and He is not going to quit before it gets good!
He is not going to give up before the breakthrough!
He is not going to give up until the race is run!
Therefore He says to us through the writer of Hebrews,

*... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us,
and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,
--- Heb 12:1*

Don't let go before it gets good!
Determination guarantees the breakthrough!

...
Well that's OK for God to do and say,
He is not having to struggle here on earth!
Having that kind of determination is just not human.

Now that's not really true is it?
What about the determination of a,
... Noah, Joseph, Joshua, David or Paul ... to mention but a few?

It is not about people who were born saints (golden spoon and all)
It is not about people who had an easy life, who never had to struggle!
It is about ordinary people, like you and me,
and the best example, really got God's attention.

Jacob, the supplanter, the deceiver!
He may have started life as a deceiver,
but he had one strong point to his credit ... determination!
And look what his determination got him,

*And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel:
for thou hast striven with God and with men, and hast prevailed.*

--- Gen 32:28 (asv)

God said,

"You're no longer called deceiver ... I now call you Prince of God!"

*Jacob was determined to get God's blessings,
... and he did!*

He did not give up before the breakthrough!
He did not give up until the race was run!
He did not leave before it got good!

Don't give up ... get up and do it again.

Don't you let go ... before it gets GOOD!

... Read ...
Hosea 12:2-6

Have a need ... sow a seed!

One of the most powerful natural and spiritual laws God ordained is, *Take it from the farmer?*

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest. --- Gen 8:22

But ... isn't that just for farmers?
Isn't that just for what you put in the ground?
No!

*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for **whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap**. For he that **soweth to his flesh** shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that **soweth to the Spirit** shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for **in due season we shall reap**, if we faint not.
--- Gal 6:7-9*

Whatever you sow ... will produce a harvest accordingly,
... both physically and spiritually!

*... **The sower soweth the word** ... And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, **and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred**. --- Mark 4:3-20*

Sowing and reaping works in every area of our lives!
*Even the world knows it and reaps on someone else's sowing!
They subsidize the farmers with money for seed,
... and not only receive taxes from the farmer,
but from the wholesalers, manufacturers, the markets and shops!
Just like Jesus said, a 30, 60 and 100 fold return!*

Do YOU have a need? ... then ... YOU sow a seed!
and watch God's Word work for you!
But my need is so big!

Then believe for a hundred fold return on your sowing!
Where shall I sow?
Don't sow in bad, hard soil.
Find some good soil and sow there,
and you will be assured of a good harvest!

*But remember ...
Don't look to where you have sown to bring in the harvest.
Be like the farmer?
What need did the farmer have? ... money to live!
What did the farmer do? ... **Sowed money into buying seed!**
The seed gave him a crop, which he sold for ... Money!
He did not look to the soil to produce the money,
but **he harvested a crop of money from a totally different source!***

Do YOU have a need? ... then ... YOU sow a seed!

... Read ...
*Matt. 13:3-32
Mark. 4:1-20
Luke 6:38
2Cor. 9:8-10*

... 202 ... God's Promises

Fully persuaded!

Are you really sure?

You just cannot fault God in wanting to bless us!

*According as his divine power **hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness**, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

*Whereby are **given unto us exceeding great and precious promises**: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, **having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.***
--- 2 Pet 1:3-4

Yes, God has given us many great and precious promises, that are even beyond our understanding,

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,
--- Eph 3:20

But, how many of those promises are manifest in your life?
Some? ... a few? ... none?

How do those promises become manifest in your life?
And can you say what the Apostle Paul said?

*For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for **I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him** against that day.*
--- 2 Tim 1:12

Paul did not believe the promises ... **he believed God!**
Paul did not hope God is able ... **he was persuaded that God is able!**
Persuaded that God is able to do what?
Able to keep His promises?
No!

Paul was persuaded that whatever he had committed unto God, God was not just able, but willing to bring it to pass in his life!

*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must **believe that he is, (able) and that he is a rewarder** of them that diligently seek him.*
--- Heb 11:6

Do you believe that God is your rewarder?
Are you fully persuaded that God is able?
Are you fully persuaded that He will keep His promises?
And,
have you committed your trust, your life, fully unto Him?

If you have, then like Paul you will be able to say,
"I am not ashamed! ... I am fully persuaded!
God keeps His promises!"

... Read ...
Num. 23:19

It is a matter of ... life!

Words of life!

Did you know,
that you have been given power over life and death?
Did you know,
that it is up to you whether your life will be blessed or not?
Believe it or not ,
... it is up to you!

***Death and life are in the power of the tongue;
and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. --- Prov 18:21***

What you say ... what comes out of your mouth,
... is much more important than you may think ...

So ... what you say,
what comes out of your mouth,
determines your tomorrow!

By the words you speak,
you lay the foundation for things to come,
... in your life!

By the words you speak today,
you are forming and shaping,
YOUR FUTURE.

By the words you speak,
you decide
whether your life is going to be blessed,
and whether your life is going to be prosperous,
or not!

One of the smallest members of your body
has the greatest power in your life,
One of the smallest members of your body,
controls what is going to happen in your life,
and,
determines how it is going to happen.

Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. --- James 3:5

What you speak is up to you,
but it is going to influence your future!
You may not have thought about it before,
or known about the power in the words you speak!
Yet that does not change the reality!
So,
**make sure you speak words of,
life, health and blessings over your life!**
The choice is yours,
and it is a matter of life!
Your Life!

... Read ...
James 3:1–18

... 204 ... God's Blessings

God's will be done on earth!

God's will be done!

*... Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
--- Matt 6:9-10*

Jesus taught us to pray that
God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven!
But, what is God's will for us on earth?

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and cometh down from the Father of lights ...
--- James 1:17*

**God's will for man is only good ...
... and what He gives is perfect!**

God wants ... that everyone gets saved ... *2 Pet. 3:9*
God wants ... that everyone is blessed ... *Deut 28:1-14*
God wants ... that everyone is healed ... *1 Pet. 2:24*
God wants ... that everyone has peace ... *John 14:27*
God wants ... that everyone has abundant life ... *John 10:10*

If that is truly God's will for mankind,
why then is it not happening all over the earth?

Jesus not only told us ... to pray for God's will to be done on earth!
But He also told us that ...
it is up to us whether God's will happens on earth or not!

*And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven:
and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven:
and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
--- Matt 16:19*

The key to God's will being done on earth ... is in our mouths!

How does that key work?
Jesus said ...

*Again I say unto you,
That if **two of you shall agree on earth** as touching any thing that they shall ask,
it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.
--- Matt 18:19*

God wants to pour out blessings from above.
God wants His will to be done on earth!
But,
it will not happen until we pick up the keys.
We have to open the way for God's will to be done on earth,
... through prayer!
We have to release God's blessings,
through faith in agreement!

... Read ...
Heb. 11:1-6

Get over that mountain!

On the way up!

We all face pressures and problems!
We all have mountains to climb!

But,

**how do you get over that mountain?
How do you get past that pressure?**

Jesus said,

*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace.
**In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;
I have overcome the world.** --- John 16:33*

Jesus did not say that He has overcome the pressure for us,
but that He has overcome the place the pressure comes from!
What is the difference?
How does that help us overcome our pressures and problems?

God does not remove the mountain or our problems,
but He helps us overcome the problems,
by putting what is necessary to overcome ... in our hands!

If you want to get over the mountain,
it is extremely important what you do on the way up!

**Are you applying pressure to the problem?
Or is the problem putting pressure on you?**

Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness, and He got under pressure.
He was hungry and needed to eat, so the devil put pressure on Him.
"Prove yourself," the devil said, "if you are the Son of God!"

Jesus had to deal with that pressure, He had to cross that mountain!

How did Jesus do that?

He did not allow the pressure of the physical circumstances to get to Him!
He did not allow the lies and deceit of the devil to get to Him!
He drew from the source that is available to us all ... God's Word!

*But he answered and said, **It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**
--- Matt 4:4*

What was Jesus doing on the way up that mountain?
He used God's Word to put pressure on the problem!
He used God's Word to remove that mountain from before Him!
Jesus overcame, and beat the devil on the way!

What we have to do is to enforce the victory we have in Jesus,
by using God's Word to cross that mountain,
by putting pressure on the problem maker!

"Satan, it is written!"

**... Read ...
Matt. 4:1-11**

... 206 ... *Spiritual Warfare*

Properly dressed ... (in God's armour)!

Prepared and ready!

Do you dress in a fur-lined leather coat ... to go swimming?

Do you put on swimming trunks ... to go skiing in winter?

Certainly not!

We take care to be correctly dressed for what we are about to do!

We take care to wear what will protect us,

and put on what is necessary for our physical comfort!

But,

have you considered what to put on ... spiritually?

How well dressed are you ... for your spiritual environment?

Have you considered that you need spiritual covering?

Because you sure do,

*For **we wrestle** not against flesh and blood, but against **principalities**,
against **powers**, against the **rulers of the darkness** of this world,
against **spiritual wickedness in high places**.*

--- Eph 6:12

There is spiritual activity all around us,

whether we see it, believe it, know it or not.

There is spiritual wickedness in high places that comes against us,

and unless we are prepared for it, it will do us harm.

We will be like someone wearing only a bathing suit at the North Pole!

Therefore ...

be prepared, dress properly, dress for the occasion!

What occasion?

*Redeeming the time, because **the days are evil**. --- Eph 5:16*

And God has given us what we need in these perilous times!

*Wherefore **take unto you the whole armour of God**,
that ye may be **able to withstand in the evil day**,
and having done all, to stand. --- Eph 6:13*

God gave us His spiritual clothing to protect us,
to keep us safe ... through these evil days.

*Stand therefore, having **your loins girt about with truth**,
and having on the **breastplate of righteousness**;*

*And your **feet shod** with the preparation of **the gospel of peace**;
Above all, taking the **shield of faith**, wherewith ye shall be able
to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

*And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit**,
which is **the word of God**:*

***Praying always** with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and
watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

--- Eph 6:14-18

We have available to us all the spiritual covering we need,
so don't get caught going out ... without it!

... Read ...

2 Kings 6:15-18, Eph. 6:10-18

Life on the water ...(a step of faith)!

Step out on the water!

We should all be living victorious Christian lives!
We should all be thinking, talking and acting God's way,
but how many of us dare to step out on the water?
How many dare say and do what Peter did?

*And Peter answered him and said, **Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.***
--- Matt 14:28-29

But I can't do that, Jesus did not say those words to me!
Wrong. You can and He did!

*But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, **that thou mayest do it.*** --- Deut 30:14

Jesus is calling you onto the water , and you can do it!
God wants you to step out in faith, on the water,
Jesus wants you to walk on the water with Him.
It takes a simple step in faith.

But without faith it is impossible to please him: --- Heb 11:6

How can I do that?

Do what Peter did ... He stepped out on the Word!
(Matt 14:28-29)

If you are willing to seek God's will ...

Lord, if it is you, command me.

If you are willing to accept God's Word ...

Come.

If you are willing to step out on God's Word ...

You will walk on the water.

Don't try and step out on the water until you have ...
sought God's will and accepted His Word as final authority in your life!
Because ...

for you to step out in faith ...

*The Word of God needs to be in your heart ... to create faith!
You need to speak the Word out of your mouth ... to release faith!
You need to step out on the Word, on the water ... to walk in faith!*

...

Why stay stuck in the boat, stuck with your problems and circumstances!
Step out of your circumstances, on God's Word, on the water,
and walk away from those circumstances ... in God's promises.

Free,

free to be and to have what God intended for you to be and to have!

Walking on the water with Jesus ... in glorious liberty!

... Read ...

Matt. 14:22-36

Heb. 11

... 208 ... Trust

A clean heart a right spirit!

Concerning sin!

Did you know that God is less concerned about sin,
than He is about our attitude!
We always look on the outside,
and are quick to point out the failures in others!
But God looks much deeper,

*for the LORD seeth not as man seeth;
for man looketh on the outward appearance,
but the LORD looketh on the heart.*
--- 1 Sam 16:7

We all know that David made mistakes ... like everyone else,
We all know that David sinned and had to repent.
Yet God said this about David,

*... I have found David the son of Jesse,
a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.*
--- Acts 13:22

Why?
David said in his heart ... "God's promises are all for me!"
David said in his heart ... "in God's Word I can & will trust!"
That faith in God's Covenant,
in His Word and His promises,
is what pleased God!
That is the heart that got God's attention!

Sure David sinned,
but the cry of his heart to God was,

**Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.**
*Cast me not away from thy presence;
and take not thy holy spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
and uphold me with thy free spirit.
Then will I teach transgressors thy ways;
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*
--- Ps 51:10–13

**That is the heart that God saw!
That is the heart that saw God!**

God can deal with your sin ... and forgive your sin!
But you have to deal with your heart,
and open it so that God can come in!

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
--- Matt 5:8

... Read ...
1 Sam. 17:20–50

Life in the Word!

In there is life!

Living a victorious Christian life,
is not something you only do on Sunday!
Living a victorious Christian life ... is a way of living,
It is a lifestyle!

*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:
old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*
--- 2 Cor 5:17

The old way of living is past ... *the old things are passed away!*
A new way of living has come ... *all things are become new!*

How do all things become new in our lives?

We change your way of thinking!

We change your way of talking!

We change your way of acting!

How do we make these changes in your life?

By drawing from the One who made the change on the inside of us,

*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I,
but **Christ liveth in me:** and the life which I now live in the flesh
I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*
--- Gal 2:20

By starting to live from the inside out,
by starting to live the way Jesus lived,

*Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man,
then shall ye know that I am he, and **that I do nothing of myself;**
but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.*
--- John 8:28

Jesus found out what the Father said ... before He decided anything!
Jesus found out what the Father said ... before He said anything!
Jesus found out what the Father said ... before He did anything!

How did Jesus know the Father's will and hear His voice?

By spending time in God's Word ... (Luke 2:46-52)

By spending time in prayer ... (Luke 6:12)

*My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.
Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.
For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.*
--- Prov 4:20-22

Want to live a victorious Christian life?

Start thinking God's way ... it is in His Word!

Start talking God's way it is in His Word!

Start acting God's way it is in His Word!

It's in His presence and in His Word!

... Read ...

Rom. 12:2, Mark 1:35, Luke 4:1-14

... 210 ... God's Glory

Lightly salted...the God-flavour!

Tastes like God!

Everybody likes food to taste, smell and look good.
Therefore we put in salt and spices ... for taste,
cook, roast or fry it, to bring out the color and flavour!
Prepared with the best savour and aroma,
... that's life!

What about God?

Does He care what things taste and look like?
Surely He is not interested in those physical things?

Who said that taste and looks are all just physical?

*And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us,
and hath given himself for us an offering and
a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. --- Eph 5:2*

How can we be a sweet smelling savour to God?

By yielding to what God has placed within us!
God shed His love in our hearts,
and God wants what He put in us,
to touch the lives of those around us!

Therefore also Jesus said this to us,

*Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour,
wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing,
but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.
Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

...

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your
good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
--- Matt 5:13-16*

I have often thought of how to do that,
and I found that the Message Translation puts it really well!

Let me tell you why you are here:

*You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out
the God-flavours of this earth.*

If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness?

Here's another way to put it:

You're here to be a light, bringing out the God-colours of the world.

*God is no secret to be kept ... If I make you light-bearers,
you don't think I am going to hide you under a bucket
shine ... be generous with your lives,*

By opening up to others, you'll prompt them to open up with God.

Look good, taste good ... and shine for God!

... Read ...

Rom. 5:5

Rom. 12:1

Phil. 4:18-19

Use the opportunity!

Facing the challenges!

Dealing with anything in life,
can be easy or difficult,
depending on how you look at it!

So ...

When something new, out of the ordinary,
something you have not had to face before comes your way,
you can either see it as ...

a Problem! ... or ... a Challenge!

What you have to realize is ...
the problem as such is not a problem, but
the problem lies in not facing the problem!

And the answer is not in fighting the problem, but
the answer is in the implementing of the solution!

That turns a potential problem into a challenge!
That is why Jesus said to us,

*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace.
In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
--- John 16:33*

Yes, things will come against us, without a doubt,
but as the Apostle James said,

*My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
--- James 1:2-3*

When temptations, pressures and problems arise,
don't count them as problems that you have to overcome, but
count them as opportunities to have a victory!
Count them as an opportunity to grow in faith!

Therefore ...

Take the opportunity and challenge the problem,
instead of letting the problem challenge you!

Use that problem as a means of getting closer to God!

Use it as a stepping stone to a higher level of faith!

But,

how do you challenge a problem?

You challenge it by standing on the Word,
by standing on God's promise that gives you the solution.

Jesus said ...

... but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. --- John 16:33

As you take hold of His promise to you,
His promise of victory in the situation you are facing,
you ... start counting it all joy!
You ... become the overcomer!

Because, you have used the opportunity to grow in Him!

... 212 ... Holiness

Loved just as I am?

A fallacy!

*But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, **he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.***
--- 2 Tim 2:20-21

How many times have we heard it said'
"Jesus loves me just as I am!"

Really?
You will not find any verse of scripture to back that up!
On the contrary,
the Bible teaches that God has called us to holiness,
... and not to uncleanness!

For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.
--- 1Thes 4:7

Yes,
God loved us even when we were lost and going to hell.
But,
now that we have received salvation through Jesus,
and what He did for us on the cross at Calvary,
we are called to put off the old man with his sinful nature!
And,
we are called to clothe ourselves with the new man,
which is created in righteousness and holiness!

*That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;
And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;
And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*
--- Eph 4:22-24

Yes,
God loves you and me,
but,
He does not love our ...
bad habits, wrong attitudes, unfriendly behavior etc!

*Let's cleanse ourselves from these things
in order to become vessels of honour!
Vessels that God can use to bless others!*

... Read ...
*Rom. 6:11-14
Eph. 4:20-24
Rom. 12:2*

Praying the prayer of agreement!

Let's agree!

It is very easy to say,
let's pray and I will agree with you!

*Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth
as touching any thing that they shall ask,
it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.
--- Matt 18:19*

But what is it that we are supposed to agree on?
And what can we ask, that God really will do?
If you have ever dared to ask and agree in prayer,
you will know that God is not just going to do anything!
Yet ...
whatever Jesus said, He meant ... so it must work!
But how?

*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that,
if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:
--- I John 5:14*

What is certain is that God will do His will!
In other words, God will do according to His Word, His promises!
In fact, God very specifically said,

*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth:
it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please,
and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.
--- Isa 55:11*

Knowing that God will do what He has said,
that God will do His Word and what He has promised,
we now know what God will do for us!
But,
what, how or who ... do we agree with?

It does not help agreeing with another person,
because you can never be sure whether they really believe as you do!
Maybe they are just hoping and think that praying together will help.
No! God through John says to us,

*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that,
if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:
--- I John 5:14*

*God is saying,
**Agree with My Word, My promises,
agree that I will do what I said, what I promised,
Then ask Me to do what I promised ... for you!***

... Read ...
*Matt 18:19
Matt 6:9-13
Heb 11:6*

... 214 ... Salvation

Just being saved from hell, is not enough!

No half measures!

If you have never made right with God,
if Jesus is not yet Lord of your life,
then ... don't delay, do it today!

But,

that is just the beginning, there is so much more.

*For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,
much more, being reconciled, **we shall be saved by his life.***

*And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
by whom we have now received the atonement.*

--- Rom 5:10–11

Through Jesus' death on the cross,
we have been reconciled to God, and are on our way to heaven!
But, **through Jesus' life** we have salvation!

Isn't that the same?

Not at all!

Reconciliation ... being made right before God, is just the beginning.
**Receiving salvation ... the fullness of God's promises in our lives,
that is the life we have in Jesus through His life!**

Salvation ... "sozo" ... means,
healed, whole, preserved, protected, saved and doing well!

And,

if you only have one of those promises or blessings manifested in your life,
... you are missing most of what Jesus did for you on the cross!

Jesus meant exactly that, when He said ...

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

--- John 10:10

Life in Abundance ... is not just being alive!

Healed, whole, preserved, protected, and doing well!

And, it is not just saved from hell!

The Bible also tells us in the book of James that,

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from
The Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

--- James 1:17

Since God blessed man in the Garden of Eden ... (*Gen. 1:28*)

He has not changed, and He still wants to bless us.

He wants to pour down blessings on us ... while we are down here!

But, if all that we will receive is being saved from hell,
what is God going to do with all that He has to give, in Jesus?

Just being saved from hell, is not enough ... there's so much more!

... Read ...

Deut. 28:1–14

Consider the Ant!

It is up to you!

Solomon, in the book of Proverbs, gave not just to the sluggard,
but to all of us this wonderful example,

*Go to the ant, thou sluggard; **consider her ways, and be wise:**
Which **having no guide, overseer, or ruler,**
Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.
--- Prov 6:6–8*

Solomon saw a wonderful characteristic in the ant,
that although the ant has no one telling it what to do,
it goes out and provides its every need on its own!

The ant is not waiting for someone else to help it,
it is not waiting until someone else comes up with an idea,
it is not waiting on the government to provide its needs.

No!

The ant goes out on its own and gets the job done!

Be wise, Solomon said,

if the ant can provide for itself out of God's provision in nature,
then you can provide for yourself out of God's provision and promises!

Jesus said,

*Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field,
which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven,
shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?
--- Matt 6:30*

Have faith in God!

All you need is to put your trust in God.

Jesus also told the parable of the unjust steward,
who, when he was caught out by his master,
did not give up and say ... all is lost, I can go no further,
but he used what was available and made a new life for himself!

*And the lord commended the unjust steward,
because he had done wisely: for the children of this world
are in their generation wiser than the children of light.
--- Luke 16:8*

No, Jesus is not saying ... be dishonest!
But to seize those God given opportunities to provide for your needs!
God can only provide the opportunities,
we have to put our faith in God, and take those opportunities!

Take every opportunity God so freely provides.

... Read ...

Matt. 6:25–34

... 216 ... Living in the Light

In the light of the Word!

Let the light in!

Life would be so much easier,
if we learnt to walk in the light!
If we learnt to walk in the light of God's Word!

***The entrance of thy words giveth light;
it giveth understanding unto the simple.***

--- Ps 119:130

Walking in the light means to walk in what you know,
understanding or knowing where you are,
and walking in what you can see
knowing what step to take next!

***Through thy precepts I get understanding:
therefore I hate every false way.***

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

--- Ps 119:104–105

If you don't know which way to go,
if you don't know what decision to take.
if you don't have a clue what to do next.
then ...
you need God's Word to give you light,
... to shine light on the situation,
... to show you the way to go,
... to show you what to do,
... to give you the answer to your problem!

Remember it is the "Entrance of the Word"
... not just the reading of the Word,
... not just the hearing of the Word,
but ...

it is the entrance of the Word!

It is receiving the Word,
it is accepting what the Word says
and implementing what it says!

***For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer,
he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:
For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way,
and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.
But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty,
and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer,
but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.***

--- James 1:23–25

Don't stumble around in the dark,
let God's Word give you understanding,
and let God's Word give you direction!

... Read ...

Prov. 1:1–7, Prov. 2:1–6, Prov. 3:1–16

A Covenant God!

Don't be an Esau!

God made a wonderful covenant with us (mankind),
telling Adam and Eve
that He would send a Saviour!
Telling Abraham,
that through him all the nations would be blessed!
Telling David,
that He would establish an everlasting kingdom!
And telling us,
that we have salvation and life in abundance through Jesus!
That we have righteousness and blessings through Jesus!
That we have authority over satan in the name of Jesus!
God wants to bless us!
He is very serious about His promises!
He is very serious about His covenant with us!

Abraham, through whom God promised to bless all nations,
had two grandsons, Esau and Jacob.
Esau, who for a plate of soup, sold his God given birthright, saying

... and what profit shall this birthright do to me?
--- Gen 25:32

And Jacob,
who through trickery got hold of his brother's God given right!
Yet God says of them,

As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.
--- Rom 9:13

Jacob God loved,
because he would not give up until he got God's blessing!
Esau God hated,
because he neither valued nor appreciated God's covenant!

Jacob pleased God,
because he expected God to bless him no matter what!
Esau disappointed God,
because he had no faith in God's Word or His promises!

*But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*
--- Heb 11:6

God wants to bless us!
He is very serious about His promises!
He is very serious about His covenant with us!
Are you?

... Read ...
Deut. 28:1-14
Heb. 8:8-13

... 218 ... Peace

What is the peace of Jesus (in my life)?

Peace in Him!

In preparing His disciples, and us, for what lies ahead,
Jesus made this statement,

*Peace I leave with you, **my peace I give unto you...***
--- John 14:27

What a wonderful promise!

Yet, when sending His disciples out,
and telling them what to expect in the future,
Jesus also said this to them ...

*Think not that I am come to send peace on earth:
I came not to send peace, but a sword...*
--- Matthew 10:34

... **In the world ye shall have tribulation:** but be of good cheer;
I have overcome the world.
--- John 16:33

If Jesus left us His peace ... and if He said He did, then He did!
Yet on earth we are not to expect peace,
but tribulation, pressure and opposition,
then **what exactly is Jesus' peace in our lives?**

What is it Jesus said?

*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:
not as the world giveth, give I unto you.*
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
--- John 14:27

*These things I have spoken unto you, that **in me ye might have peace.***
In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
--- John 16:33

The world thinks that peace is the lack of opposition.
But ...

Jesus says, peace is overcoming opposition!

Jesus warned us that there would be opposition,
but,
in Him, we would have peace and victory.

So what is peace in Jesus?

Peace is not being troubled ... but having faith in God's Promises! (*Heb. 11:1-6*)
Peace is not being anxious ... but knowing God will keep His Word! (*Isa. 55:11*)
Peace is knowing who you are ... Righteous in Jesus! (*Rom.5:17, 2Tim,4:8*)
Peace is knowing what you have ... all your needs supplied! (*2 Pet. 1:3*)
Peace is knowing where you are going ... to heaven! (*John 14:2*)

No! you don't have to fight for peace,
you receive peace, His peace,
and in HIM ... YOU have the victory!

So others can get what they need for themselves!

Give what you have to give!

Of course we cannot really meet all the needs of other people,
... but Jesus expects us to give what we have to give!

*Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down,
and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.*

--- Luke 6:38

*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give;
not grudgingly, or of necessity: for **God loveth a cheerful giver.***

--- 2 Cor 9:7

God expects us to give to others and to give to Him.

But ...

what of real value do I have to give?

What do I have that can meet the needs of others?

*And hope maketh not ashamed; because **the love of God** is shed
abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

--- Rom 5:5

**What does the love of God,
and giving to others have to do with each other?**

Everything!

Jesus instructed us,

*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul,
and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.
And the second is like unto it, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.***

--- Matt 22:37-39

God wants us to give what we have to give, His love!

His love manifest in what Jesus did on the cross for us!

If we understand all that we have in Jesus,

life, health, healing, peace, prosperity, blessings,

... then you have much to give!

Of course we of ourselves, cannot give to others,
life, health, healing, peace, prosperity, blessings,
but we have the secret to having those needs met!

We have Jesus!

And if we have Jesus, we have our every need met!

**So ... let's give them Jesus,
and they can get what they need for themselves!**

*But my God shall supply all your need according to
his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

--- Phil 4:19

... Read ...

Luke 5:1-11

... 220 ... Healing

Problems receiving healing?

Let's do it!

Do you have problems receiving answers from God?
Do you have problems receiving healing in your body?
Have you been praying and standing,
and nothing seems to be happening?

You are standing in faith,

you are even going as far as the man with the palsy,
who got his friends to rip open a roof, just to get to Jesus!

But still something is not connecting?

You have read Mark 11:23 and you have spoken to that mountain,
but it just has not moved the way it should.

What could be wrong?

Let's continue reading in Mark 11...

*Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray,
believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

**And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any:
that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.**

--- Mark 11:24-25

Why did Jesus tell us to forgive others
when we are praying, asking and standing in faith?
What has forgiving to do with receiving healing?

Everything!

Because any un-forgiveness in your heart,
... creates a barrier between you and God,
that will hinder God's answer and provision from getting to you!

That is why Jesus said, when you pray, forgive ...
so that God can get His answer or provision to you!

But ... does this also apply to healing?

Can sin and un-forgiveness stop you from receiving healing?

When the friends of the man with the palsy had broken through the roof,
Jesus did not just simply heal him,
but He used the opportunity to teach on sin and forgiveness!
Look carefully at what Jesus said and did,

*Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy,
Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?
But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins,
(he saith to the sick of the palsy,)*

I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.

--- Mark 2:9-11

Jesus said ... sin and sickness are connected.

Therefore if you want to get rid of sickness,
you have to come to Him in faith as the palsy did.

But you also need to get rid of the cause ... sin!

And how do you get rid of sin? Ask God to forgive you!
Because, unless you forgive, God cannot forgive you!

When you are struggling with receiving healing or an answer,

you may just need to forgive someone, and thereby open the door to receiving!

The Lord still is...!

My Shepherd!

It is very easy in times of prosperity and peace to say,
I trust in God!
I have no fear!
God will look after me!
I pray for friend and foe!
I will not judge anyone, even if they wrong me!
But,
wat happens when disaster strikes?
What happens when you or your family are involved?
Can you then truly say,

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.
--- Psalm 23*

Am I still looking to Jesus as my shepherd?

Can I truly draw from Him, and let His strength still me inside?
Can I walk through that valley I suddenly find myself in?
Is my cup running over with fear, panic, or worse even ... hate?

As emotional and as fearful as the situation may be,
this is not the time to allow pressure or fear,
this is not the time to allow emotions or hate,
to dictate to my mind and rule over my feelings!
No!

This is the time to remain strong in Him,
to remind myself of what I have been saying while all went well,
and to draw from Him what I confessed before.

***NOT to allow my mind to tell me that the peace I have,
is not right, it is a lie!***

If I am in Christ ... as I should be,
I should be at peace and not under pressure!
I should be the one that comforts others!
I should be the one that others can draw from!

***Remind yourself who you really are in Him,
and let your Shepherd ... be your strength!***

... Read ...
Psalm 91

... 222 ... **Peace/Victory**

FREE ... indeed! (Free to be!)

Free indeed!

Have you ever earnestly considered,
what Jesus meant when He said,

*If the Son therefore shall make you free, **ye shall be free indeed.***
--- John 8:36

Free from exactly what?
In Romans Paul wrote,

*For the law of the Spirit of life in **Christ Jesus hath made me free***
from the law of sin and death.
--- Rom 8:2

Jesus has made us free from the law of sin and death!
No longer subject to sin and the results of sin,
but ...

free from the hold of sin!

Free from satan's lies and deceit!

No longer bound, weak or unworthy ... but free in Jesus!

*These things I have spoken unto you, that **in me ye might have peace.***
In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;
I have overcome the world.
--- John 16:33

Free of accusations and able to overcome!

Able to overcome tribulation and pressure,
overcoming and standing in His peace!

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear;
but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
--- 2 Tim 1:7

Free to step into God's presence!

Knowing God is reaching out to me,
knowing God wants to bless me.

*Let us therefore **come boldly unto the throne of grace,***
*that we may **obtain mercy, and find grace to help** in time of need.*
--- Heb 4:16

Free to live worthy of who I am (in Him)!

Free to be a child of God (Almighty)

Free to be me!

That Me ... God made me to be!

... Read ...

Ps. 8:4-6

Blessed and multiplied!

Multiplied blessings!

God made a wonderful promise to Abraham,

*Saying, Surely **blessing I will bless thee,**
and **multiplying I will multiply thee.***

--- Heb 6:14

a promise that through Jesus, is also ours.

*I am come that they might **have life,**
and that they might have it **more abundantly.***

--- John 10:10

God wants to bless us and He wants to multiply us,

... but for God to bless us,
we need to be where His blessings are.

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

--- Matt 6:33

Don't seek the blessings,
 seek God, and you will find His blessings!

For God to multiply us,
He needs to have something to multiply!
You need to give something,
you need to plant something,
so that God has something to increase!
so that God has something to multiply!!

What if ...

You have nothing to sow!

You have nothing to give or plant!

No problem,
God has taken care of even that!

***Now he that ministereth seed to the sower**
both minister bread for your food, **and multiply your seed sown,**
 and increase the fruits of your righteousness;*

--- 2 Cor 9:10

Whatever you need, go to God, He's got it!
Whatever you have, if you give it to God, He'll increase it!
If you obey Him ... and do things His way,

*Delight thyself also in the LORD;
and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*

*Commit thy way unto the LORD;
trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*

--- Ps 37:4-5

God will give you what you don't have,

if you draw from Him!

God will multiply what you do have,

if you are willing to give it to Him!

God needs you!

God needs you!

Do you know that God needs you?

God needed Noah to build the Ark!
God needed Abraham to bless all the nations!
God needed Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt!
God needed Joshua to lead Israel into the promised land!
God needed David to fight Goliath!
God needed prophets to reveal His plans to others!
God needed John to prepare the way for Jesus!
And ...

**God needs YOU and Jesus needs YOU,
to finish what Jesus started!**

... All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore ...

--- Matt 28:18-19

*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world,
and preach the gospel to every creature.*

--- Mark 16:15

Genesis 1:28 tells us that God put this earth in man's hands,
therefore if God wants to do anything on earth,
if God wants to do anything for man,
He needs a man to do it with, to be an agent for Him!

God wants that everyone be saved ... (2Pet. 3:9)
but He needs a man to do it! ... (Matt. 28:18-19, Mark 16:15)
Jesus wants that His work here on earth be completed! ... (Mark 16:15-18)
but He needs you and me to do it! ... (John 14:12)
God wants that everyone is healed ... (1Pet. 2:24)
but He needs you and me to reach out for Him! ... (Mark 16:18)
God wants to stop the devil's operation in everyone's life,
but He needs you and me to do it for Him! ... (Mark 16:17)

But, how will we be able to do that?

God is Almighty, Jesus has all authority ... and we have,
the Holy Spirit, Jesus' Name, and all of God's backing!

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me,
the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works
than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

--- John 14:12

We have to be is available and willing to go!
God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit will do the rest!

*And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them,
and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*

--- Mark 16:15-20

**God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are ready to do.
Are you ready to let them work through you?**

Fishing with Jesus!

Gone fishing!

Everyone, at one time or another says, "enough!"
"I have had enough of everything!
I just want to do what I feel like doing
I just want to go back and do what I used to do!"

After Peter had denied Jesus three times,
and everything seemed to have gone wrong in his life,
Peter said ... "enough, I am going back to fishing!"

Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing.
*They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth,
and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.*
--- John 21:3

Does God have a problem with that?
No!

But without faith it is impossible to please him ...
-- Heb 11:6

God has no problem with us taking a break,
having time off and doing something different.
But, unless you make Him part of these times ...
you will be frustrated and even fail in it!

Jesus knew that Peter would deny Him,
... and like the woman caught in adultery,
Jesus did not condemn Peter for that.

But ...

Jesus also knew that on his own Peter would not make it!
like them fishing all night, but catching nothing!

Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat?
They answered him, No. And he said unto them,
Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find.
They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.
--- John 21:5-6

Whatever we do on our own, in our own strength,
may work for a while, but eventually it will fail!
Peter and the other disciples were waiting for Jesus,
waiting for Him to give them instructions for the future!
And when they went fishing,
and althought they knew what to do,
something was wrong!
For, because they did it in their own strength,
it just was not working!
It just was not blessed!

So, take a break,
go fishing,
but if you do, go with Jesus!

Judged by their words!

Heaven's gift!

"Where is the savior? ... or ... There is no God!"
"Things have always been like this and will never change!"
What does God say about this?

*Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days
scoffers walking after their own lusts, And saying,
Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep,
all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.
For this **they willingly are ignorant of that by the word of God the heavens
were of old, and the earth standing** out of the water and in the water:
Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:
But the heavens and the earth, which are now, **by the same word** are kept in store,
reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.
--- 2 Pet. 3:3-7*

They willingly choose to reject ... that by God's Word,
all that exists, all that is around us, in fact our very life,
exists and stands because God spoke it into existence!
And God says,
His Word that created them ... the Word that they reject,
that Word is also the same Word that will judge them!

Sounds very harsh ... but is it?
No!... For God also says to everyone,
to everyone who wants to hear God,
and whosoever does not want to perish,

**The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness;
but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish,**
but that all should come to repentance. ---2 Pet 3:9**

God does not want that anyone should perish.
In fact He says that it is His will that,
ALL should come to repentance,
and receive eternal life!
Yet, although that is God's will and his intention,
He will not force His gift of eternal life on anyone!

*For the wages of sin is death; **but the gift of God
is eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord. --- Rom 6:23*

It is a gift, and like any gift, the gift of life also has to be received!

Do you know any scoffers or unbelievers?
Pray for them.
Pray that they will recognize God in all that they see around them,
that they will come to understand that God has a gift for them,
the gift of eternal life,
and that they will repent and receive what God has for them!

... Read ...

James 5: (James 5:16)

Are you known in heaven?

Known in heaven!

Are you known in heaven?
Do the angels and the heavenly host know you?
Does God know and care about you?

*But if any man love God, the same is known of him.
--- 1 Cor 8:3*

Not only do the angels and the heavenly host know you,
not only does God know all about you, but
God knows you better than you know yourself!
And praise God ...
it is good to be known in heaven!
But ...
what is it about you that gets God's attention?

*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth,
to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.
--- 2 Chron 16:9*

What gets God's attention ... is what is in your heart!

What is it about you, that is known in heaven?
What is it about you that has gotten God's attention?

When asked what is the greatest commandment?
Jesus said it is to,
LOVE!
(Matt. 22:36–40)

We all want to be known in heaven,
but ...

How do you become known in heaven for your love?

*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.
John 13:35*

Is this what you are known for in heaven?

*If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar:
for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen,
how can he love God whom he hath not seen?
--- 1 Jn 4:20*

Take a step today towards getting God's attention,
towards becoming known in heaven for your love,
**by showing God's love,
to those around you here on earth.**

... Read ...
*1 John 4:6–21
Eph. 2:1–10*

... 228 ... *Living in the Light*

Are you a ...“whosoever”?

A whosoever!

Do you have a say in what happens in your life?

Or has God predestined everything?

Can you determine whether you will be sick or healed?

Can you determine whether you will be poor or rich?

Has God already determined what will happen?

Do you have a choice whether you go to heaven or not?

Or do you have no choice at all?

It all depends whether you are a ... whosoever?

Because a whosoever, has whatsoever he says!

For verily I say unto you,

That whosoever shall say unto this mountain,

Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart,

but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass;

he shall have whatsoever he saith.

--- Mark 11:23

But,

can everyone be a **whosoever**?

Yes!

Jesus told us exactly why.

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

--- John 3:16

And ...

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

--- Rom 10:13 (Acts 2:21)

Does...

being a whosoever and having a choice,

mean that I will be blessed and prosper?

Yes it does!

*I call heaven and earth to record this day against you,
that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing:
therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:*

--- Deut 30:19

If you choose to be a whosoever who calls on the name of Jesus,
then you are a whosoever who has chosen life AND blessings!

Then ...

you have a say in what happens in your life,

whether you go to heaven or not!

You can decide whether you want to be blessed or cursed,

whether you be healed or sick!

... Read ...

Deut. 28:1–14

An overcomer like Jesus!

Just like Him!

Whatever Jesus did or said whilst He was here on earth ...
He did purposefully, giving us an example to follow!

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. --- John 16:33
Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. --- John 14:12

How did Jesus do those works? ... How did Jesus overcome?

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power. --- Acts 10:38

And Jesus said we would do what He did the same way

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. --- John 14:26

The same way that the Holy Spirit helped Jesus ... He will help us!
But can we really be overcomers like Jesus?

Yes!

Because we have the same spiritual ability as Jesus had!
Not only do we have the same faith,
but we have the same anointing.

... according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. --- Rom 12:3
But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, --- 1 Jn 2:27

God made sure that we would have what it takes.
All we now have to do is to speak out God's Word the way Jesus did!

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, But by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. --- Matt 4:4

Jesus believed that what He said ... **was true**,
He believed that what God said ... **would happen**,
and He believed that it ... **would happen for Him**.
Jesus expected God's Word to work the way God said it would,
and He lived by every Word, every promise that God ever made,
the same way we're are supposed to.

*...without faith it is impossible to please him (God):
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. --- Heb 11:6*

Jesus proved that God's Word does not return to Him void!

Are YOU willing to believe in and put your trust in God's Word?

And, are you willing to prove that God's Word works?

If you are, then you will be that doer and overcomer Jesus spoke about!

... Read ...

John 14:15–26, John 16:5–15, Isa. 55:11...

... 230 ... Trust

God will ... for those who dare!

Do you dare?

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us
--- Eph 3:20

Does God really do that? ... Yes!

But many people don't really believe that God will do that.
And many doubt that God does, because they can't figure out,
how God is going to do, what they can't even think!

Although God can and will, the first step is up to us!

What is it that we have to do?

What kind of a step do we have to take?

So simple a step ... it is most often missed.

*Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have,
and cannot obtain: ye fight and war,
yet **ye have not, because ye ask not.***
--- James 4:2

*A simple step of trust or faith ... ASK!
So many times and in so many places,
God says to us ...ASK !
So many times and in so many places,
God says to us ... BELIEVE !*

*But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*
--- Heb 11:6

God is ready,
... to do exceedingly,
... to do exceedingly abundantly,
... to do exceedingly abundantly above,
all that we can ask or think,
for those who dare!

Therefore, do yourself a favour.

Please God and ask of Him!

Put your trust in God ... by going to Him,
by asking of Him ... and believe!
And let God do, what He has been waiting to do,
in your life,
exceedingly abundantly above!

... Read ...

Jer. 33:3

Mark 11:22-26

Under stress ... needing direction?

Stressed out!

Decisions ... frustration ... pressure ... stress ...
not just at work, but in our personal lives as well!

And,

too often, we just don't know

what to say? What to decide? Where to go?

Or ...

what to do?

Praise God that Jesus told us this would happen,

*... In the world ye **shall have tribulation**: but be of good cheer;
I have overcome the world. --- John 16:33*

But how do you overcome this frustration and pressure?
... and where do you get answers and direction?

*These things I have spoken unto you, **that in me ye might have peace**.
--- John 16:33*

... in Him and in the Spirit!

Paul gave the following advice to the church in Ephesus,
... advice that we would do well to also follow,

*I cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;
That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,
may **give unto you the spirit of wisdom**
and **revelation in the knowledge of him**:
The eyes of **your understanding being enlightened**;
that ye may **know what is the hope of his calling**,
and what the **riches of the glory of his inheritance** in the saints,
And what is the **exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward** who believe,
according to the working of his mighty power,
Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead,
and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, --- Eph 1:16–20*

Do you want a spirit of wisdom?

Do you want revelation knowledge from God?

Do you want your understanding enlightened?

Do you want to know what God has prepared for you?

Do you want to know what glorious inheritance God has for you?

Do you want to know what power God has made available for you?

Do YOU really?

Then ...

*Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find;
knock, and it shall be opened unto you:*

*For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth;
and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. --- Matt 7:7–8*

*For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him?
But we have the mind of Christ. --- 1 Cor 2:16*

Go ask of Jesus ... and let the Holy Spirit help you!

... Read ...

James 1:2–8, Matt. 7:7–11, John 14:12–18

... 232 ... Spirit Filled Living

Who is in control?

Who does what?

If Jesus was God manifest in the flesh,
Who was running things in the kingdom of heaven,
while God was here on earth?

Is it possible for God to be on earth in the flesh,
and also be in heaven at the same time?

Yes!

Jesus could be on earth and the Father in heaven,

*For there are three that bear record in heaven,
the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.
--- I John 5:7*

One God ... but three separate Beings!
In fact Jesus confirmed that Himself,

*Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you,
The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do:
for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.
--- John 5:19*

So whilst Jesus was here on earth,
God the Father was running things in heaven, as He always has been.
But, what about the Holy Spirit?

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach ...
--- Luke 4:18*

*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power:
--- Acts 10:38*

Whilst Jesus was on earth and the Father in heaven,
the Holy Spirit was there to help them both.
And ...
now that Jesus is back in heaven,

*Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person,
and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself
purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;
--- Heb 1:3*

... the Holy Spirit is here on earth to help us the way He helped Jesus.

*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach
you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.
--- John 14:26*

Who is in control, and always has been?
The Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit ... and they are One!

... Read ...
*Eph. 1:20, Col. 3:1
John 16:13*

Doing things God's way!

God's way is best!

In this life you can do things,
your own way, the worlds way, or God's way!
And like it or not,
we all have to make that choice ... all the time!

Isaac, Abraham's son also had to make that choice.
There was no food in Canaan and Isaac had to decide where to go.

*And there was a famine in the land,
beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham.
--- Gen 26:1*

Isaac could do what his father had done when there was a famine,
he could go and seek help from the king of Egypt!

Isaac could do what the world said do, go to where there was food.
He could go to the land of Egypt, where there was both water and food!
Everyone else was going,
and Isaac had two very good reasons to go himself!
But ...
God had a different plan!

*And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt;
dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:
Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee;
for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries,
and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father;
--- Gen 26:2-3*

And you can almost hear Isaac say,
But God,
*when there was a famine in my father's days,
... he went to Egypt and lived!
When there was nothing in Canaan,
... there was plenty in Egypt to live from!
Lord, there is nothing here,
... no rain, no grass, no food for man or beast!*

But God said "I will bless you if you stay!"

Isaac knew better than to argue with God,

And Isaac dwelt in Gerar: --- Gen 26:6

Isaac did things God's way, and He was blessed.

*Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year
an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.
--- Gen 26:12*

**If you want to be blessed, there is only one way.
Doing things God's way!**

For a lack of knowledge!

Ignorance doesn't pay!

Jesus made the following, well known statement,

*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:
I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.
--- John 10:10*

If Jesus has brought us life in abundance,
how is it that the thief, the devil, keeps on stealing our stuff?
How is it that he still destroys our health and our lives?

Very easy, and God even told us why,
long before Jesus' statement in John 10:10

*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:
--- Hosea 4:6*

God said "My people are destroyed"
Who are God's people?
You and me! ... the "born again" Christians alive today!

God said "The Christians are being destroyed!"
Why are they being destroyed?
"... for a lack of knowledge!"

But, I read the Bible, I pray,
I go to Church and I know God,
is that not good enough?

*Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well:
the devils also believe, and tremble.
--- James 2:19*

Just knowing about God is not enough.
**Unless you get to know God's character and His will,
unless you know God's promises and what He will do,**
you will not know what to do when the thief comes.
You will not know what God will do to help you.
You will not know the promises God has given you,
promises that you can stand on and overcome the thief!
If you do not know what rights you have,
how will you be able to effectively stand against the devil?

*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that
cometh to God must believe that he is (**what He promised to be**),
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
--- Heb 11:6*

Only if you know what God promised YOU,
will you have confidence to go to Him and receive (life more abundantly!)
And if you don't know, the thief will steal it before you even get it!
And God will be saying of you,

"My child is being destroyed because he does not know Me!"

Thy will be done?

Should I?

Jesus taught us to pray ... "Thy will be done!"

But,

unless you know what God's will is,
unless you know what God says about your situation,
don't!

Do not pray for God's will to be done unless you know it!
However ...

God gave us His Word, so we can get to know His will!
So that we can pray according to His will.

*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that,
if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:
--- 1 John 5:14*

God wants us to know His will,

so that we will know what to pray and how to pray.

*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.
--- James 5:16*

Only when you know what you are praying,

only then WILL your prayer be effective!

Only then WILL your prayer avail much!

That is why Jesus taught us to pray,

*Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
--- Matt 6:10*

**The same way in which God's will is done in heaven,
the same way God wants His will done here on earth!**

*Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you,
The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do:
for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.
John 5:19*

Jesus not only knew the importance of prayer,
He also knew that unless He knew God's will,
and prayed according to God's will,
His prayers would not be effective,

because God only does what He said He will do.

*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth:
it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please
and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.
--- Isaiah 55:11*

If you want your prayers answered, you had better pray according to God's will!

... Read ...

2 Chron. 1:7-12

Joshua 1:1-9, 2 Tim. 2:15-26

... 236 ... God's Promises

In Him there's no "tomorrow"!

What about tomorrow?

This world is constantly making provision for tomorrow.
Stocking up for ... or putting away for tomorrow.
Insurance companies urge you to insure for tomorrow,
after all, you don't know what will happen, so be prepared.

Yes!

We don't know what will happen tomorrow,
so being so concerned about tomorrow is rather futile.
As Jesus said,

*Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought
for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*

--- Matt 6:34

But we all know that a tomorrow is coming,
... and if we don't make provision for it,
what are we going to do and how are we going to live?
Jesus also said,

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

--- Matt 6:33

How is seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
going to take care of tomorrow?

When God sent Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt,
when Israel needed their tomorrow to change drastically,
God said to Moses, tell them "I AM" sent you, *not I may be or I will be,*
but "I AM" today all they need for their tomorrow!

When man needed salvation and his tomorrow needed to change drastically,
God so loved the world that He gave, not tomorrow or the next day,
but God said,

*For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have
I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, **now is the day of salvation.***

--- 2 Cor 6:2

How is seeking God's kingdom going to provide for your tomorrow?
Jesus said, seek God's kingdom and His righteousness.
In other words ... seek God and His promises!

*But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is (I AM),
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

--- Heb 11:6

If you are seeking God, Who IS your salvation,
if you are depending on God, Who IS your provision,
then there is no tomorrow YOU need to provide for,
because He is eternal provision,
"I AM" ... what you need tomorrow ... today!

Do you need help?

Help from Jesus!

Do you need healing or any other answer from God?

Do you need any help in your life?

Do you need help doing something for Jesus?

Maybe you are like Martha?

Martha needed some help when Jesus came to visit,

she had prepared everything for His arrival!

And when Jesus was there, she served a special meal for Him!

But when she needed help, no one was available!

So she went and complained to Jesus, saying ...

But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

--- Luke 10:38

Tell my sister to come and help me get everything ready,
but, Jesus' answer was not what she had expected.

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

*But one thing is needful: and **Mary hath chosen that good part,** which shall not be taken away from her.*

--- Luke 10:39-40

Martha had missed something that Mary had understood.

Yes there was a need, a meal had to be prepared!

But who or how was this going to be done?

Martha tried on her own and failed,

Mary did not even try ... and Jesus commended her!

What was it that Mary knew that Martha missed?

***If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you,**
ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

--- John 15:7-8

Mary understood that by abiding in Jesus and receiving His word,
whatever need she had would be taken care of.

Whereas Martha tried in her own strength, and got nowhere!

Martha wanted to bear fruit, but in her own strength, she failed.

That is why Jesus said to Martha ... Mary has chosen the good part.

Mary chose to rely on Jesus and to depend on Him for help!

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

--- Matt 6:33

Do you need help?

Be like Mary, don't rely on others or your own strength.

Seek first God's kingdom, knowing your help comes from above!

... Read ...

Psalm 121

You get what you say!

What are you saying?

In Mark chapter 11, we read the account of the fig tree Jesus had cursed, and how that by the next day, it had withered away.
When His disciples remarked on this,

*Jesus answering saith unto them, **Have faith in God.** --- Mark 11:22*

... and then He went on to give us
what is probably the most important key to faith,
saying to His disciples,

*For verily I say unto you, That **whosoever shall say** unto this mountain,
Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart,
but shall believe that those things **which he saith** shall come to pass;
he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

--- Mark 11:23

Jesus was saying to His disciples,
that in the same way He spoke to that fig tree, in faith,
believing that His words would come to pass,
so we also can speak out, in faith,
believing that what we say will come to pass,
and we shall have whatever we say!

Jesus was saying that words are powerful,
and that whatever we speak or confess today,
is what we will reap or have tomorrow!

God spoke the heavens and the earth into existence,
through words,
and God upholds all things that exist,
by words.

*Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of
his person, **and upholding all things by the word of his power,**
when he had by himself purged our sins,
sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;
--- Heb 1:3*

Do you want things to change in your life?
Then start speaking the things God says about you,
start speaking God's promises over your life and situation.
Stop confessing what you have, all your problems,
start confessing what you want and what needs to change in your life.
Start calling what God promised as if it is!

*(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead,
and calleth those things which be not as though they were.*
--- Rom 4:17

If you want in your life the things that Jesus promised you,
then **start saying those things** over your life ... like Jesus did!

Under pressure and under attack!

Don't buckle!

That we are under pressure is a fact,
but sometimes it takes a disaster
for us to realize ... the seriousness of it all,
for us to realize ... it is not just pressure.

WE are under ATTACK!!!

*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:
--- John 10:10*

Those are not just mere words Jesus spoke,
but they are a warning that we are supposed to heed!
The devil is serious ... and we must stand against him!
Jesus told us how to do that,

*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace.
In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;
I have overcome the world.
--- John 16:33*

Jesus said, tribulation, pressure and direct attacks are a reality,
and how you act or stand against them ... is vitally important!

Do not be like Pharaoh.

He got under pressure ... and he didn't make it!
Don't be like him, looking for the blame in others (a fatal mistake)
and fight the One who can help ... (like he fought God)
and he buckled under the pressure!

Don't take as long as Job.

The devil attacked Job on every side ... and he nearly didn't make it.
Instead of standing against the real enemy, satan (Job 1:1–12)
Job found fault with himself and everything else.
He got under attack, and he nearly buckled!

God knows that on our own we cannot make it,
that is why He sent Jesus.
However, it is only as we allow Jesus to overcome through us,
that we will be able to stand against satan and his attacks.

*For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness,
hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge
of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,
that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.
--- 2 Cor 4:6–7*

**Don't buckle under pressure or attack.
You have the Overcomer in you, draw from Him!**

... Read ...
Eph. 1:19–20
2 Cor. 4:6–10

... 240 ... Victorious Living

Following instructions!

In His strength!

Even if we lack courage at times,
we all want to do something for Jesus. It is in our hearts!
And it's not only in our hearts,
it is also in Jesus' heart.
And Jesus' heart is that we should be fishers of men!
He quite plainly said,

*And he saith unto them, **Follow me,**
and **I will make you fishers of men.***

--- Matt 4:19

Seems real easy.
Simply go out there, for Jesus,
and tell people about Jesus, about salvation!
What could be simpler?
But,
how many of us have been convicted to do that?
How many of us have ventured out to do that,
failed and said ... never again?
Many!
And do you know what?
That is exactly what happened to Peter!

Peter went out to witness for Jesus.
He failed and even denied Jesus, three times,
... and said never again!
Yet Jesus didn't give up on Peter, He sought him.
And found him fishing ... but catching nothing.

*And he said unto them, **Cast the net on the right side
of the ship, and ye shall find.** They cast therefore,
and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.*
--- John 21:6

Just like Peter, we also have missed what Jesus said.
Jesus did not say ... "Go out and be fishers of men!"
No! He said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men!"
And when Peter had failed in his own strength,
Jesus came and said to Him, "Cast your net on the other side!"
Saying to Peter and to us,
"If you want to fish for Me., then follow My instructions!
Don't go out in your own strength ... but in My strength!
Llet Me tell you where to go, what to do and how to do it!
And you shall find,
and catch a multitude of fish for Me!"

*And they went forth, and preached every where, **the Lord working with them,**
and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*
--- Mark 16:20

Jesus wants us to be fishers of men ... with Him!
And if we let Him do it with us, and through us,
we will be those fishers we want to be for Him!

A Heart towards God...!

Just for Him...!

Do you want to please God?

Do you want to feel that God appreciates you,
that God appreciates what you do?

Of course you want to,

the only question is ... HOW?

How can you get God to appreciate you?
How can you do things for God that give Him pleasure?

*Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit;
so shall ye be my disciples. --- John 15:8*

Jesus said,
if you want to do something for God ... bear fruit!
But, what kind of fruit does God want you to bear?
The same fruit Jesus bore, LOVE!

*If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar:
for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen,
how can he love God whom he hath not seen?
--- I Jn 4:20*

How do you bear that love "fruit"?
The Bible says that,
the way you love others ... is the way you love God!
The way you treat others ... is the way you treat God!
The way you reach out to others ... is the way you reach out to God!
And that is the way you touch God!

God is love, and He wants us to love others for Him.

Yet He does not expect us to do it on our own,

*... because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts
by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.
--- Rom 5:5*

What you need in order to reach out to others ... is in you!
But what if they don't respond to it or appreciate it?

*For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye?
for sinners also love those that love them.
--- Luke 6:32*

When Jesus showed us God's love on the cross,
He was not looking for a positive response or appreciation!
So don't you!

For whatever you give (whether it's received or not),
you will receive a harvest from God in return.

... Read ...

*Gal. 6:7
2 Cor. 9:6-8
Luke 6:27-38*

... and where are you going?

Where are you?

The world is constantly changing,
becoming more demanding daily,
and things are getting worse ... everywhere!

Therefore,
more than ever before,
**it is important to know where you are,
and where you are going!**

How can you know ...&... how can you be sure?
By putting your trust in Him!

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.
--- Ps 119:105*

If you need to know where you are at,
and what your standard should be,
then ...
make God's Word your standard
and you will know where you are at!
In the light of God's Word,
what should not be in your life will come to the light,
and the Word will show you how to deal with it!

If you are in any doubt as to where you should be going,
and what God has for you,
let God's Word light up the path you should take.

You may well say,
I have read it all, but I still don't know what to do!
That is why God gave you a Helper,
... to show you what to do.

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come,
he will guide you into all truth:
for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear,
that shall he speak: and **he will shew you things to come.**
--- John 16:13*

The Holy Spirit will not only help you locate yourself,
He will show you things to come,
and guide you to where you should be!

**Want to know where you are at,
and where you should be going?**
Just turn to God's Word and ask the Holy Spirit.
He is waiting to answer and guide you along the way!

... Read ...
*Jer. 33:3
John 14:16-18
John 14:26*

It makes no sense!

Never changing truth!

So often God is blamed for everything that happens,
especially when things go wrong,
when something bad happens!

Yet the Bible is quite plain
about who really is to blame,

*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:
I am come that they might have life,
and that they might have it more abundantly.
--- John 10:10*

Jesus quite candidly said,
the devil is the one who steals, kills and destroys!
Therefore,
would God make you sick and take your life,
whilst He is the One who gives life?
Would God be the one who steals your property,
when He is the One who supplies all your needs?
Would God be the one who destroys what we have,
when He is the One who gives us life in abundance?

No! ... it makes no sense!
Phil. 4:19, 1 Pet.2:24, Gen 1:28, Deut 28:1-14

As hard as it may be at times to understand what's happening,
particularly when loved ones are involved,
or when our country or livelihood are at stake,

God is still not the one who kills in order to give life!
God is still not the one who makes sick so He can heal!
God is still not the one who destroys so He can bless!
But,

*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested,
that he might destroy the works of the devil.
--- 1 Jn 3:8*

The truth is that ...

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from
the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.
--- James 1:17*

And ...

*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness,
through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
--- 2 Pet 1:3*

Look past what is happening and what is coming against you,
and draw from the source of life,
from God, through Jesus, by the Holy Spirit!

If you don't have a dream!

Where are you going?

There is probably no saying in the world,
that is not based on some spiritual truth,
As Solomon wrote,

*The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be;
and that which is done is that which shall be done:
and there is no new thing under the sun.
--- Eccl 1:9*

And as Solomon also said,
"What has been, is that which shall be...",
or put slightly differently,
learn from what has been said or written,
learn from those sayings, and from God's Word.

Two sayings that I believe are close to God's heart,
are ...
if you don't have a dream ... how will you make it come true?
And,
if you don't know where you are going; how will you get there?
od put it this way,

*Where there is no vision, the people perish...
--- Prov 29:18*

Why is that?
God is a faith God,
and He lives by faith and does everything by faith.
He in fact says to us,

But without faith it is impossible to please him:
--- Heb 11:6

But what does that have to do with having a dream or a vision?
Everything!
If you don't have a dream,
... you have nothing to put your faith to!
If you're not going somewhere with God,
... you have nothing that you're relying on God for!
If you don't have a vision,
... you have nothing to trust God for!
And ...
that does not please God!
Because not only did He make us faith beings like Himself,
but God also wants to do things for us.

*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all
that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,
--- Eph 3:20*

However, unless we trust Him and have faith in Him,
He cannot do what He wants to do in our lives!

His Word is true!

Who can I trust?

Many people say that the Bible is nothing more than a story book!
Are they right ... or ... is God's Word really true?

In Mal. 3:10 God says ... "Prove Me...!"

So let's find out for ourselves,

let's put the Bible to the test and see whether it is true or not.

God said,

*But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden,
... Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*

--- Gen 3:3 – (Gen 2:17)

Satan said,

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:--- Gen 3:4

What happened?

That very day man died spiritually and was separated from God,
and eventually he died physically as well ...

*for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. --- Gen 3:19
the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years:*

and he died. --- Gen 5:5

God's Word is true!

God commanded and ...

*So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven,
and hasted not to go down about a whole day.--- Josh 10:13*

What happened?

Read the history books & ask the scientists; the sun stood still for 24 hours!

God's Word is true!

God said,

*And it shall come to pass ... that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from
the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap.*

--- Josh 3:13

What happened?

It's recorded in history books that the water of the Jordan
dried up below ... and heaped up above Jericho!

God's Word is true!

Yes ... God's Word is true!

Every word God has spoken and every promise that God has made is true!

You can believe God's Word, and not only can you believe it,
but every one of God's promises will work,

for those who dare to believe His Word!

*There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken
unto the house of Israel; all came to pass. --- Josh 21:45*

Joshua believed God's Word and he was abundantly blessed!

You can believe God's Word and also be abundantly blessed!

... Read ...

Isaiah 55:11

2 Chron. 16:9

Deut. 28:1–13

... 246 ... Loving Others

Are you being provoked?

Taking the kingdom!

How excited are you about what is happening around you?

Are you excited about what is coming against you?

Are you stirring up others to become involved?

Or,

are you just yielding to pressure and getting depressed?

Are you doing nothing but praying that the devil will go away?

*And let us consider one another **to provoke unto love and to good works.***

--- Heb 10:24

God says,

"Think of ways to encourage one another to reach out!"

"Think of ways to be active in God's kingdom!"

"Think of ways of being victorious in this life!"

Jesus said to us,

*And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and **the violent take it by force.***

--- Matt 11:12

Now is not the time to feel sorry for yourself;

Now is not the time to want to run and hide.

No! For ...

now is the time to stand up and be counted!

Now is the time to love and do good works!

But ...

what does love and good works have to do,

with taking the kingdom by force?

Everything,

as Jesus showed us,

*... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, **that he might destroy the works of the devil.***

--- 1 Jn 3:8

How did He do that?

*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about **doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil;** for God was with him.*

--- Acts 10:38

That is exactly what we are supposed to be doing,

... I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

--- John 14:12

Are you being provoked to **love and do the good works,**
the works Jesus did ... destroying the works of the devil,
and taking God's kingdom, where you are ... by force!

Take up the challenge!

The challenge!

If God challenged you to do something for Him,
would you do it?

Do you know that,
God has challenged you to do something for Him?

*And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and **subdue it: and have dominion...** --- Gen 1:28*

God challenged man ... to rule for Him here on earth!
Are you?
Are you a ruler over your circumstances?

How can you exercise authority for God?

By receiving and doing what He said in Genesis,
when God equipped you by blessing you!
and,
giving you authority and dominion here on earth!

Saying ...
"Go and subdue what comes against you ... I am with you!"
and that was not just for Adam in the Garden of Eden
for God very specifically says,
"I am the Lord, I change not!" ... Mal. 3:6

...
If Jesus challenged you to do something for Him,
would you do it?

Do you know that,
Jesus has challenged you to do something for Him?

In Matt. 28:18–20 and in Mark 16:15–20
Jesus gave us the same challenge as God did in Genesis.
Jesus said, "All authority has been given unto me. Go therefore"

And these signs shall follow them that believe;
In my name shall they cast out devils ... --- Mark 16:17

Jesus challenged us ... to rule for Him here on earth!
To finish what He started, and get the world free!
Do you ... ?

God anointed us, the way He anointed Jesus! ... 1 Jn. 2:27
Jesus gave us authority, in His name! ... Matt. & Mark.
The Holy Spirit is with us, to help us and back us up ... John 16:13

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me,
the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works
than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. --- John 14:12

Take up the challenge Jesus gave to us in Matt. 28 and Mark 16
to do what Jesus did and what He commissioned us to do.
Start ruling over your circumstances, ... in Him,
and help others to do the same!

... Read ...

John 10:10, Luke 4:18, Acts 10:38, John 14:12, 1 John 3:8, 2 Peter 1:3

How does God?

Yes He can!

*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,
--- Eph 3:20*

If you have ever read the above scripture,
the thought may have crossed your mind,
"Seems impossible,
how does God do that?"

Actually ... it is quite simple,
when you look at it from God's viewpoint!
And when you consider who is responsible for what!
Therefore,
let's see what God has to do, and what we have to do!

Now unto him that is able to ...

No question about it, there is nothing that GOD CANNOT do!
And what is it that God must do?

... do exceeding abundantly above all ...

God has already done exceedingly abundantly above,
in Creation, in Egypt, for David, for Solomon,
... on the Cross, and in our lives!
So what must God do exceedingly abundantly above ... of?

... above all that we ask or think ...

God has already done much more than we can ask or think!
He even says to us,

*Call unto me, and I will answer thee,
and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.
--- Jer. 33:3*

God not only does above all that we can ask or think,
but He even wants to help us ask above what we can think,
by telling us great and mighty things we do not know!

How will God do exceedingly abundantly above?

according to the power that worketh in us ... Eph 3:20

The same way God created the earth,
the same way God raised up Jesus from the dead,
is the same way that God does things in our lives,
by the working of the Holy Spirit.
And all we have to do is,
ASK!

... Read ...
Heb. 11:1-6

Sin? ... That's no problem for God!

Problems with sin?

Do you know that,
although we have problems with sin, and with sinning,
God has no problem with sin or with our sins!
Surely that's not possible?
God hates sin, doesn't He?
I did not say God doesn't hate sin.
I said He has no problem with it!
Because ...

God has already taken care of sin, through Jesus!

*If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
--- 1 Jn 1:9*

God wants so much to bless you.
God wants so much to do things for you.
God wants so much to shower you with His love,
so much so that ...

He did not let sin get in the way!

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
--- John 3:16*

No!
Sin is not the problem.
God is not looking to see if you are sinning!
All He wants you to do is repent, and sin is no more!
However,
God is looking at your heart.

*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth,
to shew himself strong in the behalf of them
whose heart is perfect toward him ...
--- 2 Chr 16:9*

God knows about your sin, and He is ready to forgive you,
and ...
if your heart is right towards God,
if you are trusting Him to change your life,
if you are putting Him first place in your life,
then ...

God says, He will show Himself strong on your behalf.

Not just in forgiving your sins,
but in taking care of all of your needs!

... Read ...
*2 Peter 1:3
Phil. 4:19
Eph. 1:3*

Making it in this life!

Good success!

Throughout the Bible God encourages us to spend time in His Word.

To Joshua God said,

*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth;
but thou shalt meditate therein day and night ... --- Josh 1:8*

To Timothy God said,

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God,
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth. --- 2 Tim 2:15*

Why does God want us to spend time in His Word?

To Joshua God said,

*... for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous,
and then thou shalt have good success. --- Josh 1:8*

To Timothy God said,

*And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil,
who are taken captive by him at his will. --- 2 Tim 2:26*

To both Joshua and Timothy ... God said,

“You need the Word if you are going to make it in life!”

But,

how do I study or meditate the word of truth?

By simply doing what it says!

Study ... make an effort, be earnest, be prompt.

Shew ... stand beside, be at hand, **substantiate,** recommend.

Approved ... properly, acceptable ... **tried (tested and approved)**

Rightly dividing ... to make a straight cut, **(knowing how to work with)**

Put some effort in and be ready to prove (substantiate) yourself.

*Become ready to be tried, tested and thereby ... approve,
so that you will know God's Word ... what it means and how to use it!*

Then you will have what the Apostle Peter said,

*According as his divine power hath given unto us
all things that pertain unto life and godliness,
through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
--- 2 Pet 1:3*

God has given us ALL things that pertain to life and godliness.

It is in His Word, through the knowledge of Him!

God says,

Make an effort and get into My Word.

Start doing what I say ... and be ready to be tried.

And if you know My Word, you will know what to do!

... **Read ...**

Joshua 1:1–9, 2 Tim. 2:15–26

Have faith in God!

Faith in God!

*And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.
--- Mark 11:22*

“I can’t prevent or change that ... it is an act of God!”

Does that sound like ... a faith statement?
Faith in His provision or ability?

No!

It’s everything but faith in God!

Even a faithless Insurance policy includes exceptions such as,
... an act of God,
attributing to God the ability to do above and beyond man’s control.

Yet,

they expect you to trust them to protect you,
from everything that is above and beyond man’s control?

...

Yes, it is easy to say ... **God is Almighty!**
He can do things above and beyond our abilities!
Yet, you do not actually trust God to do all that in your life!

In the Bible we read,

*Now unto him that is able to do
exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,
according to the power that worketh in us,
--- Eph 3:20*

Can God really do above and beyond what we can?

Absolutely! Even the Insurance Companies provide for that!

But ...

will God do above and beyond what you can in your life?

“Well I don’t know?”

I mean, how will God do that?

*Isn’t that what Insurance Companies want you to do,
to put your trust in them instead of in God?”*

The Bible tells us quite plainly,

*But my God shall supply all your need
according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
--- Phil 4:19*

If you believe that God can do supernatural acts,

then believe also that He will do them,

for you, and not ... to you!

Have faith in God, and let Him be God in your life.

*But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
--- Heb 11:6*

... 252 ... Trust

Yes... I can!

... be a world Overcomer!

Aren't you glad that Jesus said,

*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace.
**In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;
I have overcome the world.***
--- John 16:33

Well, that is very easy for Jesus to say,
He is Jesus the Son of God,
and He is the One who triumphed over the devil

*And having spoiled principalities and powers,
he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*
--- Col 2:15

But what about me?

I am the one who has the tribulation,
and I am supposed to be of good cheer!

How can I overcome the world and its ways?
How can I overcome the powers in the world?

The Bible gives us a ready answer ...

***Who is he that overcometh the world,
but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?***
--- 1 Jn 5:5

That means that, if you believe in Jesus,
if you believe that Jesus is the Son of God,
then God says to you ...

YOU can overcome the world!

Well that is an easy thing to say,
but how do you do that?

*For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world:
and this is **the victory that overcometh** the world,
even **our faith.***
--- 1 Jn 5:4

If you put **your faith** (trust) in God's Word,
if you put **your faith** (trust) in Jesus,
if you put **your faith** (trust) in what Jesus did for YOU,
then **the victory He won is yours** as He promised!

***That faith (trust) in His Word is the victory in your life,
that overcomes the world (for you)!***

... Read ...

*1 John 5:-
Isa. 55:11
Col. 2:-*

More than spiritual!

Everything you need!

Now ... this may come as a surprise to you,
but God has not only,

*... blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:
--- Eph. 1:3*

but God has also given us ...

*According as his divine power hath given unto us
all things that pertain unto life and godliness,
through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
--- 2 Peter 1:3*

And that's not all, because God really means both ...

LIFE & Godliness!

God has not just provided for our spiritual needs,
He has also provided for our EVERY need,
and that includes ...

our every physical need on this earth and in this world!

That was God's plan right from the beginning,

*And God said, Let us make man in our image,
after our likeness: and let them have dominion ...
And **God blessed them**, and God said unto them, **Be fruitful**, and multiply,
and **replenish** the earth, and **subdue** it: and **have dominion** ...
--- Gen 1:26-28*

When God created man,
He blessed man (the ability to live a full rich life)
and He equipped and gave man everything he needed
to be fruitful (have more than enough to give),
to replenish the earth (put in what it needs),
to subdue (to take care of whatever was wrong on earth),
and to have dominion over all of creation (Psalm 8:6)
In fact,

God gave man all things that pertain to life and godliness!

Not only is ...
our every physical and spiritual need already taken care of,
but we have been blessed with more than what we need,
so that we have to give, in order to be fruitful and to replenish!

How do you get hold of that

*But my God shall supply all your need
according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
--- Phil. 4:19*

By faith ... in God

*... for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,
and that **he is a rewarder** of them that diligently seek him.
--- Heb. 11:6*

Stepping into Grace!

Undeserved favor!

It is important to know what God's Grace is,
and just in case you don't know, it is ...
God's unmerited favour. God treating us better than we deserve!

However,
what is even more important to know is,
how do I step into the grace of God?

If grace means that God is treating us better than we deserve
then God's grace is not dependent on what we can do,
but we step into God's grace by receiving the gift He has prepared for us.

*But unto every one of us is given grace according to
the measure of the gift of Christ.*

--- Eph 4:7

God has given each one of us ... Grace,
according to what Christ has done, for us.

What has Christ done for us?
What is the gift of Christ?

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

--- John 3:16

God in His grace ... gave us His only begotten Son, Jesus,
who in turn gave Himself so that we would not perish,

*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

--- Rom 6:23

Jesus not only brought us salvation,
but He opened up the way for us to God's grace,
making a way for us to enter into the throne room of grace,
where God's Grace, His unmerited favor is;
where God can and wants to treat us better than we deserve!

How do I step into the grace of God?

By stepping into God's presence, through Jesus,
by accepting what He did for me,
and ...
receiving what God has for me!
So,

*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

--- Rom 4:16

... Read ...

Matt. 7:7

Eph 2:8

Peace in troubled times!

Peace in troubled times!

Is it possible to have peace when everything is going wrong?
When everyone's life is turned upside down,
and there seems to be no hope at all?
Jesus said,

***Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:
not as the world giveth, give I unto you.
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. --- John 14:27***

Easy to say, but it seems impossible to do!
Yet,
inside difficult and troubled times, there are people who have peace,
and whose lives simply seem to be in order!
How do they do that?
Take Shadrach, Meshach & Abed-Nego,
they got hold of what Jesus said!

***Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:
not as the world giveth, give I unto you... --- John 14:27***

When Shadrach, Meshach & Abed-Nego refused to worship idols,
and they were dragged before the king, threatened with death,
this is what they answered the king,

***... our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace,
and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. --- Dan. 3:17***

They did not put their trust in what the world could do for them!
Neither did they fear what the world could do to them!
But ...

they put their trust in what the Son of God would do for them!

***He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire,
and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.
--- Dan. 3:25***

***Jesus said, "My peace I give unto you!"
Shadrach, Meshach & Abed-Nego believed Him. **Do you?**
Jesus said, "Don't you be troubled or afraid!"
Shadrach, Meshach & Abed-Nego trusted Him. **Do you?*****

Are you willing to take Jesus at His Word?

***For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth,
to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.
--- 2 Chron. 16:9***

If you are, He will show Himself strong in your life!

***And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. --- Phil. 4:7
... Read ...
Isaiah 55:11***

... 256 ... Repentance

Forgiveness and Repentance!

Yes, He always will!

God gave us this wonderful, powerful and life giving promise,

*If we confess our sins, **he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** --- 1 John 1:9*

God will always forgive us when we ask Him!

How many times?

Jesus said ... "even up to seventy times seven!" (Matt. 18:21)

But ...

God has also said to us, as He did to Saul,

*... Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.** --- 1 Sam. 15:22*

Saul sinned just like we do ...

Saul asked God for forgiveness, just like we do ...

God forgave Saul, just like He promised and does for everyone!

But,

when God forgives you, He expects you to repent!

Isn't forgiveness and repentance the same?

No!

To forgive, is what God does! Wiping away our guilt!

To repent, is what we do! Turning away from our sin!

That is why God said to Saul,

***to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.** --- 1 Sam. 15:22*

"Don't just tell Me you are sorry". God says, "Show Me you are changing, by obeying My Word!"

Don't just ask God to forgive you,

turn from the way you have been going!

Turn to God, and do what He says in His Word!

*For **rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.** Because **thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.** --- 1 Sam. 15:23*

Saul did not to turn from his sin, so God turned from him!

Don't be a Saul, be a David, a man after God's own heart!

Don't be quick to ask for forgiveness,

but be quick to repent,

to turn from your sin and step into God's promise,

... into God's presence!

... Read ...

1 Sam. 15:18-21

1 Sam. 16:7

God's insurance is ... fully paid up and 100% sure!

Check the small print!

Today ... you can get insurance for everything,
but are you really safe?

The small print and exclusions are normally more than the cover!
And the money that the Insurance companies collect over years
is quickly gone once you make the first claim!

However, God's Insurance ...
that has been standing for thousands of years, unchanged,
is not only fully paid up, but is "all risks" with no exclusions!

*He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High
shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.*

*I will say of the LORD, **He is my refuge and my fortress: my God;**
in him will I trust. Surely **he shall deliver thee** from the snare of the fowler,
and from the noisome pestilence. **He shall cover thee** with his feathers,
and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.*

*Thou shalt not be afraid for **the terror by night;**
nor for **the arrow that flieth by day;***

***Nor for the pestilence** that walketh in darkness;
nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.*

*A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand;
but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold
and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD,
which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;*

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

*Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon
shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon me,
therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known
my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him:*

I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

--- Psalm 91:1-16

God is not only your protection and your strength,
but He delivers you from anything and everything that comes against you!
You are not partially insured or have only a limited cover.

Everything is covered! Nothing is excluded!

Terrorists who attack by night and terrorists who attack by day!
Pestilence that comes by night and destruction that comes by day!

Nothing is left to chance!

The offer is clear. No evil shall befall you, because ...
all of heaven has been given charge to protect you in all your ways!
And, long life and salvation are part of the deal!

And ... it is **fully paid for, by the blood of the Lamb!**

But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

--- 1 Peter 1:19

All we need do is put in a claim ... (psalm 91:1)
and speak our shelter into existence ... (psalm 91:2)

Sowing and Reaping!

It's up to you!

Do you know that,
what you will have in life ... is up to you!
God said to Noah,

***While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest,
and cold and heat, and summer and winter,
and day and night shall not cease. --- Gen 8:22***

And you can ask any farmer
if he ever reaped a harvest without first having sown?
No!
God put certain laws in operation ... both physical and spiritual!

You will not reap anything ... without first having sown!
And ...
You will only reap ... what you have sown!

*Be not deceived; God is not mocked:
for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
--- Gal 6:7*

*But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly;
and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.
--- 2 Cor 9:6*

What you have in life ... is up to you!
How much you have in life ... depends on what you have sown!
Therefore,
what you receive in life, depends on what you put into life!

God is a good God and He loves to give,
But,
it is up to you ... to respond to His goodness!

*Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down,
and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.
For **with the same measure that ye mete withal
it shall be measured to you again.** --- Luke 6:38*

It is up to you ... to put yourself in a position,
where God's Word and His promises can work for you!
It is up to you ... to get to the place,
where God can bless you and give to you, in abundance!
How?

By looking to see where you can give!
By looking to see where you can bless!
By being ready to do, ready to act and ready to stand in faith.
That gets God's attention,
that pleases God and puts His Word to work for you!
Sow and you shall reap!
Give and it shall be given unto you!

... Read ...
Heb. 11:1-6

... fulfill your expectations!

Yes God wants to!

We all want God to do things for us,
and there is nothing wrong with that.
As long as we are not like those the apostle James wrote about,

***Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have,
and cannot obtain: ye fight and war,
yet ye have not, because ye ask not. --- James 4:2***

God wants to give to us and do things for us,
but are we ready to do things His way?

The apostle Paul wrote,

***Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all
that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. --- Eph 3:20***

telling us that God can and wants to do even beyond what we ask or think!
Yet so often that is simply not happening in our lives!

Why?

There are two reasons why not, and they both have to do with,
Expectations!

What expectations do you have of God?

Do you actually have ... any expectations of God?

Or,

are the things that you are expecting, the things that God promised?

If you have no expectations, there is nothing for God to do!
If you have wrong expectations, there is nothing that God will do!

The dictionary defines "expectation" as

the action of waiting for something to happen.

A preconceived idea of what will happen.

In other words,

you have to know what you want and aggressively expect it!

Or as God would put it,

***But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. --- Heb 11:6***

Can God do anything with your expectations?

If you really have an expectation of God,

if you have asked God to do something for you,

if you asked God according to His will,

then the answer is ... YES!

God can ... and God will!

***And this is the confidence that we have in him, that,
if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:***

***And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask,
we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. --- 1 Jn 5:14-15***

... Read ...

Heb. 11, John 14:13-15, Mark 11

... 260 ... Salvation

God wants to touch them too!

Look around you!

What did Jesus mean when he said,

*... Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
--- Matt 22:39*

Jesus was saying, look around,
see those people around you.
How often, when you are in need,
do you see those around you who are also in need?
And ...

when God answers your prayers,
are the people around you benefitting as well?

Paul and Silas were thrown into jail,
they prayed and asked God for help,

*And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God:
and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake,
so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all
the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.
--- Acts 16:25-26*

God not only loosed Paul and Silas' chains,
but everyone else's as well!
And that was a good time for Paul and Silas to get out of there!
But they didn't,
**because there were still others around who were,
... in need of being set free!**

*And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open,
he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had
been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.
Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before
Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, **Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**
And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*

.....
*And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them,
and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.
--- Acts 16:27-34*

God answered Paul and Silas' prayer,
to not just bless them,
but to bless those around them as well,
and also ...
that Paul and Silas could be a blessing even to their jailer!

When you trust God and avail yourself to Him,
His favor touches you and everyone around you!

*And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying
Let those men go.
--- Acts 16:35*

Living a fasted life!

Separated unto!

**To God ... fasting is a lifestyle,
not an eating style!**

Most people think that fasting is when you stop eating
and spending the time you would use to eat, praying.

And yes,
there are times when that kind of fasting is necessary!

But to God ...
fasting is much more than that!

Is not this the fast that I have chosen?

*to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens,
and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?*

*Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry,
and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house?
when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him;
and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?*

--- Isa 58:6-7

To God, fasting is to separate oneself unto Him,
being separated unto Him for service.

To God, fasting is to concentrate one's life on Him,
and concentrating on others, for Him!

To God, fasting is to be focused on Him,
to focus your attention on others, for Him!

To God ... fasting is a lifestyle!

*The kind of lifestyle Jesus had,
the kind of life that Jesus lived.*

*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power:
who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed
of the devil; for God was with him.*

--- Acts 10:38

Living a fasted life ... is more than reading and studying the Word!

Living a fasted life ... is more than praying and missing meals!

Living a fasted life,

is acting upon what you have read in the Word!

It is acting upon what you prayed out before God!

Living a fasted life,

is a life that reaches out and touches the lives of others!

*Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily:
and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward.
Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am.*

.....

*And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought,
and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden,
and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.*

--- Isa 58:8-11

**To God a fasted life ... is a life full of Him,
a life that is not just taking, but a life that is looking to give!**

Getting your prayers answered!

Getting answers!

Jesus' disciples wanted their prayers answered,
so they said to Jesus ... "Lord, teach us to pray."
Jesus then taught a simple but powerful prayer,
in which 3 secrets to prayer and life with God are revealed.

*When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.
(You) Give us day by day our daily bread.
And (You) forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us.
And (You) lead us not into temptation; but (You) deliver us from evil.
--- Luke 11:2-4*

Firstly, Jesus said,
Get to know God the Father, His character and His ways!
Start by speaking to God personally, "Father",
worship Him for Who He is,
for what He has done and still will do, for you!
--- Luke 11:2

Secondly, Jesus said,
Know God's will, and know what you want or need from Him!
Jesus continued to say that God's will will be done on earth!
Then Jesus told us what God's will is,
to bless us daily by supplying our every need!
To forgive us our sins! ... (1John 1:9) and,
to protect us and deliver us from evil and the evil one!
--- Luke 11:3-4

Finally, Jesus said,
be single-minded, persistent and determined! ... (Matt. 11:12)

*And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto
him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;
For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?
And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut,
and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.
I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend,
yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.
And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock,
and it shall be opened unto you --- Luke 11:5-9*

Jesus said,
when you know God as your Father who wants to bless you;
when you know God's will, His character and His ways,
then you will go to Him knowing that He will bless you,
and when you ask of Him, in faith, determined to receive,
YOUR heavenly Father will answer your prayers and bless you!

*For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth;
and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. --- Luke 11:10*

... Read ...
1 John 5:14-15

Everything ... and more!

Simply everything!

If you have never studied the book of Ephesians,
and in particular chapter 1,
do it, it will bless you!
It starts off by saying to us,

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath
blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:
--- Eph 1:3*

God has blessed us, not just with a few blessings,
but with every, in fact ALL spiritual blessings,
in heavenly places in Christ!

Now you may well think,
"Father it is wonderful to know,
that it is your will to bless me!
Father it is wonderful to know,
that in Christ I am abundantly blessed!
Father it is wonderful to know,
that I have every blessing in heaven!
But Father God,
I am here on earth, not in heaven!"

Well,
Praise Jesus that God blessed you **in Christ!**
Because,
not only are you blessed in Christ in heavenly places,
but Jesus taught,

*After this manner therefore pray ye:
Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. **Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.**
--- Matt 6:9-10*

Jesus quite plainly said,
The Father wants to do His will on earth, just as it is done in heaven!
And the Bible tells us exactly what God's will is,
to be blessed with every blessing,
in heaven, and therefore also on earth!
Jesus went on to say,

*I am come that they might **have life**, and that they might have it **more abundantly.**
--- John 10:10*

Jesus came so that we could be blessed abundantly.
God has already blessed us with every blessing in heaven,
and Jesus said,
"Ask the Father to do exactly that today, on earth, in your life!"

Is there any reason why you should not
ask God to do in your life what He said He wants to do?
No! As far as Jesus is concerned, there is no reason!

Putting substance to your hope!

Faith substance!

Did you know that God is itching to bless you and provide for you?

*Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen:
for I will hasten (I am ready) my word to perform it.
--- Jer 1:12*

So then ... why doesn't God just do it?

Because God will do nothing against your will,
and therefore unless you ask and expect of Him,
God cannot do what He would like to do in your life!

How then do you make it possible for God to bless you?

By taking hold of and acting on His Word!

*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not
return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please,
and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.
--- Isa 55:11*

Just think of it,
God will make sure that what He has said,
will happen exactly the way He has said it would!

How can I make sure that what God has said,
will happen for me?
Easy; Jesus said,

*If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you,
ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
--- John 15:7*

Jesus said,

Abide in Me; spend time with Me!

Jesus said,

Let My words abide in you; spend time in My Word!

Accept and stand on My promises!

Jesus said,

Ask what you desire; draw hope from My words!

Put faith and trust in My promises!

Jesus said,

and it shall be done for you.

God will put substance to your hope!

*Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen:
for I will hasten (I am ready) my word to perform it.
--- Jer 1:12*

God has given you His Word,
His Word that will accomplish what He has said it would!
God wants to perform His Word,
He wants you to take His Word and to believe His Word,
so that He can put substance to His Word!

So He can do for you what He promised in His Word!

Honesty and confidence towards God!

Simple honesty?

If you want to have confidence to go to God,
and know that you will receive from Him what you ask,
then the Bible says,

*Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.
And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his
commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.
--- 1 Jn 3:21–22*

What could cause your heart to condemn you?

Not being honest and open towards God,
or even with yourself!
And,
we are not talking about stealing or lying in the natural.
No!
Not like Ananias & Sapphira who lied about the money,
instead of being honest about what they wanted to give!

When you are saying or doing things because they sound good,
even if it is something the Pastor said or is written in the Bible,
but it is not the real desire of your heart,
then ...
you are not being honest or open towards God or yourself!
And your heart will condemn you!

How can God do things in your life,
when you are not open or honest with Him or yourself!

If you want things to change in your life,
start by being open and honest with God.
Start by telling Him what you don't want to do!
Firstly so that you hear it yourself,
and secondly, so that God can respond to it.

Honesty will help you to hear God,
and open up the way for God to help you!
Honesty is the first step to trusting God,
to where He can do things in your life!

*Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.
Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.
And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.
--- Ps 37:3–6*

As you open up to God, in honesty, trusting Him,
God can and will start working in your life,
helping you to deal with things that were problems before
because in His hands ... it's clay that He can shape!
And ...

you will have confidence in your heart to receive what God has for you!

... 266 ... Faith

Faith comes!

Faith comes!

There is so much said, and misunderstood, about faith!
What is faith? How do you get faith? ,How do you use faith?
Actually, faith is not something that you use,
the Bible says,

*For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith:
as it is written, **The just shall live by faith.**
--- Rom 1:17*

Faith is not a way of getting something,
faith is not a way of doing something,
faith is a way of living!

In other words,
you get your prayers and needs met ... as a result of faith!
You sort out satan and his attacks ... as a result of faith!
Because ... faith is something that you have!
God says to us,

*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
--- Rom 10:17*

What is God saying to us?
You get faith from the Word of God,
and,
you live by that faith you get from God's Word!

But,
what is it in God's Word that brings faith?
What is it in God's Word that builds faith?

Spending time in God's Word and **getting to know Him!**
Getting to know **His character** and **what He will do!** (and can do!)
Finding God's promises that He has written for us in His Word!
Putting your trust in Him, that He will do what He said He will!

Faith is not just trusting in His promises,
faith is trusting in God Himself!
And,
believing that He will do for YOU,
what He promised in His Word!

*But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,
and that **he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**
--- Heb 11:6*

Faith is in God's Word.
Yet, not in the words themselves,
faith is in God Himself!
Faith comes, as you get to know Him!

Dependant on Him!

Totally dependant!

Why is it that so often, as soon as we seem to be in control,
everything just goes wrong again!
Surely that is not the way it is supposed to be?
No! It is not, but ...
maybe it is because you are trying to be in control!
Jesus said this,
of Himself and His life on earth,

***I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge:
and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will,
but the will of the Father which hath sent me.***

--- John 5:30

***Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me?
the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself:
but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.***

--- John 14:10

Now if anyone on earth could have been in control,
then it should have been Jesus!
And if you look at His life and ministry,
it certainly does look like it!
Yet Jesus Himself said,

"It is not Me but the Father Who is in control!"

Jesus realized His limitations on this earth, as a human being,

***Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be
equal with God: But made himself of no reputation,
and took upon him the form of a servant, and
was made in the likeness of men: --- Phil. 2:6-7***

He knew that if He was going to be successful on earth,
if He was going to accomplish what He came to do on earth,
He was going to need the help of the Father and the Holy Spirit.
And ...

Jesus accomplished everything He came to do,
because,.

**He depended on the Father and the Holy Spirit,
and not on His human ability!**

And if Jesus depended on the Father and the Holy Spirit,
then so do we and even more so!

Jesus knew this,
and He made sure that the same help He got is available to us.

***Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away:
for if I go not away, the Helper will not come unto you;
but if I depart, I will send him unto you. --- John 16:7***

Yes! We have a Helper, the Holy Spirit, who will help us as He did Jesus!
But it is up to us to depend on Him, and on the Father and Jesus!

... Read ...

John 16:13-15

Looking in all the wrong places!

Don't be misled!

Isn't it strange how difficult we make it for God to provide for us!
"Surely we are not making it difficult, are we?"
Yes we are! All of us, even as far back as Adam!
And some like Cain, even kill for it,
but still miss it!

*Ye lust, and have not:
ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain:
ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.
--- James 4:2*

Why is it that, although God wants to provide for us abundantly,
and we want our every need met,
it just does not happen the way it should?

Let's take Cain as an example!
Cain and Abel both wanted God to bless them as He had promised!
Cain and Abel both brought an offering to God, as He commanded!
God accepted Abels offering and blessed him!
But God rejected Cains offering!

Why?

Why was Abel blessed and not Cain?

God's promises were the same to both of them!
They both did what God asked and brought an offering to Him!
Yet God accepted the one and rejected the other?
Why?

Did Abel do something that Cain did not do?
Or did God just not want to bless Cain?

God treats everyone the same (Acts 10:34),
so Cain must have missed it somewhere!
God said this to Cain,

***If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?**
and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door.
And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.
--- Gen 4:7*

God said to Cain,
"There's a right way and a wrong way of doing things!
... and Abel did it the right way!"

What did Abel do that Cain did not do?

Abel honored God,

bringing an offering to God out of his increase,
and God blessed Abel even more!
Cain however did not honor God,
and only had himself on his mind ... yet still expected of God!
The same principle still applies,
if you honor God, God will honor you, with all that He has!

... Read ...

Ps. 8:4-6, Gal. 7:6-9, Luke 6:38

Sorting out satan!

Getting him on the run!

One of the first things that God told man to do,
was to sort out the devil;

*and God said unto them,
Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, **and subdue it.**
--- Gen 1:28*

And because man did not obey instructions,
Jesus came to show us how to do it.

*He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning.
For this purpose the Son of God was manifested,
that he might **destroy the works of the devil.**
--- 1 Jn 3:8*

Then Jesus told us to continue and do what He had started;

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me,
the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works
than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.
--- John 14:12*

God has not changed nor has He changed His mind. (Mal. 3:6)
The devil is still the liar he was from the beginning,

*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.
He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth,
because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie,
he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.
--- John 8:44*

And God wants us, more so than ever, to sort out the devil!
How? By doing exactly what Jesus did,

*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power:
**who went about doing good, and healing all that
were oppressed of the devil;** for God was with him.
--- Acts 10:38*

And in the same way the Holy Spirit wants to sort out the devil
and his work on earth, through us!

*And these signs shall follow them that believe;
In my name **shall they cast out devils** ...
... they shall **lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**
...the **Lord working with them,** and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.
--- Mark 16:17-20*

God still wants us to do what He planned from the beginning.
God is still wanting to do it through us, if we let Him.
So let's get on with the fun,
and sort out the devil and get him on the run!

Perfect love!

Expelling all fear!

The devil's biggest weapon is ... fear!

And he uses that against us in every area of our lives,
not just in big things such as terror and war,
but also in our everyday lives,
at work and at home, in big things and small.

The fear of loss ... your job, property, a loved one,
and *"if you don't decide right now, it will be lost forever!"*

All lies, to put fear in us and thereby control our lives!
However the Bible tells us,

*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear:
because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.
--- 1 Jn 4:18*

God is Love, and that there is no fear in love is obvious!

But,

what is perfect love?

Perfect love is abiding in God's presence,
and depending on Him for all of your life,
walking and living in the truth of ...
Psalms 23... & Psalm 91.

How is love made perfect in you?

*And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love;
and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*

*Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of
judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.*

--- 1 Jn 4:16-17

Perfect love is knowing Who God really is,
and receiving His grace and His peace in your life!

*Grace and peace be multiplied unto you
through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,
--- 2 Pet 1:2*

How does perfect love cast out fear?

God has given you the Holy Spirit as a gift, (*Acts 2:38*)
and He shed His love abroad in your life through that same Holy Spirit. (*Rom. 5:5*)

It is ...

as you accept the reality of the Holy Spirit's presence in your life,
as you receive God's love, all His promises,
and knowing that He will do what He has promised, through Jesus,
that you will enjoy a life free from fear and terror, in Jesus!

... Read ...

2 Cor. 3:17

John 8:36

1 John 4

A treasure in earthen vessels!

A powerful treasure!

Ever wondered why God talks about ...
Treasures, Excellence, Glory, Power, Pressure and Tribulation,
all at the same time?
For instance,

*For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts,
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, **that the excellency
of the power may be of God, and not of us.** We are troubled on every side,
yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;
Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;
--- 2 Cor. 4:6–9*

God's light, His life is inside of us,
but God says, unless it is active, in us and through us,
there is no excellence, glory or power!
Therefore God also says to us,

*And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe,
according to the working of his mighty power,
--- Eph 1:19*

For the greatness of God's power towards us,
is according to the working of His mighty power through us!
The Holy Spirit is in us ... wanting to work through us,
but His power is only of value, when it is being used!
And God chose to do it through us!
But,
why does there have to be pressure?
Is the Holy Spirit's power not enough?

*My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
But let patience have her perfect work,
that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.
--- James 1:2–4*

What is that treasure inside of us that God is talking about?
FAITH!

And faith, God says, is an excellent, precious powerful treasure!
Again, what does this have to do with pressure?

Like a diamond, made out of dust and pressure,
is the most precious gem and the strongest stone in the world!
FAITH!

... inside of dust (us) that God allows to be pressured,
produces the most precious and strong combination possible,
so that the excellence of His power may be released, by faith, through us!
The treasure in an earthen vessel!

... Read ...
John 16:33

... 272 ... Commitment

The Lordship of Jesus...in my life!

Jesus, in my life!

God is not a God of "maybe or maybe not!"

*For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen,
unto the glory of God by us. --- 2 Cor. 1:20*

He means and will do everything that He says,
but He also expects us to be the same,
to mean what we say ... and not just to take and expect!

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus,
and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead,
thou shalt be saved. --- Rom. 10:9*

God said that if you confess Jesus as Lord of your life,
you shall be saved!

God not only said that, it is a fact, you are saved!
God has done what He said He would.

But,

have you done what you said you would do?

Is Jesus really Lord in your life?

Does He make the decisions, give the direction?

Or does He only supply the needs?

Of course God wants us to live by faith,
trusting Him to bless us abundantly!
But unless our faith is firstly in Him, as Lord over our lives,
He will not be Lord over our needs and desires!

*But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
--- Heb. 11:6*

When we go to God,
we must worship Him,
and put our trust in Him,
before we expect of Him to bless and to do for us!

David in the Psalms, put it this way,

*Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.
--- Psalm 37:4-5*

Who are those whom God will bless?
Those who delight themselves in Him!
Who are those for whom God keeps His promises?
Those who commit their ways to Him!
Who are those whose every need and desire will be met?
Those who have made Jesus LORD in their lives!

... Read ...
Psalm 23

A shield of FAITH!

Totally surrounded!

Did you know that ...
faith is not just a word or just something you do!
Faith is not a way of getting things!
Faith is not even a way to fight the devil!
No!

Faith is much much more!

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
--- Heb. 11:1*

Faith is something real and tangible in the spirit realm!
In fact God says,

*... as it is written, The just shall live by faith.
--- Rom. 1:17*

*Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith
ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
--- Eph 6:16*

Faith is a way of living and doing things,
and Faith does something for you!

God says, Faith is like a shield!
*Faith is something that surrounds you,
faith is something that protects you,
faith is something that equips you.*

That is why God also says to us,

*But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your
most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,
--- Jude 1:20*

That is good news
but ...
how do I get this shield?
What substance is this Faith made of?
And,
hw do I get this Faith?

*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
--- Rom. 10:17*

The substance of faith ... is the Word of God!
His promises and provisions He has given us!

The strength of faith ... is God standing behind His Word!
Isaiah 55:11, Heb. 4:12

The SHIELD of faith, is YOUR trust in God and His Word!
His promises and Words of life that you surround yourself with!
--- Heb. 11:6

... 274 ... Victorious Living

Confidence through the Word!

Confidence!

John the disciple was probably the closest to Jesus,
because he wanted to get as close to Love as he possibly could,
and ...

John also had the most confidence before Jesus!

Why?

Because he wanted to know Jesus personally, without reserve!

Because he wanted to know the Word Himself ... intimately!

And it was John who wrote this to us,

*Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.
And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments,
and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. --- 1 John 3:21-22*

When will your heart condemn you?

When you refuse to receive God's Word and act on it!

Therefore,

John continued by saying to us,

"If you keep His commandments!"

If you receive God's Word and keep His Word,

and ...

"If you do what is pleasing in His sight!"

If you do what pleases God by acting on His Word,

then says John,

you will have confidence towards God!

You will be able to go to Him and boldly ask of Him!

And ...

You will receive what God has promised, in His Word!

Confidence comes ... from receiving the Word!

Confidence comes ... from obeying the Word!

Confidence comes ... from doing the Word!

***If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you,
ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.***

--- John 15:7

**Confidence comes from staying close to God,
and actively doing His will!**

*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that,
if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:*

--- 1 John 5:14

and confidence comes as you boldly step out on His Word!

*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

--- Heb. 4:16

... Read ...

John 14:21

Fight the good fight!

The fight of faith!

Are you ready for what may be coming your way ... today?
Are you ready for what the devil may throw your way ... today?
Whether you are ready or not,
is not going to stop the devil and his schemes!
In fact he prefers it if we're not ready, if there is no opposition!
Maybe,
you've not even considered that those things that go wrong,
those pressures and trials that come against you,
are actually the devil's work!
Well ... they are!
So get ready and do what the Bible says to do;

Fight the good fight of faith, --- 1 Tim 6:12

The Bible calls the trials, temptations and struggles in this life,
an opportunity for a good fight!
And goes on to tell us,

*My brethren, **count it all joy** when ye fall into divers temptations;
Knowing this, that **the trying of your faith** worketh patience.
James 1:2-3*

How can you call the fight of faith ... a joy and a good fight?
How can negative things coming against you ... be good?
How can what you have to resist ... be good?
When you realize that YOU are not doing the fighting;
when you realize that YOU are doing the trusting,
and God is doing the fighting,
that's when the fight becomes a joy!

... be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. --- John 16:33

God does not want us to try and beat the devil,
Jesus already did that!
No! But He says to us,

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
James 4:7*

**God wants us to resist the devil and his attacks,
by trusting Him for the victory!**

God wants us to trust His Word and His promises,
and when the devil comes with whatever trial or pressure,
to use His Word to resist the devil and to put him to flight!

*Faith in what God has said He will do!
Faith in what Jesus has already done!
Faith in what the Holy Spirit will do!
That is the good fight of faith!*

... Read ...
*James 1:1-12
Heb. 12:2*

... 276 ... **Commitment**

a Challenge to love!

Love fruit!

Jesus was very specific about what is most important in life,

*Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love** the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, **Thou shalt love** thy neighbour as thyself.*
--- Matt 22:37-40

LOVE ... so easy to say ,
yet so misunderstood and so seldom really done!
What did Jesus mean when He said,
Love God and love your neighbor as yourself?

When God talks about "Love" He means ... giving!

*To give without expectation, pressure or demand!
The way Jesus gave Himself for us.*

Jesus did not expect or wait for us to ask Him,
neither did He expect us to say thank you or even to receive His gift!
He gave (loved) because He wanted to, regardless of all else!
Why?

Because then you're **free** to bless without being hurt or rejected,
as you do not have an expectation or a demand made on you!
Because then you're **free** to receive the gift or blessing,
as you are not under any pressure or obligation!

That is the kind of love Jesus came to give us!
That is the kind of freedom Jesus wants us to have!

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.
--- John 8:36

How can you love and have the freedom to give like that?

*Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.
As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.*
--- John 15:8-9

Jesus said, become like a fruit tree,
Fruit trees exist to give to whosoever comes past.
Fruit trees are not biased. whosoever wants or needs may take,
they do not expect you to say thank you!
There is no demand to take or pressure to receive,
and no obligation to acknowledge or respond!

Fruit trees are not dependant on those they give to,
because they live of a source that others can't even see!

**Free to give the way Jesus did, depending only on the Father,
reaching out in Love to the world, for Him!**

... Read ...
*John 15:8-14
1 Cor. 13*

Confounding the wise and the mighty!

Sticks & stones.!

What does the Bible really mean when it says,

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; --- 1 Cor. 1:27

Which foolish things has God chosen,
to confound the wise?

Which weak things has God chosen,
to confound the things that are mighty?

Take the following saying for instance,

***“Sticks and stones may break your bones,
but words will never harm you!”***

Actually, nothing is further from the truth!
For God says to us,

*Death and life are in the **power of the tongue:**
and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. --- Prov. 18:21*

How does that work?

Take young David and the giant Goliath.
Goliath brought all his mighty sticks and stones,
with which he was going to break the bones of the army of Israel!
David went up against him with a little sling shot,
What could he do against that might?

*And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him:
for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. --- 1 Sam 17:33*

King Saul saw only mighty “sticks and stones!”
But David knew God’s Word and His ways!

*And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying ...
... for **who is this uncircumcised Philistine**, that he
should **defy the armies of the living God?** --- 1 Sam 17:26*

David knew the Covenant that God had made with Israel!
David knew that death and life are in the power of the tongue!
And David knew that God’s Word in his mouth,
was more than enough to smash all the sticks and stones Goliath had!
David knew his words would give him the victory!

*Then said David to the Philistine,
Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield:
but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts. --- 1 Sam 17:45*

***Sticks and stones can break your bones,
but God’s Word in your mouth ...
will confound the wise and the mighty, and blow them totally away!***

Looking unto Jesus!

A good place to start!

Are things not the way they could or should be?

Are there things in your life that need to change?

Are there things that you need in your life?

Do what the Bible says,

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; --- Heb. 12:2

Now that sounds great and wonderful,
but I thought that that is exactly what I have been doing?

Why is Jesus not finishing my faith?

Maybe we should look at that scripture again!

What does looking unto Jesus mean, practically?

It means, look at the way Jesus did things!

What does finisher of our faith mean, practically?

It means, look at how His faith was finished!

Jesus said this,

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself,
but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth,
these also doeth the Son likewise. --- John 5:19*

How did Jesus do things?

He relied on the Father for everything that He did!

How was Jesus' faith finished?

He relied on the Holy Spirit to help and to empower Him!

*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power:
who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil;
for God was with him. --- Acts 10:38*

But that was Jesus, what about me?

The Bible says you have the same anointing of the Holy Spirit in you!

*But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you ...
--- 1 John 2:27*

And Jesus told us that the Holy Spirit will help us and empower us,
in the same way that He did Jesus!!

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth ...
... All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he
shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you. --- John 16:13-15*

How will you get things to change in your life?

By looking unto Jesus and doing what He did!

By letting the Holy Spirit help you and empower you!

By receiving the gift of faith that God has for you ... in Jesus!

And by letting Him finish your faith, through the Holy Spirit!

... Read ...

Eph. 2:8, 2 Cor. 1:21

God's Word in action!

Seek and destroy!

Jesus told us in John 16:33 ... that He is an overcomer!
And how did Jesus overcome?
By using God's Word, as He did in the wilderness with satan!
... "It is written..." Matt. 4:1-11

In John 14:12, Jesus told us to be overcomers, just like Him!
But,
how can we do what Jesus did?
By using God's Word the same way that Jesus did!

***If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you,
ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
--- John 15:7***

Jesus said that,
if we **seek** Him first (abiding in Him and in the Word),
if we allow the Word to abide in us
if we allow that Word to become part of us,
if God's Word becomes our standard,
then God's Word will do in our lives just what it did in Jesus' life!
The Word will **destroy** every attack against us!

But, maybe it only worked for Jesus?
No! Not at all!
God's Word is not dependant on the user;
God's Word does what He said it will do!

*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth:
it shall not return unto me void,
but it shall accomplish that which I please,
and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.
--- Isaiah 55:11*

And God's Word is more than enough for any situation,

***For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper
than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing
asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow,
and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
--- Heb. 4:12***

Therefore God encourages us to take hold of ...

*... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
--- Eph 6:17*

Seek first God's kingdom, His Word and His presence,
and take hold of the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God!
Thus empowered and enabled to fight,
you are ready to destroy the works of the devil the way Jesus did,
"It is written...!"

Worry ... the greatest thief!

The greatest thief!

The Bible clearly tells us not to worry,

*Therefore I say unto you, **Take no thought for your life**, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on.
Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?*

--- Matt. 6:25

God wants to take care of you,
but where are you putting your trust,
or are you carrying the cares yourself?

The Bible tells us plainly to ...

*Casting all your care upon him; for **he careth for you**.*

--- 1 Peter 5:7

Yes, God wants to provide for you, but you have to let Him.
In other words, you have to make it possible for Him to look after you!

How do you do that?

Quite simply, by FAITH.

*But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God **must believe that he is**,
and that **he is a rewarder** of them that diligently seek him.*

--- Heb. 11:6

**You have to go to God believing that He can do what He says,
and you have to believe that He will take care of you!**

That means,
you are not to worry about your life,
but you are to trust God to care for you!

The opposite is of course also true,
that if you are worried about your life or situation,
this worrying will steal your FAITH,
the very thing through which God provides for you.

Don't let the devil steal your faith,
by worrying about the things God has said He will provide.

Therefore, as Jesus instructed to do, saying

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you.*

--- Matt 6:33

... Read ...

2 Peter 1:3

Phil. 4:6

Phil. 4:19

Matt. 6:24-34

Holiness, in God's presence!

In His presence!

Most people think that holiness is something you get from God,
but actually it is something that happens when you get to God!

*We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not;
but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself,
and that wicked one toucheth him not.
--- 1 John 5:18*

Once you are born of God, sin is dealt with,
and all you have to do is to stop being involved with it!
Holiness however, is not just the absence of or resistance to sin,
Holiness comes from a changed life style,
which in turn comes from,
getting into God's presence and drawing from Him!

Holiness comes from a change inside of you, in God's presence!
David found this out,
and he got into God's presence, asking this of Him,

*Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence;
and take not thy holy spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
and uphold me with thy free spirit.
--- Psalm 51:10–127*

It is not a decision that God makes for you,
but **it is a decision that you make in order,**
to get to where God can change your life around!

As God Himself has said,

*Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.
--- 1 Peter 1:16*

But ...
how do I step into God's presence?
How do I get to where God can change me?

First, know that it is not outside there somewhere,
God has already made His home inside of you! (2 Cor. 6:16)
Jesus said He will not leave you, but come to you, (John 14:18)
and the Holy Spirit is in you to guide you into all truth! (John 16:13–15)

Holiness is found in God's presence.
God's presence is inside of you,
... and as you let God change you from the inside out;
what is already in you,
will change your heart and your life,
and you will be holy as He is HOLY!

... Read ...
Col. 3:1–17

... 282 ... Obedience

Honouring God with your substance!

Honouring God.!

Cain and Abel both brought an offering or tithe to God.
One was accepted, and one was rejected.
God accepted Abel's offering.
Why?

*And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof.
And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:
--- Gen. 4:4*

Abel brought the first and the fat thereof;
The FIRST and the BEST and the BIGGEST!

That is the same principle that God taught Israel,

*And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land,
which thou, O LORD, hast given me.
And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God,
and worship before the LORD thy God:
--- Deut. 26:10-11*

The FIRST and the BEST and the BIGGEST!

And just think of it,
if you bring God the first, the best and the biggest,
it makes you bold and free to rejoice before God and to honour Him.
*"Lord look what I have brought you,
the First, the Best and the Biggest ... just for you!
I specially picked it and set it aside for you!
I want to honour you this day,
out of what You have increased me with!
and I thank You Lord for receiving my Tithe and Offering to You!"*

Now you may well say, *"I am not a farmer,
I just earn a salary and all money looks the same!"*
Sure, but you still have a First, Best and Biggest!
FIRST ... because as soon as you receive your salary,
you put the first part aside for God!
BEST ... because it comes first, right off the top,
and not out of what you have left over!
BIGGEST ... because it is not after expenses,
but right off the top!

The FIRST and the BEST and the BIGGEST!

Bring God of your best, right off the top,
before everything else.
Honour and worship God this day with your Tithe and Offering
and watch Him bless you in abundance!

*Honour the LORD with thy substance,
and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:
So shall thy barns be filled with plenty,
and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.
--- Prov. 3:9-10*

Plan B?

Rule #1!

In the business world, there is a saying,
which goes like this:

Rule #1 ... The customer is always right!

Rule #2 ... If the customer is wrong, refer to rule #1!

Although this is rather a humorous saying,
it is actually applicable to our lives as God's children!

What do I mean?

As a child of God, Rule #1 is ...

God blessed us and wants us to live prosperous and victorious lives!

Gen. 1:28, Deut. 28:1–14, Phil. 4:19

As a child of God, Rule #2 is ...

If everything goes wrong, your body is under attack,
you are under pressure, in financial need, and it looks like you will lose your job,
then simply refer to Rule #1

Or as the Bible puts it,

*While we look not at the things which are seen
but at the things which are not seen:
for the things which are seen are temporal;
but the things which are not seen are eternal.
--- 2 Cor. 4:18*

God does not have a plan B. He says in Malachi 3:6,

For I am the LORD, I change not; ...

No matter what goes wrong or how bad things may look,
God has not changed and neither has His original plan for you!

Therefore Jesus said to us,

Don't look at the problems and complain to God about them,
it is the devil that causes the problems.

But look to God for wisdom, strength and help, (Matt. 7:7, James 1:5)
His plan and His blessings are still the same!

*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:
I am come that they might have life,
and that they might have it more abundantly.
--- John 10:10*

If things are not the way God has promised,
then don't look to God as if He is not doing what He promised!

No! It is the devil who is stealing from you.

God is still the same and He is still in the blessing business!

The question is,

are you in the obeying and in the receiving business?

If you are, then **Rule #1** applies to you!

... Read ...

*Luke 6:36–38
Malachi 3:10–11*

Faith, a relationship!

A divine relationship!

Much is said and believed about faith,
but,
until we understand that God is a Faith God,
Who wants to have a personal relationship with us,
faith ...
will remain something out there that we don't really understand!
God said,

But without faith it is impossible to please him ...
--- Heb. 11:6

Which means that unless faith is part of our character,
unless faith is part of the way we live and do things,
as faith is part of God's character and the way He does things,
we will not be able to please Him.

God will not be able to do in our lives what pleases Him,
and to bless us abundantly!

... for he that cometh to God must believe that he is ...
--- Heb. 11:6

How do you get this God kind of faith? (Mark 11:22)
The Bible tells us,

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
--- Rom. 10:17

The Bible also says,
Faith comes from spending time in God's Word.
Faith comes from spending time learning who God is.
Faith comes from spending time getting to know God's character.
Faith comes from spending time with God Himself.
Faith comes from building a relationship with God!

When you get close enough to God to get to know Him personally,
... how He thinks and what He will do,
... what His plans are and what His heart is,
by spending time in His Word,
spending time in prayer, and speaking to Him personally,
then His character and His faith,
will become your character and your faith!
Then you will know and experience ...

... that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
--- Heb. 11:6

... as His faith and your faith flow out of ...
... your Relationship with Faith Himself!

... Read ...
Heb. 12:2

Just not happening the way it should!

It's just not happening!

Are things just not happening the way the Bible says they should?

You are praying and standing,
but it is just not happening!

You are confessing the Word, all you know how,
without any results at all!

**You are standing in faith,
and receiving little or nothing!**

Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

*Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough;
ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm;
and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes ...*

*... Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it.
--- Haggai 1:5-9*

What is wrong,?

*... Why? saith the LORD of hosts. **Because of mine house that is waste,**
and ye run every man unto his own house.*

--- Haggai 1:9

Jesus answered the same question this way,

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

--- Matt. 6:33

What is God saying to us?

Exactly the same as what James said to us,

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

--- James 2:26

What are the verses above telling us?

Simply this,

Is your need ... more important to you than God's need?

Does God have a need?

Yes, **God needs you to acknowledge Him in your ways,**
so that He can acknowledge you in His ways!

Are you acknowledging and glorifying God,

in your life,

in your giving and in your expectations?

*Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house;
and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.*

--- Haggai 1:8

Don't just consider your own needs.

Consider God and acknowledge Him, in ALL your doing!

Your needs, your believing, your receiving ... and your thanksgiving!

Listen to what the Spirit is saying!

Hear Him!

We hear a lot nowadays, from everywhere and every side,
and most, if not all of it, is bad news of some sort or another!
Certainly ... we should know what is going on,

*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, **let every man be swift to hear,**
slow to speak, slow to wrath:*
--- James 1 :19

And God wants us to be ready to hear at all times,
but as Jesus said,

*And he said unto them, **Take heed what ye hear:**
with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you:
and unto you that hear shall more be given.*
--- Mark 4:24

So be careful what you listen to and what you hear!

Yes, God wants us to be good listeners,
but what does God want us to be listening to?
The TV, the News, Talk shows, Horoscope?
No!
God wants us to be listening to His Word.

*My son, **attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.**
Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.
For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.*
--- Prov. 4:20-22

And even more than just listening,
God says "I want you to be attentive, to hear and understand!"
How will we truly hear what God is saying to us?
In Revelation, we read again and again,

*He that hath an ear, let him **hear what the Spirit saith** unto the churches;*
--- Rev. 2:7

Throughout the Bible God urges us to "hear" His Word to us,
to be attentive and open to receive what He is saying.
But,
He also made sure that we could fully understand His Word.

*Howbeit when he, **the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:**
for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear,
that shall he speak: **and he will shew you things to come.***
--- John 16 :13

Not only does God want us to know what He has written in His Word,
but ...

He wants us to hear what He is saying to us today.
**God wants us to hear and receive,
what the Holy Spirit is saying today!**
Are you listening?

Beat the system!

Beat the system!

God says in many places in the Bible that He wants to bless us,
that He wants to show Himself strong on our behalf.

... to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.

--- 2 Chron. 16:9

So shall my word be ... it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

--- Isa. 55:11

*Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen:
for I will hasten my word to perform it. --- Jer. 1:12*

But how do you make that work in your life?

It often takes a key or a password to open things up!
If you have played computer games, you'll know,
you can struggle in order to get to a higher level!

Or you can beat the system,

by getting hold of a Code or Password,
that simply opens up those more interesting levels.

That got me thinking,

Isn't there a key that would open up His blessings in my life?

And you know what, God has given us a simple key,
a way for His Word to become active in our lives!

*Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee
the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD;
trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. --- Psalm 37:3-6*

Delight yourself in the Lord.

Are you excited to be where God is?

Do you want to be there because it is better than anywhere else?

Do you have an expectation of simply being blessed,
knowing something good is going to happen?

Are you consciously expecting and anticipating ... God's best!

Commit your way to the Lord ...

Are you convinced that God IS your answer?

Are you convinced that God IS going to bless you?

Are you willing to stake all you have on God answering you?

Have you passed the point of no return?

And the key?

Trust also in Him ...

Is there a confidence and a peace in you ...

Are you like a child who goes to Daddy,

not to tell Daddy what is wrong,

but to tell Him how great He is,

and how He is going to fix the problem for him!

*But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God **must believe that he is, and that
he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.** --- Heb. 11:6*

... Read ...

Psalm 37

Prosperous Word!

Prosperous Word!

It is easy to read and even quote God's Word
but,
unless it is doing something for you,
it is not doing what God intended for it to do!
In fact the Bible says,

*For the word of God is **quick (alive), and powerful,**
and **sharper** than any twoedged sword ... --- Heb. 4:12*

What is God's Word doing in your life?
... *Is God's Word **ALIVE** in your life?*
... *Is God's Word **SHARP** in your life?*
... *Is God's Word **POWERFUL** in your life?*

What should God's Word be doing in your life?
God Himself said,

*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth:
it shall **not return unto me void,**
but it shall **accomplish** that which I please,
and it shall **prosper** in the thing whereto I sent it. --- Isa. 55:11*

Is God's Word returning void out of your life?
Is God's Word accomplishing things in your life?
Is God's Word prospering in your life?

If it is not, then it is time for it to start happening!
If it is not, then you had better start doing something about it!

No! It is not up to God.

He has already spoken out His Word.
You have to take hold of His Word in your life!

"But I can't make God's Word work!"
You don't have to,

*Then said the LORD unto me,
Thou hast well seen: for **I will hasten my word to perform it.**
--- Jer. 1:12*

God will perform His Word.

God is ready to do whatever He has said and promised.

God is ready to have His Word,

alive, sharp and powerful in your life.

God is ready to make sure that His Word,
accomplishes and prospers in your life.

But,

Which Word of God ... is He going to accomplish in your life?
Which Word of God ... is He going to prosper in your life?

The Word that YOU have made alive ... in you!

... Read ...

Prov. 4:20-22

Waiting upon Him!

Waiting.!

There is a wonderful scripture in Isaiah,

*Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:
But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary;
and they shall walk, and not faint.
--- Isaiah 40:30–31*

Those who wait upon the Lord ... shall renew their strength!

But,

*"I have been waiting so long for something to happen,
and I feel weaker rather than stronger!"*

How is your strength renewed?

Isaiah said this in the previous verses,

*Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God,
the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary?
there is no searching of his understanding. **He giveth power to the faint;**
and to them that have no might **he increaseth strength.**
--- Isaiah 40:28–29*

It is God who renews or increases my strength;
and this happens as I wait upon the Lord.

Therefore I need to know,

how do I wait upon the Lord?

James says,

*Knowing this, that the **trying of your faith** worketh patience.
But let patience have her perfect work,
that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.
--- James 1:3–4*

Doing something whilst you are waiting is extremely important!

But,

not to stop what you are doing, is as important!

What should I do whilst I am waiting?

Jude said,

draw from the Source that will increase your strength.

*But ye, beloved, **building up yourselves** on your most holy faith,
praying in the Holy Ghost,
--- Jude 1:20*

Those who draw from God as they wait on Him,
those who spend their waiting time in the Spirit, drawing from Him,
they shall rise up on wings like eagles,
for He shall give them power and renew their strength!

... 290 ... Giving

God wants to get something to you!

Yes, He always will!

Did you know that God's biggest challenge is not,
the devil, sin, sickness or lack!
His biggest challenge is to get man to receive all that He has for man!
And every time God speaks about giving,
it is not because He wants to get something,
... it's because He wants to give!
But man is so afraid of giving, he puts up his (giving) guard,
instead of putting himself in a position to receive all that God has for him!

God says,
Give Me your heart, and I will show Myself strong for you!

*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth,
to **shew himself strong** in the behalf of them whose **heart is perfect toward him.**
--- 2 Chron. 16:9*

God says,
Give Me the first of your increase, and I will fill your barns to overflowing!

*Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:
So shall thy barns be **filled with plenty**, and thy presses shall **burst out** with new wine.
--- Prov. 3:9-10*

God says ...
Give Me the tithe, and I will smother you with blessings!

*Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse ... and prove me now herewith
... if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and **pour you out a blessing,**
that there shall **not be room enough to receive it.**
--- Mal. 3:10*

God says,
*Open your heart to Me ... so I can be strong for you!
Give from what you do have ... so I can mightily increase it!
Don't hold back ... so I can pour out all that I have to give!*

God says,
Just begin to give ... so that I am not limited in My giving to you!

Give, and it shall be given unto you;
*good measure, pressed down, and shaken together,
and **running over**, shall men give into your bosom.
For with the same measure that ye mete withal
it shall be measured to you again.
--- Luke 6:38*

How much God can give ... is up to you!

... Read ...

Gal. 6:7
Phil. 4:17-19
2 Cor. 9:6-9

Faith, Grace and Mercy!

Treating us better.!

Did you know that no matter how we have messed up,
God still wants to bless us in abundance?
And for that reason, Paul begins most of his letters by saying,

*Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace,
from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.
--- 1 Tim. 1:2*

Why did Paul write this so often?
Because Paul wanted to reveal,
the reality of God's love for us, to us!
And what is the reality of God's love for us?

Faith ... Grace ... Mercy!
*Faith ... pleases God (Heb. 11:6)
God's grace is sufficient (2Cor. 12:9)
God's mercy endures forever (1Pet. 1:3)*

And it is through God's love,
His faith, mercy and grace that we are restored to Him.

*For by grace are ye saved through faith;
and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
--- Eph. 2:8*

Faith, the action of believing and receiving!

*But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
--- Heb. 11:6*

Grace, God's favor in action on my behalf!
His ability making me able to do what I can't do in my own strength!

*And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee:
for my strength is made perfect in weakness.
--- 2 Cor. 12:9*

Mercy, God not treating us according to what we would deserve!
Forgiving us and giving us Jesus though we could never deserve it!

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto
a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
--- 1 Pet. 1:3*

God wants to treat us better than we deserve,

*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
--- Heb. 4:16*

... 292 ... Commitment

Single-minded ... or pushed around?

Single-minded!

Are you being single-minded about what is yours?
Are you walking in what God has promised?

Or,

**are you allowing the devil to push you around,
and steal the blessings that God has for you?**

Jesus once told this parable,

*And there was a widow in that city; and she came
unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.*

*And he would not for a while: but afterward he said
within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;*

***Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her,
lest by her continual coming she weary me.***

And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

*And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night
unto him, though he bear long with them?*

*I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless
when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*

--- Luke 18:3-8

Jesus said that if you are going to receive, even what is rightfully yours,
you are going to have to stand on your rights,
and you are going to have to persist until you get what is yours!

*And from the days of John the Baptist until now
the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence,
and the violent take it by force.*

--- Matt. 11:12

Jesus told us in John 10:10 that the devil is a thief,
and unless you stop him from stealing from you,
and demand that he let go of what belongs to you,
and unless you take what is rightfully yours,
the devil will stop you from receiving, just like that unjust judge!

How do you stop the devil?

Submit yourselves therefore to God.

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

--- James 4:7-8

If you want what God has promised and prepared for you,
you need to draw close to God,
you need to trust God and to go to Him for it!
And, you need to get the devil out of the way,
by standing on your rights and not letting him steal from you!

How? By taking authority (in faith)!

*I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.
Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh,
shall he find faith on the earth?*

--- Luke 18:8

He is your Helper ... let Him!

Need help?

Ever since creation,
God has been helping mankind!
He helped ... Noah build the Ark and miss the flood!
He helped ... Lot out of the mess in Sodom & Gomorrah!
He helped ... Moses and Israel get out of Egypt!
He helped ... Daniel and kept him safe in the lion's den!
He helped ... Shadrack & friends in the fiery furnace!
He even helped Cain after he had murdered his brother!
And,
God certainly wants to help YOU!
In fact Jesus said,

*And I will pray the Father, and **he shall give you another (helper) Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth ... for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.
--- John 14:16-18*

Not only did He not leave us comfortless,
He also sent us a helper, the Holy Spirit, forever!

*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance**, whatsoever I have said unto you.
--- John 14:26*
*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will **guide you into all truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak and **he will shew you things to come**.
--- John 16:13*

You may well say,
"I know that ... I have read that many times!"
But,
having read it and knowing it, is of little use,
UNLESS
you turn to the Holy Spirit and accept His help!
UNLESS
you ask HIM saying, "Holy Spirit help me!"

*And it shall come to pass afterward, that **I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh**...
--- Joel 2:28*

God has poured out HIS very own Spirit upon all flesh, US!
But it is up to us to "seriously" ask Him!
**"Holy Spirit show, teach, guide and HELP me,
... right now!"**
And if you are serious, willing to hear and receive,
God, the Holy Spirit WILL help you!
No matter who you are; He helped Cain, and He'll help you!

... Read ...
*Acts 1:8
Acts 2:1-4*

... 294 ... God's Love

Lover(s)!

The world's greatest!

Isn't it wonderful how that every time God talks about **LOVE**,
He is talking about man!
And it all started with,

*For **God so loved the world**, that he gave. --- John 3:16*

And when Jesus came, He came to **LOVE!**

*Husbands, love your wives, even as **Christ also loved the church**,
and gave himself for it; --- Eph. 5:25*

And when the Holy Spirit came, He brought God's **LOVE** along!

*... because the **love of God** is shed abroad in our hearts **by the Holy Ghost** ...
--- Rom. 5:5*

And **LOVE** is the only thing that makes us different,

*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples,
if ye have love one to another. --- John 13:35*

And what should we do with all this **LOVE**?
Jesus said,

*...Thou shalt **love the Lord thy God** with all thy heart,
and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
... Thou shalt **love thy neighbour** as thyself. --- Matt. 22:37-39*

In fact, **LOVE** is not a feeling or just something you do.
Neither does God just love, **He is LOVE!**
And therefore He says to us,

*Beloved, let us love one another: for **love is of God**;
and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.
He that loveth not knoweth not God; for **God is love**. --- 1 John 4:7-8*

And there is a most powerful promise,

*And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love;
and **he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God**, and **God in him**. --- 1 John 4:16*

But know this, **God IS serious about LOVE!**

*If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar:
for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen,
how can he love God whom he hath not seen? --- 1 John 4:20*

Yet **God is also merciful** and says,

***Love never fails** ... 1 Cor. 13:8
Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another,
because **love covers a multitude of sins**. --- 1 Peter 4:8*

His grace is sufficient for you!

All sufficient!

Have you ever wondered what exactly God meant,
when He said to the apostle Paul,

*... My grace is sufficient for thee:
for my strength is made perfect in weakness ...
--- 2 Cor. 12:9*

In the Book of Hebrews God said to us,

*For the word of God is quick, and powerful,
and sharper than any twoedged sword ... --- Heb. 4:12*

How is God's grace, practically, sufficient?
*How is His strength made perfect in weakness?
How do you draw that strength from Him?*

And,

What does God's Word have to do with His grace?

Jesus, at the beginning of His ministry on earth,
very graphically showed us how God's grace
and His Word are the strengths in our weakness!

*Jesus had been led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit ...
... and after He had fasted forty days ... he was hungry!
--- Matt. 4:1-2*

When you have fasted 40 days, you are not only hungry but weak!
That is also the time that Satan attacks ... when we are weak!
And that is the time when you need God's grace and strength!

How did Jesus draw God's grace and strength,
when He was weak, being attacked by Satan?

*Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain,
and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory
of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee,
if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus
unto him, Get thee hence, **Satan: for it is written,**
Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.
--- Matt. 4:8-10*

Jesus knew that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal,
but mighty through God for the pulling down of strongholds. 2 Cor. 10:4
Jesus also knew that the strength lies in God's Word,
and in speaking God's Word, according to His will, in faith!

That is how Jesus received God's grace and strength, and ..

*Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.
--- Matt. 4:11*

... Read ...
*1 John 5:14-15
James 4:5-8*

Hold on for the breakthrough!

Breakthrough!

Do you have a hope in your heart for something better?
Do you have a hope in your heart for things to change?
If you do not ... then you need to!

And if you do, then it's time to act!

Because ,
God wants to put substance to your hope!

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
--- Heb. 11:1*

Are you ready for God to do just that?

... to put substance to YOUR hope?

Are you ready to believe that God's promises will work for you?

And,

are you ready to hold onto His promises, no matter what?

Are you ready to hold on ... for that breakthrough?

*Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him,
He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of
Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.*

And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks."

But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

So He said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."

*And He said, "**Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel;
for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.**"*

--- Gen. 32:25-28

Jacob was not an angel ... he had many faults.

But the one thing that he did have, was,

the determination to get what was his,

to get as much as possible of what God had to give!

And he held on for the breakthrough!

Jacob knew,

... a breakthrough is not guaranteed just because God made a promise!

... a breakthrough is not guaranteed just because God gave His Word!

But,

... a breakthrough is guaranteed when we take hold of God's promises!

... a breakthrough is guaranteed when we take hold of God's Word!

And,

... a breakthrough is guaranteed ... when we mix God's promises with faith!

... a breakthrough is guaranteed ... when determination is added!

As determined as Jacob was to get the wife he wanted,
working for her for 14 years.

Just as determined he was to get what God had promised,

... and he held on until he received God's blessing!

How determined are you to get the blessings you want?

Are you willing to hold on until you have the breakthrough?

... Read ...

Jer. 1:12, Isa. 55:11

2 Chron. 16:9

Believe and Pray ... (Don't pray to believe).

Believe and pray!

Jesus said to us,
Ask of God what you desire and believe.

*Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire,
**when ye pray, believe that ye receive them,
and ye shall have them.***
--- Mark 11:24

Yet so often one hears people say,
"Well I prayed and I believe ... but I have received nothing!"
"... this praying and believing just does not work!"

Maybe prayer only works for some people?
Quite right!

Prayer only works for those who believe!

Why?

Because faith does not come from praying,
faith comes from hearing and receiving God's Word!

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
--- Rom. 10:17

*"But I have read God's Word;
why don't my prayers work?"*

Because,

hearing God's Word is more than reading,
**it is a relationship with God Himself,
and it is accepting and receiving God's Word,**
for yourself!

***Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou
dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.
Delight thyself also in the LORD;
and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him;
and he shall bring it to pass.***
--- Psalm 37:3-5

It is as you trust in God and in His Word,
and as you delight yourself in Him,
spending time with God getting to know Him,
that He will put desires in line with His Word,
in your heart.

And as you trust Him for that desire,
God will bring it to pass!

As Jesus said,
Ask of God what you desire and believe
and He will do it for you

... Read ...
Heb. 11:1-6

... 298 ... Abundant Life

Prospering ... in all!

Achieving your goal!

One of the things that many people have a problem with,
is God's will concerning the prosperity of man!
Yet when you take a closer look at God's Word,
you'll find that prosperity is really up to man and not up to God!

*Where there is no vision, the people perish:
--- Proverbs 29:18*

Now, what does that have to do with prosperity?
Everything!

**Because prosperity in God's eyes means,
for you to succeed in reaching YOUR goal!**
Prosperity is not about money, things, health, peace or salvation,
although it includes all of that,
prosperity is about how much YOU will achieve!
God says to us,

*Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper (euodoo)
and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.
--- 3 John 1:2*

*"Beloved, I wish that you may achieve YOUR goal
... in every area of your life!"*

Psalm 50:10 tells us that God owns everything,
therefore money is not an issue to Him, He has enough for all of us!
But,

***have you set a goal, and will you achieve that goal?
Will you achieve all that God has planned for you?
Will you prosper, spirit soul and body, the way God planned?
God wants you to, but will you?***

God says, Look up, I have more for you than you think!

***Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly
above all that we ask or think,
according to the power that worketh in us,
--- Eph. 3:20***

God wants us to have more than we can think or ask.
God can give us more than we can think or ask,
not just in one area of our lives, but in every area of our lives,
Spirit, Soul and Body.

But God also wants us to ask, with others in mind!

***Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss,
that ye may consume it upon your lusts.
--- James 4:3***

... So that you have to give to others!

**... Read ...
*Deut. 28:1-14***

A prayer failure?

A prayer failure?

God said this to us through the apostle James,

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.
--- James 5:16

Telling us that, if anything needs to be done or changed,
prayer is the way that it is going to happen.
Or as some minister once said,
any failure in a Christian's life, is a prayer failure!

Can one really be that blunt?
Is prayer really that crucial?

Does not the Bible teach us,

*Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain:
ye fight and war, **yet ye have not, because ye ask not.***
--- James 4:2

Does not the Bible also say,

*But my God shall supply all your need
according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*
--- Phil. 4:19

And,

*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that,
if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:
And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask,
we know that **we have the petitions that we desired of him.***
--- 1 John 5:14–15

If you have done that,
if you have asked of God,
according to His will,
for He said He would supply according to His riches in glory,
then God will honor His Word,
and there won't be any prayer failure!

*But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*
--- Heb. 11:6

But remember ... prayer is not something you try,
prayer is something you do habitually,
God's way, in faith!
Ask God and trust Him ... that WORKS!

... Read ...
James 1:1–8

... 300 ... **Abundat Life**

All His benefits!

All His benefits!

Who can truly comprehend the Love of God?
Love, Who poured Himself out for me,
so that ALL His benefits could become mine!
So that ALL my diseases are healed!
So that MY life is redeemed from destruction!
So that MY mouth is satisfied with good things!
So that MY youth IS renewed ... day by day!

As David's heart shouted out to the Lord,

*Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul, and **forget not all his benefits:**
Who **forgiveth all thine iniquities;**
who **healeth all thy diseases;**
Who **redeemeth thy life from destruction;**
who **crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;**
Who **satisfieth thy mouth with good things;**
so that **thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.***
--- Psalm 103:1-5

Now you may well say,
"I want to ... *Bless the Lord!*"
"And I want to receive all those benefits from Him!"
But,
"for whom are those blessings and benefits?"

To such as keep his covenant,
and to **those that remember his commandments to do them.**

*Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.
Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion:
bless the LORD, O my soul.
--- Psalm 103:18-22*

The Lord's blessings are for everyone who dares to accept His Covenant,
for everyone who makes Him Lord over their lives.

"Once I have done that, then ...
How do I bless Him and receive all His benefits?"

*For even in Thessalonica **ye sent once and again unto my necessity.**
Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.
But I have all, and abound: I am full,
having received of Epaphroditus **the things which were sent from you,**
an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.
But my **God shall supply all your need**
according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*
--- Phil. 4:16-19

Become a giver just like Him,
by reaching out in love and giving into the needs of those around you,
and He will bless you with ALL His benefits!

Get the Word involved!

What are you saying?

This ... "Having what you say" ... is just not working!

Is that so?

If that is the way you feel, then consider this:

What have you been saying?

Because ,

if Jesus said, "**You have what you say!**" then you do!

*For verily I say unto you, That **whosoever shall say** unto this mountain,
Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea;
and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that
those things **which he saith** shall come to pass;
he shall have **whatsoever he saith.***

--- Mark 11:23

We are all saying things all the time,
and God warned us, saying ...

Death and life are in the power of the tongue:
and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

--- Prov. 18:21

Therefore, check what you are saying.
Are you using your words to your benefit or against yourself?
Remember, words are seeds,
and you could be planting good or bad seed!

*"Well, I thought I was saying what I want,
but I am still not getting anything!
Am I doing something wrong?"*

Are you expecting God to be involved with your answer?
Then God has to be part of what you are saying!
As God clearly says to us,

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth:
*it shall **not return unto me void,**
but **it shall accomplish** that which I please,
and **it shall prosper** in the thing whereto I sent it.*

--- Isaiah 55:11

Isaiah 55:11 has to be the foundation of your Mark 11:23.
What does God say about what you are saying?

**Are you speaking what He said, what He promised,
so that He can start doing that in your life!**

No matter what your situation looks like,
God's Word will not return to Him empty,
and you truly will have ... what you say!

... Read ...

Heb. 1:3

Rom. 4:17

Joy versus fun!

Christianity is fun!

Sure ... life is fun,
when you are not under pressure,
and when you are in control!
But is that really what fun is all about?

The world's concept of fun is ... to forget your problems,
but tomorrow they are still there!

The world's concept of fun is ... when your mind is empty,
but when the drugs wear off, you realise just how empty your life is!

The world's concept of fun is ... when your mind is occupied with other things,
but when the show is over, the problem is still as big!

That is why Jesus said to us,

*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:
I am come that they might have life, and
that they might have it more abundantly.
--- John 10:10*

The fun that the devil is promoting, only serves to
steal, kill and destroy your life and all that you have!
But the life that Jesus came to bring us,
is a life of abundance and real FUN!

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.
--- Phil. 4:13*

Fun is having JOY in your life ... inner strength,
so that you can face the problems of life!
Neh. 8:10

Fun is facing a problem that is coming against you,
and knowing in God's strength it is just a challenge to overcome!
Psalms 91:1-7

Fun is overcoming those challenges,
overcoming the pressures in life, in His strength!
John 16:33

Fun is waking up in the morning,
stronger than you went to bed the previous night!
Isaiah 41:28-31

***Fun is being a believer,
and doing what Jesus told us to do!***

*And these signs shall follow them that believe;
In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;
They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing,
it shall not hurt them, they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

.....

*And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them,
and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*

--- Mark 16:17-20

Taking inventory of your life!

Subject to change!

Are you evaluating your life by ...

the things that seem right or wrong in your life,
the things that may or may not be missing in your life,
the things that you have acquired in your life?

Are you evaluating what God has done in your life, His Word and His promises, by the circumstances or lack in your life?

Or ...

are you evaluating your life in the light of ...
what God says about your life?

Is there a difference?
The Bible says ...

*While we look not at the things which are seen,
but at the things which are not seen:
for the things which are seen are temporal;
but the things which are not seen are eternal.
--- 2 Cor. 4:18*

Are you looking at what you don't have in your life, at what you lost, or what got stolen? Are you looking at what others have in their lives, things that you just don't have in your life?

Or ...

are you looking at what God promised that you can have?
Are you looking at what God says you should have?

Is there a difference?
Jesus said ...

***The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:
I am come that they might have life, and
that they might have it more abundantly.
--- John 10:10***

You have a choice ...

Jesus said,

Recognise who has been stealing from you,
and don't judge God by what the devil has done!
.Don't let your current situation be your standard!

Do not look at the things that are seen as final,
but look at what God says about your life,
and His promises that can change your life,
from what is seen, to what God says it should be!

Then, in line with His promises,
evaluate your life and your future!

... 304 ... *Renewing the Mind*

Bury the old man!

Get rid of the old man!

Why are things still going so wrong in my life?
Why am I not free from the problems of my old life?
Didn't Jesus Himself say,

*If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.
--- John 8:36*

Why then is it not working for me?
Why then am I not free?
Why are things still going wrong?
Why is God's Word just not working the way the Bible says it will?
Is what is written in the Bible ... not for me?
Let me assure you,
it most certainly is for everyone who dares to believe.

*Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe,
all things are possible to him that believeth.
--- Mark 9:23*

Why then is it not working in my life?

Answer this question for yourself,
are you doing things differently?
Have you stopped doing the things you used to do?
Have you changed your ways?
Have you gotten rid of the old man???

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth;
*fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil desire,
and covetousness, which is idolatry:
For which things' sake the wrath of God
cometh on the children of disobedience:
In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.
But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy,
*filthy communication out of your mouth.
Lie not one to another, seeing that
ye have put off the old man with his deeds;
--- Col. 3:5-9**

You can read God's Word, and believe God's Word,
but ... if you are still doing things that are contrary to God's Word,
then don't expect God's promises to work for you!

YOU have to bury the Old Man!

And have put on the new man, which is renewed
*in knowledge after the image of him that created him:
--- Col. 3:10*

YOU have to start doing things God's way,
so that God can do what He promised to do ... in your life!

Under pressure ... and standing!

Under pressure!

What to do when the pressure's on!

You could say "Jesus has overcome!" ... *John 16:33*
therefore I need not be under pressure!

You can pray and ask God to remove the pressure,
to take what is coming against you away!

Sounds good!

But do you know that God will NOT take that pressure away!

If God did not do it for Jesus,

He won't do it for you!

Jesus prayed,

*Saying, Father, if thou be willing, **remove this cup from me:**
nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*

*And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven,
strengthening him.*

--- Luke 22:42-43

God did not remove the pressure;

He gave Jesus the strength to withstand the pressure!

But, surely that was different!

God is not expecting the same from us!

Really?

What did David say God does?

*Yea, **though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**
I will fear no evil: for **thou art with me;** thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

--- Psalm 23:4-5

God does not take the pressure away,

He walks with you, through that pressure,

and inside of that pressure God strengthens you!

Is that really for us today?

*And from the days of John the Baptist until now
the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence,
and **the violent take it by force.***

--- Matt. 11:12

God did not create man as a servant, but a ruler.

Psalm 8:6, Gen. 1:26

And God does not expect us to do anything in our own strength,
but He wants to show Himself strong on our behalf.

2 Chron. 16:9

However for God to be able to show Himself strong on our behalf,
we have to hang in there ... so that He can!

... Read ...

Psalm 91...

... 306 ... God's Provision

Move on!

Move on!

God asked Abraham to follow Him
and promised to bless him and his descendants abundantly!

Gen. 12:1–10

God didn't promise Abraham he would not have to stand for those promises,
but God showed Abraham and his sons, again and again,
that if they trusted Him, He would provide for them and bless them!
More than once God used Egypt to provide for His people!
But God also showed Isaac that He can provide even in famine!

Gen. 26:1–3

Why did God not want Isaac to go to Egypt?
Because God is our source, not Egypt!

***But my God shall supply all your need
according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
--- Phil. 4:19***

God did provide for His people in Egypt
with an elaborate plan to get Joseph to a place of authority,
wonderfully providing for them in Egypt!

However, if this was all God's plan,
why then did Israel become slaves in the land of God's provision?

Because ...

they took their eyes off the Provider.

God used Egypt's resources to provide for His people,
God blessed all of Egypt and the surrounding countries,
... and everyone benefitted.

*That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven:
for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good,
and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.
--- Matt. 5:45*

God is simply "more than enough!"

However,

God did not make Egypt the promised land!

***The promised land is where God is,
not where the blessings are!***

--- Phil. 4:19

As Jesus also said,

*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.
--- Matt. 6:33*

Don't look to the blessings ... Look to God!
Don't look to the provision ... Look to the Provider!
Your promised land ... is not in the provision,
your promised land ... is in Him!
Expect and receive what God has promised,
but don't stay where God provided ... move on with Him!

Get out of bondage!

Forever free!

The lives of most people in the world,
and sadly the lives of so many Christians even today,
resemble that of the children of Israel in Egypt;
... in bondage and under oppression.
Slaves in the place that God provided!
God did not take Israel to Egypt to put them in bondage.
No!

God took them to Egypt to provide in their needs!
And in the same way that God brought Israel out of bondage,
God has brought us out of the devil's bondage through Christ Jesus!

So,
why are there so many Christians still in bondage?
Why are so many not living the abundant life Jesus promised?
The Bible tells us plainly,

***The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof;
the world, and they that dwell therein. --- Psalm 24:1***

This is part of our inheritance,
the world (Egypt) is where God will provide for us!
Why are we in bondage in the place where God provides for us?
Because, in the same way that ...
God did not take Israel to Egypt to conform to the ways of Egypt,
so also ...

we are not to conform to the ways of this world!

Sure, like the Israelites,
we were born into this world's system and its bondage!
But,
Jesus set us free from satan and the bondages of this world.

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. --- John 8:36

However, whilst we continue to conform to this world,
whilst we continue to conform to its way of living and thinking,
we will remain in bondage and be under its oppression!
Therefore God says to us,

*That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man,
which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; --- Eph. 4:22
And be not conformed to this world:
but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,
that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable,
and perfect, will of God. --- Rom. 12:2*

We have to turn from the world's way of thinking and doing things!
... That is bondage and life outside of God' provision!
We have to start thinking and acting ... God's way!
Listening to the Holy Spirit and doing what He says.

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. --- 2 Cor. 3:17

... Read ...

Rom. 8:29, 1 Pet. 1:13–15, Gal. 5:1

... 308 ... Spirit Filled Living

What is the next step?

Stepping out, or stepping in?

Have you made some plans that you are about to step into?
Do you have to make a major decision or change
in order to step into your dream, your plan?

Should you resign from that job?
Should you sell and move?
Should you leave or stay?
What is the next step?

What is the next step forward from where you are?

*A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.
--- Prov. 16:9*

You have prayed about what is coming,
you have peace about the change that lies ahead,
you have peace about the fullness of your plans,
but ...
What is the next step?

STOP ... right there!

The next step is NOT dependant on where you are!
The next step is dependant on where you are going!

But,
... is that not the same?
No!

It is not important where you are coming from,
but it is important where you are going!
And therefore you need to know,
what will take you to where you are going,
and what to do to get you there!

So ...
How will I know what that next step is?

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come,
he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself;
but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak:
and he will shew you things to come. --- John 16:13*

Don't complain to God about your current situation.
Don't see yourself stuck where you are today.
But ...

See yourself where you are going, where you want to be,
then ask the Holy Spirit to show you the step you need to take,
... to get to where you are going!

Israel got stuck in the desert because they kept looking at,
... where they were and where they came from!
**So, if you want to get to the promised land,
set your face towards it!**

... Read ...
Luke 9:51

His promises are for everyone!

Not just for some!

Is everything that is written in the Bible, really for everyone?

Will everything promised in the Bible come to pass?

For instance,

**will the instructions and promises that Jesus gave us,
really work ... for everyone?**

*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world,
and preach the gospel to every creature.
And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name
shall they **cast out devils**; they shall **speak with new tongues**;
They shall **take up serpents**; and if
they **drink any deadly thing**, it shall not hurt them;
they shall **lay hands on the sick**, and **they shall recover**. --- Mark 16:15–18*

According to the Bible, it certainly worked for the disciples,

*And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them,
and **confirming the word with signs** following. --- Mark 16:20*

As they went, Jesus confirmed His promises in their midst!

Well, those were the disciples,
the ones Jesus personally spoke to!

What about someone who did not personally know Jesus?

Will it work for him as well?

What about Paul? He did not personally know Jesus,
and he even wanted to get rid of the Church and the Christians;

Did it work for him?

When Paul repented and made Jesus Lord in his life,

Paul also accepted what Jesus said in Mark 16.

But did it really work for him the way Jesus promised?

*And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire,
there came **a viper** out of the heat, and **fastened on his hand**.*

*And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand,
they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom,
though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live.*

*And **he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm**.*

*And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever
and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed,
and **laid his hands on him, and healed him**.*

*So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island,
came, and **were healed**: --- Acts 28:3–9*

Paul not only cast out demons ... Acts 16:16–18

He spoke in tongues (more than most people) ... 1 Cor. 14:18

Even snakes and deadly things did not harm him ... Acts 28:3–5

He laid hands on the sick, and they recovered ... Acts 28:8–9

**Paul took Jesus at His word,
and Jesus confirmed His word to and through Paul!**

Are you willing to take Jesus at His Word?

Are you willing to do what He said to do?

If you are, Jesus will confirm His word with signs following, in your life!

... 310 ... Protection

In the valley of the shadow of death!

Victorious in it!

We all know and even quote scriptures like,
Psalm 23 ... Psalm 91... and even ... John 16:33
But, do you really believe what they say?

If you were falsely accused today,
everything went wrong, at home or at work,
if you were about to lose your job or lots of money,
it seems there was NO ONE to support you!
Will Psalms 23, 91 and John 16 be real in your life?
Will you cry out to God for help?

Your boss just gave you a letter telling you you're fired!
A summons has just been delivered at your door!
Will Psalms 23, 91 and John 16 be enough for you?

*"I believe, I go to church, I pray and confess the Word,
won't God help me before things go wrong?"*
Well, what if He does not?

Daniel was a young man who did all those things.
He honored God in all his ways and prayed daily!
He did not compromise God's Word,
and it got him into trouble - serious trouble!
He got sentenced to be thrown into the lion's den,
and God did not come and stop it from happening!
Where was God?

Should not God have come to rescue Daniel?
Did Daniel not believe in Psalms 23 and 91?
Did he? ... Didn't he?

Well the person who ordered Daniel to be thrown into the lion's den,
said this of Daniel and God,

*Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel,
and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake
and said unto Daniel, **Thy God whom thou servest
continually, he will deliver thee.** --- Daniel 6:16*

And that is exactly what God did!
Daniel neither doubted God nor blamed the king,
and,
God did ... Psalms 23, 91 and John 16 for Daniel

*My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they
have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me;
and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. --- Daniel 6:22*

God shows Himself strong on your behalf,
as you put your trust in Him, IN trouble and tribulation!
If your faith and trust was truly real before the trouble started,
it will be just as real in the trouble and through the trouble!
What do you REALLY believe?

... Read ...
2 Chron. 16:9

Peace in troubled times!

Peace in troubled times!

Paul in writing to the Thessalonians,
exhorted them to be prepared and ready, saying,

***For yourselves know perfectly that
the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.
--- 1 Thes. 5:2***

And knowing this, he continued saying,

***But let us, who are of the day, be sober,
putting on the breastplate of faith and love;
and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.
--- 1 Thes. 5:8***

But how do you get prepared and ready?

How do you put on the breastplate of faith and love?
How do you draw from that hope of salvation?

By letting what God put in you, be your standard;
by reaching out in love, giving to those around you!
Honor where honor is due,

*And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour
among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;
And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.
And be at peace among yourselves.
--- 1 Thes. 5:12-13*

And seeing others the way God sees them,
and being ready to give into whatever need there may be.

*See that none render evil for evil unto any man;
but ever **follow that which is good,**
both among yourselves, and to all men.
Rejoice evermore.
Pray without ceasing.
In every thing give thanks
for this is the will of God in
Christ Jesus concerning you.
Quench not the Spirit.
Despise not prophesyings.
**Prove all things; hold fast that which
is good.** Abstain from all appearance of evil.
--- 1 Thes. 5:15-22*

And be sensitive to the Holy Spirit in everything.

*And the very **God of peace sanctify you wholly;**
and I pray God **your whole spirit and soul and body**
be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.
--- 1 Thes. 5:23-24*

... 312 ... God's Love

The focus of His love!

The focus of His love!

Ever wondered whether there's more to having
been created in God's image and likeness,
than the position and authority that is an obvious part of that?
If you read Psalms, you will find that there certainly seems to be more:

*What is man, that thou art mindful of him?
and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
For thou hast made him a little lower than God (Elohim),
and hast crowned him with glory and honour.
--- Psalm 8:4-5*

God is interested in what we do, and He comes to visit us!

Not only has He put us in charge of the rest of creation,
but He also crowned us with glory and honour!

What is it about man that interests God so much?

What is it about man that seems special?

so much so,
that nothing has stopped God from reaching out to man!

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.
--- John 3:16*

What is it about man that makes God act this way?

Man messes up, yet God keeps on giving to man?

Why?

We know God is love, and that love just loves to give,
but even so, is there no limit to what God has for man?
Is man really that special to God?

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:
According as **he hath chosen us in him** before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
--- Eph. 1:3-4*

Yes! ... Man is that special to God

Because even before God laid the foundations of the world,
God already had us in mind.

He had chosen us to be the expression of His very being,
and had chosen us to be the focus of His love.

And God intends to keep on loving us,
until we are holy and blameless before Him,

... in LOVE ...

... Read ...

1 Cor. 2:9

Eph. 3:14-21

Jer. 23:11

Prospering in every area of life!

Abundant Life!

Do you want to prosper in every area of your life?

Then read this!

Throughout the Bible, God talks about blessing us,

Gen. 1:28, Deut. 28:1–14, Mal. 3:10 ... etc.

Jesus summed it up, saying ...

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

--- John 10:10

LIFE in abundance!

What does that really mean?

*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly;
and I pray **God your whole spirit and soul and body**
be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Thess. 5:23

*Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest
prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*

--- 3 John 2

God wants you to prosper in every area of your life,

and be in health, even as your soul prospers!

But,

why does your soul (your mind) need to prosper?

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. --- Hosea 4:6

Quite simply because ...

If you don't know what God has promised you,

how will you receive those blessings?

Therefore God says to us,

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; --- Eph. 4:23

*And be not conformed to this world:
but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,
that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable,
and perfect, will of God. --- Rom. 12:2*

And what is God's perfect will?

Exactly what Jesus said,

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

--- John 10:10

Do you want to prosper in every area of your life?

Then renew your mind to God's Word!

Do what it says to do,

and you will have what Jesus said you will have,

LIFE in abundance!

... Read ...

Phil. 4:15–19

... 314 ... Repentance

Put a fire in my heart!

Make me soft Lord!

Do you want things to change in your life?
Are you wanting God to soften your heart?
Are you wanting God to put a fire in your heart?
Have you prayed and asked God to do just that?

STOP!

God has already done it all for you,

*I call heaven and earth to record this day against you,
that I have set before you life and death, **blessing** and cursing:
therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:*

--- Deut. 30:19

God has already prepared the fullness of life and blessings for us!

He cannot soften your heart and make us receive it,
but in fact says to us,

*Today, if you will hear His voice,
Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.*

--- Hebrews 3:15

God has already put a fire in your heart Himself!

And He cannot put more fire in your heart,

For our God is a consuming fire. --- Hebrews 12:29

And He says to us, "You act on what I have already done!"

*But wilt thou know, O vain man, that **faith without works** is dead?*

--- James 2:20

God has already done and prepared everything for us!

It is up to us to soften our hearts.
and to respond to the fire that is in our hearts!

How?

You soften your heart towards God,
by opening yourself to His will and His ways!
By relying on Him and starting to do things His way!

That is making Him Lord; that is softening your heart!

And ...

you get that fire burning in your heart,
by starting to reach out in love to those around you,
by seeing whose life you can affect for eternity, for God!

... by living *Mark 16:15-20* ...

*... In my name shall they **cast out devils**; they shall **speak with new tongues**;
... they shall **lay hands on the sick**, and they shall recover.
... And they went forth, and preached everywhere, **the Lord working with them,**
and **confirming the word** with signs following. Amen.*

As you touch the lives of people, right there where you are ...

As you reach out to them in love ...

**The fire in your heart will burn so strong ...
...and your light will be seen wherever you go!**

Faith that pleases Jesus!

Pleasing Jesus!

Isn't it wonderful how many treasures there are in scripture!

**Not only to give you life,
but to bless and change your life!**
Scriptures such as Hebrews chapter 11 ...

*But **without faith it is impossible to please him:**
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*
--- Hebrews 11:6

How do you please Jesus with your faith?

Accept His offer ... John 3:16

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
that **whosoever believeth in him** should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

*For **by grace are ye saved through faith;** and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
--- Eph. 2:8*

Accept Jesus as Lord in your life ...

*But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth,
and in thy heart: that is, **the word of faith**, which we preach;
That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus,
and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead,
thou shalt be saved.
--- Rom. 10:8–9*

Accept Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit ...

*And I will pray the Father, and **he shall give you another Comforter,**
that he may abide with you for ever;
Even **the Spirit of truth;** whom the world cannot receive,
because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him;
for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.
--- John 14:16–17*

Then ... act on those gifts that He gave you ...

*For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.
--- James 2:26*

... by living out what He put in you!

*... In my name shall they **cast out devils;** they shall **speak with new tongues;**
... they shall **lay hands on the sick,** and they shall recover.
... And they went forth, and preached everywhere, **the Lord working with them,**
and **confirming the word** with signs following. Amen.
--- Mark 16:15–20*

**Allowing Jesus to be Lord in your life and to change you from the inside out,
and allowing Him to work through you to change the lives of others,
that is the kind of faith in action that pleases Jesus!**

Your tongue got you into trouble again?

In trouble again!

Has your tongue gotten you into trouble again?

***It is so easy to talk without thinking,
and so easy to sin while you are talking!***

Therefore God warns us, saying,

***Death and life are in the power of the tongue:
and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. --- Prov. 18:21***

God tells us that there is power in our tongues,
power to affect our lives either positively or negatively,
therefore ...

God wants us to use our tongues to speak and receive life.
God wants us to use our tongues to speak and receive blessings,
and not ...
to use our tongues to speak death and destruction!

**Not only can your tongue get you into trouble,
but it can hurt and destroy if we don't control it!**

And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman....

*And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud,
and stood in the door of the tabernacle,
and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth....
wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?
And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed.*

*And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold,
Miriam became leprous, white as snow:
and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.
--- Num. 12:1-10*

Miriam spoke against her brother, Moses, God's servant,
and her words not only got her into trouble, but nearly killed her!

And the same can happen to us.

Therefore God encourages us to be like David,
who said about his tongue,

***I will guard my ways, Lest I sin with my tongue;
I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, --- Psalm 39:1***

And praise God,
there is also life and blessings for those who guard their tongues,
for those who rely on God for wisdom before they speak,
for those who let the Holy Spirit give them the words to say.
As God says to us through James,

*For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word,
the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.
--- James 3:2*

... Read ...
James 3

Getting to know God personally!

Knowing Him personally!

God created us for fellowship and relationship.
God demonstrated that to Adam in the Garden of Eden,
and He confirmed it to us, saying ...

*And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?
for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said,
I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and
I will be their God, and they shall be my people. --- 2 Cor. 6:16*

God even gave us His Holy Spirit to be our personal helper;
but ...
how do you really get to know God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit personally?
Firstly,
it's important to realize that the real you is not the flesh you see,
but ... it is the inner man, your spirit man,
the spirit life that God breathed into "you" in the Garden of Eden!

*And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground and **breathed**
into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. --- Gen. 2:7*

And therefore when God reveals Himself to us,
it will not be in the physical, but in the spirit.
That is why God gave us the Holy Spirit, so He can reveal Himself to us!
Spirit to spirit.

As you start communing with the Holy Spirit,
talking to Him and listening to Him,
the reality of God and the Spirit realm,
of who God really is, will become more real to you!
As Jesus also said to us,

*Abide in me, and I in you ... for without me ye can do nothing.
If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you,
ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.
As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. --- John 15:4–10*

'But Lord ... I need some tangible proof of our relationship!
Shouldn't the fruit of our relationship also be tangible?
Certainly, and God knows that as well,
therefore He says to us,

*If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar:
for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen,
how can he love God whom he hath not seen? --- 1 John 4:20*

As you reach out to others, in love, in giving to them,
God says, you are doing it as to Him,
... loving and giving to Him.
Then **you are living out your relationship with God,**
... in the physical, and in the spirit!

... Read ...
Luke 10:30–37

... 318 ... *Living in the Light*

Can the devil take you at your word?

Standing by your word!

*Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen:
for I will hasten (am ready) my word to perform it. --- Jeremiah 1:12*

God will stand by His Word,
and He will do exactly what He said He would do!

Can the same be said about you?
If you have given your word, is your word final?
Do you believe what you said and will you stand by it?
Or, will the devil pressurize you into compromising your word?
Are you a Shadrach, Meshach, or Abed-nego
who gave their word and would not compromise?
Or ...
are you going to buckle under pressure?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were threatened with death,
because they would not worship the golden image,

*Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true,
O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, do not ye serve my gods
nor worship the golden image which I have set up?
Now if ye ... fall down and worship the image which I have made; well:
but if ye worship not, **ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning
fiery furnace;** and **who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?**
--- Daniel 3:14–15*

What was their word to the King and his threat?

*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king,
O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.
If it be so, **our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the
burning fiery furnace,** and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.
--- Daniel 3:16–17*

Could they be taken at their word?
And when it got time to be thrown into the fiery furnace,
did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego stand by their word?

*And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego,
fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.
Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste...
... Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?
... He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose,
walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt;
and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.
--- Daniel 3:23–25*

Not only could the king and even the devil take them at their word,
but so could God.

And God did for them what they said He would do!

Can God take you at your word and do what you said He can do?

Blessed beyond measure!

Blessed beyond measure!

Do you believe that you will be more blessed in heaven?

Think again...

Do you believe that you can get more blessed on earth?

Think again...

There is no more than what God has already done,
God has already blessed us all that He can,

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion ... Gen. 1:28

We all want to be blessed ... in abundance!

But, what does it mean to be blessed?

How does God bless us?

Well,

in Genesis, when God blessed man, what did He do?

The Bible uses the Hebrew word ... "Barak" ... which means,

Empowered to prosper, able to live a full, rich life.

Now,

if being blessed by God means that

we have the ability to prosper and live full rich lives!

Then if we want to be blessed,

it is obvious that we are going to have to do something about it.

We are going to have to take hold of that blessing ourselves!

How?

*And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt **hearken unto the voice of the LORD** thy God. --- Deut. 28:2*

God said ... If you will listen to what He said to do!

And ... if you will do what He said to do!

You will not only be blessed, but blessings will even overtake you!

But what must you do?

Become a lover like God, and start giving to those around you!

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down ...

--- Luke 6:38

The more you reach out and give, the more God can give to you!

*Now ye Philippians ... **communicated with me ... concerning giving** and receiving. ... **my God shall supply all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

--- Phil. 4:15-19

As you reach out and support others, God will supply your every need!

*Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse ... and prove me now herewith ... **if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing...***

--- Mal. 3:10

As you start honouring God in your giving,

and as you give into His kingdom, His work,

He will open the windows of heaven and pour out more than you can handle!

Want to be blessed beyond measure? Become a giver like God!

... 320 ... Healing

Does God want to heal you?

Is it for me?

Healing is probably one of the most controversial subjects in Christianity.

Does God really heal?

And does God want to heal YOU?

Judge for yourself,

*... I am the LORD that healeth thee. --- Exodus 15:26
He sent his word, and healed them,
and delivered them from their destructions. --- Psalm 107:20
... by whose stripes ye were healed. --- 1 Peter 2:24*

And of Jesus, the Bible says ,

*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power:
who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil;
for God was with him. --- Acts 10:38*

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. --- Heb. 13:8

God said it in Exodus, repeated it in Psalms and confirmed it in 1 Peter 2!

Jesus did it in Acts,

He healed ALL that needed healing of any kind!

And He is still doing it today, healing all kinds of sickness and infirmity!

Jesus is still the same and so is His healing grace!

... BUT ...

Do you want Jesus to heal you?

Now that may sound a strange question,

but I did not ask it, Jesus did,

*And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.
And **Jesus answered** and said unto him, **What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?**
The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.
And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole.
And immediately he received his sight ... --- Mark 10:50–52*

What do YOU want from Jesus?

*And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, **What will ye that I shall do unto you?***

They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened.

So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes:

and immediately their eyes received sight

--- Matt. 20:32–34

Do you want Jesus to touch YOU?

He wants to; He said so ...

*If ye shall ask any thing in my name, **I will do it.***

--- John 14:14

Does Jesus want to heal YOU today? **Yes, Yes, Yes!**

... Read ...

Luke 8:41–55

An open line to heaven!

Getting through to God!

Praise God for His Word and His promises,
and for the knowledge that we can connect to heaven,
that we have an open line to heaven! --- *Jeremiah 33:3*
Our prayers can ascend directly to the Father, --- *1 John 5:14*
directly to the throneroom of Almighty God,

*Let us therefore **come boldly unto the throne of grace,**
that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*
--- *Heb. 4:16*

But, how do we connect up with God?
How do we step into the very presence of God?
How do we enter the throne room of grace?

...1...

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. --- James 4:8

Draw near to God by getting to know Him through His Word,
by fellowshiping with Him through His Word,
and thanking Him for what He has already done for you!

*If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you,
ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*
--- *John 15:7*

...2...

Fellowship with God by praying in your heavenly language
speaking mysteries unto God and letting Him speak mysteries unto you

*For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men,
but unto God: for no man understandeth him;
howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. --- 1 Cor. 14:2*

...3...

Walk in love ... by reaching out to others, where you are!

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.
John 15:9

*I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one;
and that the world may know that thou hast sent me,
and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*
--- *John 17:23*

Become a doer of the Word
and you will have an open line to heaven,
you will come boldly to the throne of grace;
You WILL obtain God's mercy,
and you WILL find help in His very presence!

... Read ...

James 1:22-25, 1 John 4

The same anointing!

If only Jesus were here!

How many times have you thought or heard ...

If only Jesus were here,

I would know what to do,

I would be able to get through this problem.

He would be able to help,

He would be able to fix everything!

Sounds good! Even spiritual!

But as spiritual and as good as it may sound,

it is not the truth!

Because whether Jesus is here in the physical or not,

it will not change our situation!

How did Jesus know what to do here on earth?

How did Jesus do the miracles He did on earth?

How did Jesus give sight to the blind?

How did Jesus cast out demons?

How did Jesus heal?

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, --- Luke 4:18

... And ...

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. --- Heb. 13:8

So if Jesus were here in person today,

He would do things the same way He always did,

through the Holy Spirit and through the anointing!

And you know what,

YOU have the same Holy Spirit and the same Anointing in your life!

Jesus made sure of that,

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him (the Holy Spirit) unto you. --- John 16:7-13

... And ...

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. --- 1 John 2:27

Yes Jesus still wants to reach out to people today,

through the same Holy Spirit, who is in you,

through the same anointing, that is in you,

through you, if you would only ask!

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do,

that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. --- John 14:13-14

... Read ...

John 14:16-18

You haven't heard 'till you've heard!

When you know!

Often you hear people say,

"I know that!

I've heard that!"

But when you look at how they live,

it soon becomes obvious that they don't know!

Just because you have read the Bible,
just because you have heard it said before,
or you have heard it preached,

does not mean you've heard it!

In fact the most misquoted scripture says exactly that,

*Blessed is **he that readeth**, and they that **hear** the words of this prophecy,
and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*

--- Rev. 1:3

No! It is not about just having read the Word!

No! It is not about just having heard the Word!

But it is about ... reading, hearing and keeping the Word!

When God talks about hearing His Word,
He does not simply mean receiving information.

No! God expects you to

listen, receive and act upon what you've heard.

*For as the body without the spirit is dead,
so **faith without works is dead** also.*

--- James 2:26

You have to hear and you have to do,
what God says in order to receive what He has promised!

God's Word only becomes alive in you,
when it becomes real to you,
when you become excited about it!

Excited enough to want to do it,

and excited enough to actually expect it!

... Have faith in God.

*For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain,
Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart,
but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass;*

he shall have whatsoever he saith

--- Mark 11:22-23

When you are excited enough, having read Jesus' promises,
and your heart is full of confidence,
that speaking to that mountain in your life will work!
When you expect that mountain to move,
and will stand on Jesus' promise ... 'till the mountain has moved!

Then ...

You have truly "heard ... the Word!"

... 324 ... *Patience*

Let your test become a testimony!

From faith to testimony!

*My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

*But let patience have her perfect work,
that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

--- James 1:2-4

Jesus told us in John 16:33 ...that in this life,
there will be temptations, trials and tribulation!
We have an adversary, the devil, and we are in a fight!
The devil will try everything to stop us,
and try to stop God from blessing us in every way he can!

But,
the Bible also tells us,

*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal,
but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;*

--- 2 Cor. 10:4

We have been given weapons, **the ability** ...
to stand against the devil and his attacks,
But ...

the ability God has given us is not natural ability,
but a spiritual ability, a spiritual strength,
to stand through those tests and be victorious!

What is it that we have ... in Jesus,
that will beat the devil and his trials and temptations?

Faith + Endurance = Patience!

*... that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, **to stand.***

--- Eph. 6:13

The one thing the devil cannot do
is to stand against patience (*faith and endurance*).
That is why he always puts pressure on you, telling you,
“*You must decide now! ... Tomorrow is too late!*”

No!

Tomorrow is no problem, if you are standing on God's Word!

*But let patience have her perfect work,
that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.* --- James 1:2-4

The devil knows that through patience you will be victorious,
and therefore he wants to stop you from standing.
Don't give up! In Jesus you have the strength to stand
through every temptation, trial or test,
and as you stand, and continue to stand on God's Word,
you will turn your test ... into a testimony!

... Read ...

Eph. 6:13-18

James 1:2-8

Guaranteeing the breakthrough!

How determined are you?

Do you need a breakthrough in your life?
Do you need a breakthrough at work or in your business?
Have you gone to God's Word,
and found a word that promises what you need?
Have you prayed that back to God,
and have you been waiting for your breakthrough?
But ...
your answer, your breakthrough is just NOT coming?

*"Why is that prayer I prayed not working?
Why is that breakthrough not coming?"*

God or God's Word is not at fault.
He said in Isaiah 55:11 that His Word will not return void
but that it will accomplish what He said it would!
So what can be the problem?

In Genesis we can read the story of Jacob's life.
He had gotten God's blessing from his father,
but had to run from his brother for fear of his life!
His uncle crooked him; his wives got him into trouble,
and now he was returning to face his brother.
Jacob was afraid! ... He needed God's help!
Jacob needed a breakthrough and it just did not look like it was coming!
He was about to meet his brother the next day,
and he needed a breakthrough!

That night Jacob stayed behind alone to talk with God;
he needed to hear from God, and was determined to succeed!

*And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh.
And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.
And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.
And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel:
for thou hast striven with God and with men, and hast prevailed.
And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said,
Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.
And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for, (said he),
I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.
--- Gen. 32:26-30*

Jacob knew one thing;
a breakthrough is **not** guaranteed just because God gave His Word!
But ...
a breakthrough is guaranteed because you take hold of God's Word!
A breakthrough is guaranteed when you add determination to God's promise!
Jacob needed a breakthrough ...
and he would not let go until he got what God promised!

Do you need a breakthrough?
Then don't let go of God's Word until you have your breakthrough!

... 326 ... Prosperity

Tapping into all of God's sufficiency!

Abundantly blessed!

Did you know that God wants you blessed,
Abundantly, in every area of your life?
Yes! He does!

*Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper
and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. --- 3 John 1:2*

God wants you to prosper,
to continually increase in what you have!
God wants you to be in health,
free of any sickness, disease or infirmity!
God wants your soul to prosper,
to be at peace, to have answers to your problems,
and to know what to do in every circumstance!

It was the first thing God did after He made man!

And God blessed them. --- Gen. 1:28

The word God used when he did that, was "Barak"
**"I am empowering you to live a full, rich life,
I am empowering you to prosper!"**
And God has not changed His mind,

For I am the LORD, I change not; --- Mal. 3:6

The Bible also confirms it for us,

*And God is able to make all grace abound toward you;
that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things,
may abound to every good work: --- 2 Cor. 9:8*

Is that truly God's plan?
Maybe it is not for everyone?
Yes! It is for everyone,
God treats everyone the same and shows no partiality, Acts 10:34
and His blessings are for everyone!
Why then is not everyone living a prosperous life?
Because ...
they miss the fact that they must be spiritually prosperous,
before they will be physically, financially or mentally prosperous!
In Christ we are a new creation,
a new spiritual creation, of whom the Bible says,

***For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear,
but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."
The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, --- Rom 8:14-17:***

Therefore Jesus said to us in *Matt. 6:33*
**Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and ALL these things WILL be added unto you!**

Love is ...

Walking in love!

Love is...
probably the most misunderstood,
and ...
the most misused word in the world today!

Love is ...
not only an expression of God Himself,
but it is also ...
a word that describes a characteristic and an action ...

Love is ...
a characteristic and an action that describes God,
and ...
a characteristic and an action that should be a part of our lives.
Because ...

**as far as God is concerned,
we should be walking and living in love.**

The Bible tells us this about love,

*And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us.
God is love; and he that dwelleth in love
dwelleth in God, and God in him.
--- 1 John 4:16*

God is love ,
and ...

Love wants us to be an expression of Himself,
expressing what and who He is to those around us,
by loving and reaching out to those we come in contact with.

*But whoever has this world's goods,
and sees his brother in need,
and shuts up his heart from him,
how does the love of God abide in him?
--- 1 John 3:17*

God is love,
and ...

unless we respond to His love by reaching out to others,
we will not experience the fullness of God in our lives, and
we will not experience the fullness of life ... in Him!

*If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar:
for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen,
how can he love God whom he hath not seen?
--- 1 John 4:20*

Loving God means loving people!

In fact the only real proof we have of our love for God,
... is in showing love to those around us!

Words of Wisdom!

Words of wisdom!

Ever wondered why God stresses Wisdom so much,
and why God is so hard on “the fool”?

... and a rod for the fool's back. --- Prov. 26:3

Why? What is there in wisdom

... but the tongue of the wise is health. --- Prov. 12:18

What is it about the tongue of the wise?

**The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright:
but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness. --- Prov. 15:2**

Where does wisdom and knowledge come from?

*My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.
Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.
For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.
Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.
--- Prov. 4:20–23*

God tells us quite plainly...
that by spending time in His Word,
by hearing and listening to His Word,
Knowledge and Wisdom will come,
and ...
by receiving His Word in your heart,
by acting upon His Word,
Life, Health & Blessings come!

When you allow God's Words of Wisdom into your life,
you will be prepared for every issue in life!
You will be prepared for every circumstance and tribulation in life,
because, you will be drawing from God's well,
from **God's well of wisdom, provision and blessing!**

That is why God is so hard on “the fool”
Because, in rejecting God's Word and God's wisdom,
the fool rejects God's life and God's blessings,
and ...
there is no way for God to bless the fool.

*Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.
--- Prov. 23:9*

Therefore God entreats us, saying ...

*My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:
For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.
--- Prov. 4:20–23*

God's got a problem giving!

Trouble Receiving!

Did you know that one of God's greatest problems is,
that His children don't make it possible for Him,
to bless them as much as He wants to bless them!
Because, whether or not He is able to bless us,
is up to us ... not God!

God says to us,

*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that,
if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:
And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask,
we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*
--- 1 John 5:14-15

*"But I know it is God's will to bless and prosper me,
and ...
I have asked, but I have not received what I have asked!"*
Sound familiar?
God also says this to us,

*Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain:
ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.
Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss,
that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*
--- James 4:2-3

God says that even though we ask,
and even though we do spiritual warfare,
rebuking the devil and claiming our victory,
we still don't receive because our motives are wrong!

But ...
*"How can my motives be wrong,
if all I am doing is expecting what God promised!
Why is my asking and my spiritual warfare fruitless?"*

*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love,
I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.
And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries
and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains,
but have not love, I am nothing.*
--- 1 Cor. 13:1-2

God is saying,
Don't check your head, check your heart!
If you are a vessel that God can use to bless others,
you will be a full vessel.
You will be a blessed vessel,
and your asking will not be in vain,
because ...

Love never fails --- 1 Cor. 13:8

Prevention is still better than cure!

Prevention is better

As pertinent as the saying "Prevention is better than cure" is,
in our physical lives and particularly our health,
as pertinent it is in the spiritual realm!

When Jesus promised us a helper,

*And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper,
that He may abide with you forever--
--- John 14:16-17*

God did not send the Holy Spirit just to get us out of trouble,
but He sent the Holy Spirit to stop us from getting into trouble!

God does not want us to wait until we are in trouble,
God does not want us to wait until we need help,
before we ask for help!
No!

God wants to prevent us from getting into trouble,
God wants to prevent us from having to get out of trouble,
by helping us foresee trouble,
thereby being victorious in every attack!

In fact Jesus was very specific about this,
saying to us,

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come,
he will guide you into all truth:
for he shall not speak of himself;
but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak:
and **he will shew you things to come.**
--- John 16:13*

God wants the Holy Spirit to guide us
into the truth before we are confronted by satan's lies,
the truth is our weapon to stand against those lies!

God God wants the Holy Spirit,
to help us be ready for whatever may come against us,
to be prepared for any trouble that may come our way,
before it actually happens,
knowing what to do,
because we know what is coming!

Yes ... "Prevention is better than cure,
being ready to deal with trouble that is to come,
rather than having to be bailed out of the trouble that you are in!

*... that ye may know what is the hope of his calling,
and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe,
according to the working of his mighty power,
--- Eph. 1:18-19*

A Personal Fisher (Relationship)

Following Jesus!

We all want to be used of God.
We want to do things for Him and be a vessel He can use,
and deep in our hearts, we all want to be fishers of men.

It is in our hearts, we want to,
even if we lack courage at times,

And it is not just in our hearts,

it is also Jesus' heart that we become fishers of men!

But ...

how do we do what Jesus wants us to do?

How do we become fishers of men?

Actually it is very easy ... when we are willing to do it His way!

*And he saith unto them, **Follow me,**
and I will make you fishers of men. --- Matt 4:19*

What did Jesus mean by that?

That unless you follow Him, you will never become a fisher of men!

And what does following Jesus mean?

It means to be like Jesus' disciples,
to leave your ways of doing things behind and let Jesus do the leading!

Not your plan, not your way, not your vision or your ministry,

but Jesus' plan, Jesus' way, Jesus' vision & Jesus' ministry!

And how will I know what to do?

Exactly the way that Jesus told us to ...

*Howbeit when he, **the Spirit of truth,** is come, **he will guide you into all truth:**
for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear,
that shall he speak: and **he will shew you things to come.**
He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.
All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I,
that **he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.** --- John 16:13–15*

And how will the Holy Spirit show you all of that?

When you spend time with Him, allowing Him to take control!

*But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith,
praying in the Holy Ghost, -- Jude 1:20*

By praying in the Holy Spirit,

speaking to God through the Holy Spirit,

listening to God through the Holy Spirit,

then acting in the power of the Holy Spirit, the way Jesus did!

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he
hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of
sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, -- Luke 4:18*

You want to become a fisher of men?

**Then follow Jesus, do it His way, and do it the way He did it,
in the Holy Spirit!**

... Read ...

1 Cor. 2:10, Luke 11:11–13, Acts 1:8, Luke 24:49, John 14:12–16

... 332 ... Abundant Life

Things I like about God!

God's just too much...!

I like the way God calculates;
He does not just use simple multiplication,
but compounds blessings to us ...

*and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.
But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, ...*
--- Mark 4:8, --- Mark 10:30, --- Eph. 3:20

I like the way God explains geography for us,
He made the Way...!

*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life:
no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
--- John 14:6

... and He left no place for sin to stay!

**As far as the east is from the west,
so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.**
--- Ps 103:12

I like the way God uses geometry;
He uses 4 dimensions not just 3D,
and wraps it all up in love!

**May be able to comprehend with all saints what is
the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;
And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge,** --- Eph 3:18-19

I like God's computer operating system ... HS Windows '00,
and when He opens Windows in heaven
blessings are downloaded to us,

**... prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts,
if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing,
that there shall not be room enough to receive it.** --- Mal 3:10

And God does not have to upgrade His system,
it is perfect just like Him!

I like God's memory (4 trillion GB)
and He uses all that memory to forget things!

*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins
and their iniquities will I remember no more.* --- Heb 8:12

And ... I really like God's Humor,
join Him and laugh sickness clear away!

He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: --- Ps 2:4
A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: --- Prov 17:22

Do you love yourself?

Loving yourself!

“What a strange question ... I thought it was the other way around!

***That we should be loving others,
rather than just thinking about ourselves?”***

Yes ... of course we should!

Yet, in talking about loving others,
Jesus linked loving others with loving ourselves,
saying to us,

*... Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
--- Matt 22:39*

If Jesus said it, then we had better take note of it,
and maybe start by asking ourselves,
“Do I love myself?”

A simple question, but difficult to answer.

Why did He not just tell us to love others?

Why does Jesus expect us to love ourselves?

Did He really mean that?

Absolutely! Jesus not only meant it,
but He also expects us to do just that,

for a most important reason!

Consider this;

When God created you and me ... He created us special!

(Gen. 1:26–28, Ps. 8:4–6)

So special ... that when man failed,
God did not give up, but He gave us Jesus!
(John 3:16)

We are not just special to God,
He also wants us to see ourselves as special.

Because,

unless we see ourselves as being special,

we won't see ourselves as special enough to receive all God has for us!
And we won't be open to receive all His love and all His blessings!

*For no man ever yet hated his own flesh;
but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:
--- Eph 5:29*

Consider this,

If you are in lack, what do you have to give?
If you are unfulfilled, what do you have to share?
Therefore Jesus says to us,

Love yourself so much ...

that you want all that God has for you!

Love yourself so much ...

that nothing will stop you from receiving all God's blessings!

Then, in the fullness of His love,

you will start seeing your neighbor as special,
and start desiring for them to have all that you have!

The fullness of God ... in your life!

... 334 ... Victorious Living

... who can be against us?

If God be for us!

*What shall we then say to these things?
If God be for us, who can be against us?
--- Rom. 8:31*

Is this a correct saying?
Well, it is in the Bible so it must be true!
Of course God is for us,
yet, the devil is still coming against us!
Surely that is not right,
nothing is supposed to come against us!
Is that so?
Or are we missing something?
Actually,
God does not say that we will not have opposition,
but in fact says we should expect it.

*In the world ye shall have tribulation:
but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
--- John 16:33*

When the Bible on the one hand says that we will have opposition,
and on the other hand says that,
if God is for us, who can be against us?

What does that really mean?

In answering that question, the Psalmist wrote,

*I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress:
my God; in him will I trust.*

***Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler ...**
He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust ...
A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand;
but it shall not come nigh thee. --- Psalm 91:2-7*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
--- Psalm 23:4*

Does it say that God is for us?

Yes!

Does it say that nothing will come against us?

No!

But what it does say is,
that whatever comes against us,
cannot prevail against us, if God is on our side!
Therefore, what Romans 8:31 is telling us is,
if God is for us,
**then nothing that comes against us,
can successfully stand against us!**

Of course the devil will still attack us,
but if God is fighting for us, the devil has no chance!
So let God do the fighting; you do the trusting!

Living in God's sufficiency!

Having all sufficiency!

Yes! ... God wants you blessed,
and living in all of His sufficiency!

***Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper
and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.
--- 3 John 1:2***

And it is not just a wish or a maybe ...
because as we learnt before,

***And God is able to make all grace abound toward you;
that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things,
may abound to every good work:
--- 2 Cor. 9:8***

And God says to us, if we want to tap into His provision,
we need to seek His kingdom and His righteousness *Matt. 6:33*
What does God mean by that?

God is telling us that we need to have His heart,
which simply means
that we see things God's way and do things God's way!
But ...

How do you see things God's way?

You look at the people around you,
through the eyes of **LOVE!** ... *Matt. 22:37-39*

How do you do things God's way?

You reach out to the people around you,
the way God does, with **LOVE!** ... *John 3:16*

Where can I help? Where can I give?

Yes, God wants YOU blessed and prosperous!
Yes, God wants you to have all sufficiency in all things!
But, it is not just for you!
God wants His sufficiency to flow to you and through you!
God wants you to be a vessel of honour! ... *2 Tim. 2:21*
A vessel through which rivers of living water can flow,
to touch, change and bless the lives of others!

How can you do that?

***And God is able to make all grace abound toward you;
that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things,
may abound to every good work:
--- 2 Cor. 9:8***

God will supply everything you need,
so that you will have all sufficiency, all that you need,
for your own life,
and so that you have more than enough to give,
whatever and wherever it is needed!

... 336 ... Trust

Stop trying ... start trusting!

Are you tired of trying?

Are you trying to get things right in your life?
Are you trying to please God in the things that you do?

Yet ...

**the more you do, the less seems to be happening,
the more you try, the less seems to go right!**

And the more frustrated you get!

... you pray ...

... you confess ...

... you try to change ...

... you try to do good ...

... you try to give more ...

you try to do everything the Bible says to do,

you try to operate in the fruit of the spirit,

and ...

after all your trying, you are worse off than before!

STOP!

Neither God, nor Jesus nor the Holy Spirit ever told you to try anything!

But God did say,

"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

2 Corinthians 12:9

God does not want you to try and do anything in your own strength.

God through His grace, His ability, wants to be your strength!

And Jesus said,

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

--- Matt. 11:28

Jesus came to earth as a man, and He knows your limitations and weaknesses,
therefore He says to us,

"Let me be your strength ... let me be your ability!"

And the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is here to guide, teach and help you.

Not to help you try, but to help you succeed!

*and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe
according to the working of His mighty power ...*

Eph 1:19-23

God does not want you to try and do anything in your own strength,

but He wants to be your strength, He wants to be your source,

He wants you to trust Him for every need in your life.

Heb. 11:6

And all you have to do is what Jesus told you to do.

***But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you.***

--- Matt. 6:33

Did God choose you or did you choose God?

Who chose who?

Does it really matter who chose who or what?
**Does it really matter whether God chose you,
or whether you chose God?**

Yes, it does!

But I thought that because God is almighty, He decides everything!
Does not the Bible say,

*... just as **He chose us in Him** before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,
--- Eph 1:4*

... and does it not also say,

*For whom He foreknew,
He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son,
that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.
--- Rom 8:29*

Yes, it does,
and it also says very plainly that,

***The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness,
but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish
but that all should come to repentance.****
--- 2 Peter 3:9*

But nowhere does it say that God chooses for us,
or that God decides for us.

No!

For although God wants everyone to receive salvation,
God gave man a freewill and a free choice,
and thus God cannot and does not make the decision for us,
but says to us very clearly,

*I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you,
that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing;
therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;
--- Deut 30:19*

God chose that we should be holy and blameless before Him in love,
God decided that we should be conformed to the image of Jesus,
God desires that not one person should perish or go to hell.

But,

***whether we decide to be holy,
whether we want to conform to the image of Jesus,
and whether we decide to go to heaven or to hell,
that choice is ours and ours alone!***

It is only the devil who wants to confuse the choice,
for he knows that if we fail to choose what God has planned for us,
we stay under his influence of death and destruction.

Therefore God says to us, be sure to ... CHOOSE LIFE!

Trying to achieve!

But for His grace!

Are you trying to achieve in life?
... trying to achieve your goal?
But you don't seem to be getting there?

You work hard at attaining your dreams,
you strive and put all the effort in you can,
but still nothing seems to be working!
Except that you are tired of trying.

STOP!

Trying to achieve, is not scriptural anyway!
Because then you are relying on your own ability!

But God says to us,

Trust ... don't try!

Nowhere in the Bible are we told to try anything,
except to try or test ourselves.

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.

Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you are disqualified.

--- 2 Cor. 13:5

Check yourself, check your motives!
Are you trying to achieve in your own strength?
Because, if you are,
you are limited to your own ability,
you are limited to your own strength,
you are limited to your own wisdom and knowledge,
when in fact,
God has given us His ability, His strength and His wisdom.
But only if we rely on Him!

*And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you,
for My strength is made perfect in weakness.*

--- 2 Cor. 12:9

Not only are we then not limited by our own ability,
but in God we are not even limited by our thoughts!

*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all
that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,*

--- 2 Pet 1:4

How do we step into the grace, ability and provision of God?

*Trust in the LORD, and do good;
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
Delight yourself also in the LORD,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him,
And He shall bring it to pass.
He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light,
And your justice as the noonday.*

--- Ps 37:3-6

Let God!

Are you ready?

“Why isn’t God working through me?
I know God wants me to minister,
and reach out to others for Him.
I have studied the Word,
I spend time in prayer,
I am available,
I am ready!”

Are you?

Are you ready for God to work in your life?
Are you ready for God to have His will in your life?
Not in others’ lives ... **in yours!**

Until God cannot do His work in you,
He cannot do His work through you!
Until you are not totally available to God,
you will not truly be ready for God!

Jesus said,

*But **seek first the kingdom of God** and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you.
--- Matthew 6:33*

Until God is not more important than your plans,
until God is not more important than your call,
until you have not fully let God be God in your life,
until you have not given God your life,
holding nothing back!

His vision ... and His provision
will not fully be in your life!

Do not try to “make” things happen;
in fact, don’t try to do anything in your own strength!

It is all in God’s purpose;
in His timing and His ability!

*And **God is able** to make all grace abound toward you,
that you, always having all sufficiency in all things,
may have an abundance for every good work.
--- 2 Cor 9:8*

How do you know that you are ready?

When you know that you need God to do what He has asked you to do,
when you know that without Him ... it is not going to happen.
When His kingdom is more important than your call!

... Read ...

John 16:13–15

... 340 ... Faith

Use what you have!

Quality ... not quantity!

So many people pray and ask God,
**"Lord, give me more faith,
Lord I need more faith!"**

But, is it really more faith that you need?
Does the Bible not tell us,

*For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you,
not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly,
as **God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.***

--- Rom 12:3

God has given each and everyone of us the same amount of faith,

so it is not about more faith,
you already have enough faith!

But ...

it is about what you are doing with your faith!

Are you doing something with your faith?

Or are you expecting your faith to do something on its own?

When Jesus said,

*If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field
and tomorrow is thrown into the oven,
how much more will He clothe you, **O you of little faith?***

--- Luke 12:28

He was not talking about the quantity of our faith.

No,

Jesus was talking about the quality of our faith!

When Jesus was teaching us how to use our faith,

He did not say, "Have more faith!"

No,

Jesus simply said, "Have faith in God!"

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God.

--- Mark 11:22

In other words, use the faith that you already have!

In fact God expects us to please Him by coming to Him in faith,
simply believing the truth, that He will honour His Word!

*But without faith it is impossible to please Him,
for he who comes to God must believe that He is,
and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

--- Heb 11:6

It is not about more faith, it is about using faith!

... Read ...

Mark 11:22-24

It works by love!

The importance of love!

God gave us authority on earth, *Gen. 1:28, Psalm 8:6*
so that we can live victorious lives on earth!
God gave us the measure of faith, *Rom. 12:3, Heb. 11:6*
so that He can bless us and provide our every need!

Yet on their own these properties are incomplete.

Having authority, without having faith,
leaves you un-equipped,
because authority cannot supply in your needs!

Having faith, but not knowing your authority,
leaves you vulnerable,
because satan will attack you where you are weakest!

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil
walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*
--- 1 Peter 5:8

Yet ...

Having all authority and having all faith,
without having LOVE,
leaves you powerless!

*And though I have the gift of prophecy,
and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,
and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains,
but have not love, I am nothing.*
--- 1 Cor 13:2

Having all authority and having all faith,
without having LOVE,
leaves you separated from THE source!

*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision
avails anything, **but faith working through love.***
--- Gal 5:6

There is no other way of tapping into God's provision,
there is no other way of walking in authority,
there is no other way of drawing from the Source,
than ... drawing from Love Himself!

And we have known and believed the love that God has for us.
God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.
--- 1 John 4:16

Love conquered sin, death and hell! *Col. 2:15, 2 Cor. 2:14*
Love gave in faith, His best ... and received all the rest! *John 3:16*

*And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; **but the greatest of these is love.***
1 Cor 13:13

All things work together for good!

For your benefit!

Do all things really work together for our good?

*And we know **that all things work together for good to those who love God,**
--- Rom 8:28*

Well, if you accept Rom. 8:28, the way it is so often misquoted,
then you would believe that most things work against you,
that you are just a pawn in God's hands,
and that circumstances control your life.

But ...

Is that really what God is saying?

No!

Because, when you read on further in Romans 8, the Bible tells us,
that God in His love not only wants to supply our every need,
but He also wants to protect us from harm.

If God is for us, who can be against us? --- Rom 8:31

How then do you explain those things that go wrong in your life,
and that God seems to use those mishaps to work for your good?

Well ...

Doesn't the Bible tell us to ...

*... submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you
--- James 4:7*

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High

Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress;

My God, in Him I will trust."

Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler

--- Ps 91:1

Don't blame God for things that go wrong,
He is not the one who caused it to happen.

But ...

God will use every situation or circumstance to turn our lives around,
God will use every situation or circumstance to express His love to us,
God will use every situation or circumstance to bless us in some way or another!

The Apostle Paul put it this way ...

*For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor
principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,
nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able
to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
--- Rom 8:39*

Don't blame God for what He has not done,
rather **run to God and receive what He wants to do!**

Let us therefore **come boldly to the throne of grace**
that we may **obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

--- Heb 4:16

Seize the opportunity!

Let God's Word work!

When you encounter a problem,
see it as an opportunity,
an opportunity to be victorious,
an opportunity to improve, change or turn things around!

How?

By drawing from the resources that God has given you,

*as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,
through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,
--- 2 Pet. 1:3*

But ...

what has God given us that would release His divine power?

His Word!

*So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;
It shall not return to Me void,
But it shall accomplish what I please,
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.
--- Isa. 55:11*

And how do you use that promise or resource that Gods has given you?

Go to God's Word and find out,

which word of God's deals with the situation you are in.

What promise of God's can you take hold of,
that will turn the situation around?

What Word of God's can you return to Him,
that He can accomplish for you in this situation?

Remember,

unless you take hold of a word of God's,
unless you take hold of a promise of God's that refers to your situation,
and unless you speak it out over the situation, in faith,

Nothing will change!

So ...

take hold of the promise and speak that word of God's over your situation.

Pray according to Gods Word & not according to the problem.

That puts God in control and that gives Him the opportunity.

to change the problem or situation around through His Word.

God is not going to remove the problem.

No,

God is going to manifest His Word!

His Word will manifest the solution,
and ...

remove the problem at the same time!

... Read ...

2 Tim. 2:15

Rom. 12:2

Speaking ... Words of life!

Words of life!

You have probably heard of people who talk to their plants,
and that as a result their plants grow better and healthier.

What are they doing?

They are speaking words of life over their plants.
Strange? Not really.

*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:
and let them have dominion ...*

*And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed ...
--- Gen 1:26–29*

*And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden
of Eden to dress it and to keep it. --- Gen 2:15*

God gave man dominion over His creation,
including the plants, with the instruction,
to work, serve, till, bring to pass, enslave, preserve, protect & guard.
A person who is speaking life over his plants is doing exactly that,
and the reality of it is that the plants grow and flourish!

However,

God did not just plan for us to speak life over plants ...

*My son, **give attention to my words**; Incline your ear to my sayings.
Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart;
For **they are life to those who find them**, And health to all their flesh.
--- Prov. 4:20–22*

What about the rest of creation?

What about your own life?

What about those problems and challenges facing you?

Are you like that gardener who speaks life over his plants,
and continues to speak positively over them all day long?

God expects us to speak words of life over our lives,
words of health, healing, restoration and blessing.
And not to negate those words of life by spending
the rest of the day speaking doubt & unbelief,
wondering whether tomorrow will be better,
whether things will have changed?

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue,
And those who love it will eat its fruit. --- Prov. 18:21*

Are you sticking to the faith-filled words you have spoken over your life,
... over your family and kids, over situations and challenges?

Because if you are,
then you are doing what God expects of you,
and ...

then you will have the success that you desire!

... Read ...

Gen 1..., Mark 16:15–20

Defeating the devil!

Chase out the devil!

Have you been trying to chase the devil out of your life?
Have you been trying to defeat the devil,
even quoting God's Word at him,
but the problem is still there;
the devil is still messing in your life!
Does not the Bible say,

*Resist the devil and he will flee from you
--- James 4:7*

Why then is the devil not fleeing;
why is that problem persisting in my life?
How do I resist and defeat the devil?

Let's follow Jesus' example!

When John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin,
and spiritually closest to Him, was brutally beheaded,
thus being attacked by the devil himself,
Jesus separated Himself to be alone!
However the multitudes did not give Jesus any rest,
but followed Him into the wilderness!

How did Jesus deal with that pressure?

How did He chase the devil away?

*And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude;
and He was moved with compassion for them,
and **healed their sick.***

*When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying,
"This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late
Send the multitudes away,
that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food."
But Jesus said to them, "**They do not need to go away.**
You **give them something to eat.**"
--- Matt 14:14-16*

Jesus defeated the devil by taking authority over the situation,
by having victory over the problem and pressure that came against Him,
standing against the attack by manifesting God's goodness!

Resisting the devil by beating him at his own game!

And, Jesus told us to do the same,

*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me,
the works that I do he will do also; and greater works
than these he will do, because I go to My Father
--- John 14:12*

Change your way of thinking, speaking and acting,
and defeat the devil by taking authority in your circumstances!

... Read ...

Mark 16:15-20

... 346 ... Spirit Filled Living

The manifest presence of God!

Love in action!

The Bible tells us that not only is Jesus the image of God the Father, but that He is **the image and expression of God's love and power!**

*Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?
The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority,
but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.
--- John 14:10*

And Jesus admonished us to do the same,
to express the love and power of God right where we are.

*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me,
the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than
these he will do, because I go to My Father. --- John 14:12*

But how did Jesus do those works?

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power,
*who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,
for God was with Him. --- Acts 10:38*

And how will we do them and more?

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you,
--- 1 John 2:27

What is this anointing?

It is the manifest presence and power of God,
that removes burdens & destroys yokes of bondage!

How can we walk in that anointing?

The same way that Jesus did, by being filled with the fullness of God!

*... that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;
that you, **being rooted and grounded in love,** may be able to comprehend
with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height –
to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge;
that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
--- Eph 3:17–19*

What will the love and fullness of God do in your life?

It will anoint you with the presence and power of God!

And ...

what is the result of God's anointing in your life?

*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all
that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,
--- Eph 3:20*

That His love will flow through you to the lives of others,
and that His power will touch the lives of others, through you!

God's blessing!

Root or fruit?

Is it true that God wants to bless us?

*And **all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.***

--- Deut. 28:2

So ...

why is it that most of the time,
when we pray and ask God to bless us,
nothing seems to change in our lives?

It is because we don't know what God's blessing really is!
And instead of receiving God's blessing,
we are waiting for blessings to manifest!

What does that mean?
What is the difference between "blessing" and "blessings"?
The Bible clearly says,

*The blessing of the LORD makes one rich,
And He adds no sorrow with it.*

--- Prov 10:22

The blessing of the Lord ... *not the blessings* ... makes rich!
In other words,
the ability God bestows on us, enables us to get blessings (riches).

*... that **the blessing** of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus,
that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

--- Gal 3:14

That we might receive the promise God made to Abraham,
the promise that he will be abundantly blessed,
that we will receive that promise in our lives,
through faith,
by receiving what God has enabled us to receive!

God's blessing is the root of your life ...

... not the fruit in your life!

God's blessing is yours,
like a cloak that guarantees you warmth, if you wear it.
So you are guaranteed the blessings,
that accompany God's blessing!
It is like the wind;
you don't see the wind, but you see the effects!
The wind is the blessing,
the effects it causes, are the blessings!

Don't ask God to bless you,
He already did that the day He created you!
Take hold of His promises, and receive the blessings!

Do you really trust God?

Do you trust Him?

Do you really trust God,
the way He trusts you?
God's instruction to us, is to,

***Trust in the LORD** with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.
--- Prov 3:5-6*

God has promised to do everything for us,
if we would trust Him with all our hearts;
if we would trust Him with our lives,
the same way that He trusts us!

Does God really trust us that much?

Yes! God trusts us with more than we can imagine!

God trusts us ... with the earth!

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to
Our likeness; **let them have dominion...over all the earth**
and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth
--- Gen 1:26*

God trusts us ... with all of creation!

*You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands;
You have **put all things under his feet**,
--- Psalm 8:6*

God trusts us ... with His Word,

God trusts us ... to take His Word of salvation to the world.

*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.
He who believes and is baptized will be saved;
but he who does not believe will be condemned.
--- Mark 16:15-18*

God trusts us ... to finish the work Jesus started on earth!

*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me,
the works that I do he will do also; **and greater works than these he will do.**
--- John 14:12*

Lord, how will I be able to do all of that?

***Trust in the LORD**, and do good ...
... Delight yourself also in the LORD,
... Commit your way to the LORD, **Trust also in Him**,
And He shall bring it to pass.
--- Psalm 37:3-5*

Power and Ability!

Life is what you make it!

Knowing the answers, is one thing,
but having the victory, well that is something else!

In the world there is no shortage of catchy slogans,
or of great sayings,
most of which are based on scriptural truths.

And ...

the world has brilliant T-shirt slogans,
which they try to live up to,
even though they seldom succeed!

Whilst the Church which has the power and ability,
to live up to those slogans,
often seems to be defeated even before they start!

Why is that so?

Are we missing something somewhere?

Are we the ones the Apostle Paul was talking about, who ...

*... **having a form of godliness but denying its power...**
... led away by various lusts, always learning
and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
--- 2 Tim 3:1-8*

Or are we like those whom James was referring to,

*But **let him ask in faith**, with no doubting,
for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.
For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;
--- James 1:6-8*

Having a brilliant slogan is only the beginning,
you have to add God's Word, His promises to it,

*For **the word of God is living and powerful** ... --- Heb 4:12*

you also have to add substance to your words,

***Now faith is the substance** of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
--- Heb 11:1-6*

and most importantly,
you have to add action to your words!

*But do you want to know, O foolish man, that **faith without works is dead**?
... Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness ...
... You see then that a **man is justified by works, and not by faith only.**
--- James 2:20-24*

A good confession (slogan) is good,
add God's Word, faith and action to it,
and you will have the victory the world does not have!

Your miracle needs substance...!

Miracle stuff....!

Are you expecting God to do a miracle in your life?
Will only a miracle turn your problem around?
Do you need a miracle in,
... your body?
... your health?
... your family?
... your work?
... your finances?

Well I have good news for you;

God is still in the miracle working business...!

For with God nothing will be impossible. --- Luke 1:37

"Why then is that miracle not manifesting in my life?

I have prayed, asked, stood,

but nothing seems to be happening?

I have put all my hope in God.

I have put all my hope in God's miracle working power!

I even picture the answer manifesting,

why is it not working?"

Well, your miracle needs some substance.

***Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen.***

--- Heb 11:1

You need to add faith (trust) in God and His Word,
so that God can do that miracle in you!

"But I thought that nothing is impossible to God.

I thought that God can do above all our expectations."

Yes He can, and He does.

But it is faith that pleases Him.

***But without faith it is impossible to please Him,
for he who comes to God must believe that He is,
and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.***

--- Heb 11:6

Hope in God and His Word is not enough;

it has to be fuelled by faith.

God does in our lives according to the substance in our lives,

FAITH!

For instance, you can picture a chair,

but you will never sit on it,

until you add the substance (wood or metal) with which to make the chair!

And ...

you will never have that miracle,

until you add the substance,

FAITH, the explicit trust in God and His Word,

to your picture, to your hope!

Love ... to forgive!

Love forgives!

God is LOVE ...
and we all know that God wants us to love our neighbours,

'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'
--- Matt 22:39

But Jesus went even further when He said,

*You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'
But I say to you, **love your enemies**, bless those who curse you, do good
to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,
that you may be sons of your Father in heaven;
--- Matt 5:43-45*

In fact when His disciples asked Him about forgiving others,
Jesus gave them this instruction:

*"Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me,
and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"
Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times,
but **up to seventy times seven**.
--- Matt 18:21-22*

Jesus was in fact telling us that loving others,
and forgiving others, is all important!

But I thought that "to love" is to give,
and not to forgive!
"Love" is as much to give as to forgive,
for that is exactly what God did for us,

*For **God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,**
--- John 3:16*

And what did God give us when He gave us Jesus?
God gave us ... FORGIVENESS!

Just as ...
forgiveness releases God's power and blessings in our lives,
so does ...
un-forgiveness stop God's power and blessings from coming into our lives,
and God cannot answer our prayers,
when we have un-forgiveness in our hearts,

*And whenever you stand praying, **if you have anything against anyone,**
forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.
But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.
--- Mark 11:25-26*

... Read ...
1 Peter 4:8

... 352 ... Righteous Living

Thank God in everything!

In everything give thanks!

Jesus warned us that not everything in life,
would always be the way we would like it to be,

In the world you will have tribulation;
but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.
--- John 16:33

In fact Jesus said we will have pressure and opposition!
But the Bible exhorts us to,

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
in everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
--- 1 Thess 5:16–18

Does that mean that we should thank God for everything in our lives;
that we should thank Him for those things that go wrong in our lives?

And ...
that this is the will of God for us?
Of course not!

Yes, Jesus did say that there would be opposition,
and the Bible does say we should thank God in everything,
but ...

It does NOT say that we should thank God for everything!
That is not God's will at all!

How can it be God's will that we thank Him for defeat,
when Jesus has given us the victory!
How can it be God's will that we thank Him for sickness,
when Jesus has given us health and healing!
How can it be God's will that we thank Him for lack,
when Jesus has given us life in abundance!

What then should we give God thanks for (***in everything***)?
What is God's will in every situation?

If God is your source, and He should be,
When in sickness ...
you don't thank God for the sickness,
but you thank God for your healing!
When in lack ...
you don't thank God for the lack,
but you thank God for His supply!

Yes, you do thank God **in everything ...**
for His promises and His provision!

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you,
that you, always having all sufficiency in all things,
may have an abundance for every good work
--- 2 Cor 9:8

O you of little faith!

Little faith!

Jesus often had occasion to rebuke His disciples,
for doubting or worrying about things!

They worried about what they would eat ... (Matt. 6:22–28)
They were fearful of the storm ... (Matt. 8:24–26)
They even doubted Jesus' word ...

*And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him,
and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”
--- Matt 14:31–32*

What did Jesus mean when He said to His disciples,
and to those people around Him,
“O you of little faith!”

Jesus was talking about them not knowing God,
about them not trusting God,
not knowing God's heart!
Jesus was talking about them not having a relationship with God,
not knowing God's character!

*“Therefore do not worry, saying
'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'
For after all these things the Gentiles seek.
For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you
--- Matt 6:31–33*

What was Jesus teaching His disciples,
what is Jesus teaching us, when He says,
“seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.”

Seek first His kingdom;
seek first God's presence, a relationship with God!
Seek first His righteousness,
the right to enter into His presence!

Just knowing God's Word,
just believing God's Word,
without having a relationship with God,
without having a relationship with the Word Himself,
without having a personal relationship with Jesus Himself,
will result in your faith being of little value.
Because your faith is not connected to Life,
not connected to the Provider,
not connected to Faith ...

*But without faith it is impossible to please
Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is,
and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
--- Heb 11:6*

... 354 ... Victorious Living

Free in everything?

Free in everything?

Sometimes God's Word seems to contradict itself;
for, when Jesus said,

*Therefore if the Son makes you free, **you shall be free indeed.***
--- John 8:36

you expect to be free from attacks, tribulation and pressure!
Yet ... Jesus also said,

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace.
In the world you will have tribulation;
but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."
--- John 16:33

How can you be free, yet surely have tribulation?
How can you be free when the devil is free to attack you?
Which one of those two statements by Jesus is true for us?

Both!

Jesus did not say that we will be free from attacks,
Jesus did not say that we would be free from pressure or problems.
But ...

Jesus did say that we are free in(deed)!

Jesus said that,
in the same way that He was pressurised and attacked,
and in the same way that He overcame those attacks,
we are to expect and overcome the attacks that come against us!
In fact Jesus said,

Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth.
I did not come to bring peace but a sword.
--- Matt 10:34

Jesus said that in Him we are free indeed!
Jesus said that in Him we are overcomers!
Jesus said that in Him we can have peace in our lives!
How?

By the sword that He put in our hands!

... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
--- Eph 6:17

Jesus said ... don't expect to be free from attacks,
but ... take what I have done for you,
and in My name, be free inside of the devils attacks;
in My name, be the conqueror I made you to be!

And these signs will follow those who believe:
In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues,
they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly
it will by no means hurt them;
they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.
--- Mark 16:17-18

Hearing God ... for yourself!

Led by the Spirit!

Jesus, in teaching about knowing Him,
said this to us,

***My sheep hear My voice, and I know them,
and they follow Me.***

--- John 10:27

You need to hear His voice for yourself.
You have to rely on God for wisdom,
and not base your decisions on anyone else's wisdom!

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God,
who gives to all liberally and without reproach,
and it will be given to him.*

--- James 1:5

You have to ask of God and hear Him for yourself.

You have to commit your way to Him,
and you have to trust Him yourself.

***Delight yourself also in the LORD,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.***

Commit your way to the LORD,

*Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.
He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light,
And your justice as the noonday.*

Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him;

--- Ps 37:4-7

Commit your ways to Him,
wait on Him and hear Him for yourself.

In fact, as a son of God,
you should be led by the Spirit of God,

*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God,
these are sons of God. --- Rom 8:14*

If you can figure it out for yourself,
then it is probably not God!

If it sounds impossible to do or to achieve,
then it probably is God!

Listen to His voice for yourself, for your life.

Commit your ways to Him,
let Him develop His plan in you,
and let Him direct your steps.

*A man's heart plans his way,
But the LORD directs his steps.*

--- Prov 16:9

... Read ...

Isaiah 40:31, Prov. 16:1-9

... 356 ... *Relationship*

No failure no more?

No reason to fail!

Doing the wrong things, missing the mark,
or taking a wrong course;

Failure!

So often and so easily done!

But Jesus says to us,

Repent, turn the other way,

set about hitting the mark and you won't fail.

Stop being a failure!

"That is very easy to say,

***However, as much as I try to do things right,
I keep missing the mark, I keep on failing!"***

Your problem, like most everyone else's problem,
is that you are trying to do it on your own!

And that was never God's plan in the first place!

From the day God created us (man),

God has been wanting to have a relationship with us,

so that He can help us hit the mark,

so that He can help us take the right course,

so that we will not fail!

*Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air,
and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them.*

And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.

--- Gen. 2:19

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...

--- Gen. 3:8

God wanted a personal relationship with man then

and He still wants a personal relationship with us today,

so that He can help us achieve our goal!

But how do I build a relationship with God so that He can help me?

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High

Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress;

My God, in Him I will trust."

Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler^o

And from the perilous pestilence.

He shall cover you with His feathers,

And under His wings you shall take refuge;

His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

--- Psalm 91:1-4

Go to God ... into that secret place of His presence,

and develop a personal relationship with Him,

by spending time with Him,

with the Father, with Jesus and with the Holy Spirit!

God says ... **Cast your cares upon Me!** ... 1 Pet. 5:7

Jesus says ... **Come to Me, I will give you rest!** ... Mt. 11:28

And the Holy Spirit says ... **Let Me help you!** ... John 14:16-18.

An awesome God ... A perfect Gift.

A perfect gift!

What does a Holy God have to do,
with unholy people?
What does a Loving God have to do,
with unloving man?

God says to us,

*Because it is written, **Be ye holy; for I am holy.**
--- 1 Pet 1:16*

How can we be holy, if our lives are full of sin?
What hope is there ... for unrighteous man?
Praise God. The Bible says there is hope!
Because God does not expect us to do what we cannot do,
but He does what is necessary (for us),
so that we can be, and so that we can do,
what He expects us to be and do!

Because God is Holy ...
He demanded a sacrifice for sin!
But man could not pay that price for himself!

Because God is Love ...
He gave from His heart.
He gave us a Savior to pay what we could not!

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish
but have everlasting life.
--- John 3:16*

Because God is Righteous ...
He stops at nothing to prove His love for us!
And ...
It's not just for me and not just for you.

*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness;
but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish
but that all should come to repentance.
--- 2 Pet 3:9*

However, God needs a hand and God needs a voice,
to help those around us ... make the right choice!
So God says to us,
receive for yourself ... and reach out to others,
with ...
God's perfect Gift, God's Gift of Love!

... Read ...
2 Cor.5:14-21

Totally dependant on Him!

Totally dependant!

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

--- Matt 5:3

As defeatist or weak as that statement may sound,
it is a most powerful spiritual principle;
a principle that Jesus lived and ministered by,

Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me?

***the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself:
but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.***

--- John 14:10

Man had already proved that on his own he could do nothing,
except to mess up what God had given him.
Jesus not only came to reconcile mankind to God,
but also to show us how to make it on earth!
He told us quite plainly that on our own,
without God's help, we cannot make it.

***I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge:
and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will,
but the will of the Father which hath sent me.***

--- John 5:30

Jesus laid down all His rights and privileges of heaven,
depending fully on the Father and the Holy Spirit,
to accomplish all that He did on earth.

And if we intend to make it,

and be victorious here on earth,

then, just like Jesus,

we also need to depend on the Father and the Holy Spirit.

And ...

to make sure that we will make it,

Jesus made the connection for us,

*Nevertheless I tell you the truth;
It is expedient for you that I go away:
for if I go not away, the Helper (Comforter)
will not come unto you;
but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*

--- John 16:7

Yes, blessed are the poor in spirit,
who do not trust in their own limited abilities,
but who are rich in the Holy Spirit,
relying on Him to be victorious in life!

*And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee:
for my strength is made perfect in weakness.
Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities,
that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

--- 2 Cor. 12:9

The gift of love!

Showered with gifts!

When a birthday or anniversary comes around,
everyone expects to receive a present,
and that is quite human!

And ...

to be invited to another's birthday or party,
is also quite normal!

But,

to be showered with gifts on another's birthday,
is certainly not normal at all,
and neither is it expected!

Yet ...

that is exactly God's way;
that is what God calls,
LOVE!

And ... when God gave us Jesus,
that is precisely what He had in mind,
to shower us with love ... forever!

*Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high,
he led captive, **and gave gifts unto men.** --- Eph 4:8*

Gift #1 God gave us His Son,

*For **God so loved** the world, that **he gave** his only begotten Son ...
--- John 3:16*

Gift #2 God made sure we'd get through,

*For **by grace are ye saved through faith;**
and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God:** --- Eph 2:8*

Gift #3 Help and comfort, so we can live victoriously,

*... Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for
the remission of sins, and **ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**
--- 2 Tim 1:7*

Gift #4 God poured His love into our hearts,

*... because **the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts**
by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. --- Rom 5:5*

The gifts we exchange ... are temporal and limited,

*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly **above all**
that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,
--- Eph 3:20*

But the Gift that's from God, is life everlasting for ALL!

... Read ...

John 1:1-14, 2 Cor. 6:2

... 360 ... God's Love

God's love in my heart, in my life!

A gift I can share!

The custom of giving gifts at Christmas,
comes from the gifts that Jesus received when He was born,
and of course also from,
the gift of God's love to us through Jesus!

One day Jesus was asked,
What is the most important principle that we should live by?
Jesus replied,
“Receive God's love and give it to others!”

But I would have thought that,
loving God is more important than loving others!
Is not that what Jesus said when He was asked ...
“Which is the greatest commandment?”

*... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,
and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*
--- Matt 22:37-39

Yes, that is what Jesus said,
but Jesus also said,

... And ... Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
--- Matt 22:39

In fact, God says to us,
that to love Him or to express our love to Him,
is not just measured by what we do in the spirit,
or by our praise and worship to Him,
but ...
is measured by our love for others.

*If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar:
for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen,
how can he love God whom he hath not seen?*
--- 1 John 4:20

Not only does God want us to receive His love.
and to love Him with our whole being.
but God also wants us to love others.
with the love that He loves us with!

And He even made sure that we could do it,

*And hope maketh not ashamed;
because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts
by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*
--- Rom. 5:5

A gift I can share!
God's love in my heart, in my life ... shared with others!

A heart of praise!

A heart of praise!

David's heart was BIG towards God;
Not because he was an angel,
he wasn't, he sinned just like we do!

But ...

David knew God's heart!

And he knew God's promises and His greatness,
and ...

long before God reached out in love to the world,
David already looked forward to the day,
when Jesus, our Savior would come.

***Today we can look back
knowing that Jesus has come,
and we can receive in our lives today,
what David at that time could not,
the fullness of salvation in Jesus!***

So, if David could sing God's praises,
only knowing what was still to come,
how much more can't we sing God's praises,
having received the fullness of God's love, in Jesus!

*O sing unto the LORD a new song:
sing unto the LORD, all the earth.
Sing unto the LORD, bless his name;
shew forth his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the heathen,
his wonders among all people.
For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised:
he is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the nations are idols:
but the LORD made the heavens.
Honour and majesty are before him:
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people,
give unto the LORD glory and strength.
Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name:
bring an offering, and come into his courts.
O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness:
fear before him, all the earth.
--- Psalm 96:1-92*

Give unto the Lord the glory due His name,
for ...

***He came ... and gave Himself,
so that we could live forevermore!***

... Read ...

Psalm 103:1-22

... 362 ... Abundant Life

Did you know?

God is a good God!

God is not a respecter of people, God is a respecter of faith!

Faith is what gets God's attention; Faith is what moves God to act!

By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. --- Heb 11:5

God will NOT overcome problems and pressure for you,
but God will enable YOU to overcome the problems and pressure yourself!

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. --- Isa 40:31 (Ps. 23, Ps. 91)

You will not have a testimony ... without having passed the test!

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. --- James 1:2-3

And James 4:7 tells us that,
our resistance of the devil and his attacks in God's strength,
... is what makes the devil flee from us!

You cannot have a victory, without having fought a fight!

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

--- 1 Tim 6:12

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

--- 2 Tim 4:7

You cannot reap without first having sown!

Ask any farmer ... if he ever reaped a harvest without first having sown?

Like it or not ... it is a law of God, both physical and spiritual!

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. --- Gen. 8:22

AND, you will only reap what you have sown!

... type, variety, quantity and quality ...

Be not deceived; God is not mocked:

for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. --- Gal. 6:7

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly;

and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. --- 2 Cor. 9:6

For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

--- Luke 6:38:

Yes, God is a good God ... He loves to give

But it is up to us ... to respond to His goodness,
being ready to do, to act and to stand ... in faith!

That pleases God ... and that gets His attention

Unemployed ... with nothing to do!

Is your angel unemployed?

Being unemployed at the best of times, is difficult,
and ... when you actually want to work,
being unemployed is simply frustrating!

"Luckily I am not unemployed ..."

Great,

but ... are you not perhaps the cause,
of someone else being unemployed?

"Me? Never!"

Are you sure?

Then consider this,

**What have you given your angel, assigned to you,
TO DO ... TODAY?**

*But to which of the angels said he at any time,
Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?
Are they not all **ministering spirits**,
sent forth **to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?**
--- Heb. 1:13-14*

*"But I'm not supposed to do that,
God tells the angels what to do!"*

Think again,

what do angels respond to?

*Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength,
that do his commandments, **hearkening unto the voice of his word.**
Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.
Psalm 103:20-21*

And, who is supposed to voice God's Word here on earth?
You!

"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"
(that is, the word of faith which we preach)
--- Romans 10:8

God sent forth His angels, "ministering spirits",
to minister to the needs of His children, YOU!

But ...

**whether or not they do minister to your needs,
is completely up to YOU!**

Unless YOU tell the angels,
what Word of God's you want them to do for you,
they can do nothing for you;

in fact,

your angel is UNEMPLOYED ... with nothing to do!

... Read ...

Psalm 91:12-13

1 Kings 19:5-8

Acts 12:7

... 364 ... Victorious Living

Standing your ground!

Standing your ground!

Are you ready to stand up for your rights?
Are you ready to stand your ground,
and take hold of what belongs to you,
TODAY?
Are you ready to ...

Fight the good fight of faith, --- 1 Tim. 6:12

“But I thought that Jesus came and did it all?”
Of course Jesus did everything necessary for our salvation,
and to restore our rights and our authority in His Name!

But He did not come to live our lives for us,
to claim our rights for us,
or to stand in our place of authority!

In fact in His ministry here on earth,
Jesus showed us how to stand for our rights,
and how to take authority and claim our rightful victory.
He said,

*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me,
the works that I do he will do also; and greater works
than these he will do, because I go to My Father.
And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do,
that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
John 14:12–13*

No, the fight of faith need not be a struggle,
because Jesus has already won it for you,
and He is ready to back you up as well!
But ...

you have to stand up for your rights.
You have to fight the devil with the Word of God.
You have to take authority against satan’s attacks in Jesus name!
You have to enforce what Jesus has already done!
So ...

**Don’t let the devil bully you into backing off;
don’t let the devil bully you into giving up,**
and ...

don’t even think of becoming discouraged!
But stand your ground ...

***Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;**
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,
and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
--- Heb 12:2*

The victory is yours; you enforce it, today!

... Read ...
James 1:1–12

What have you done with what you've heard?

No new sign from heaven!

Have you noticed that God often answers your question,
with another question?
Or when you ask God to show you something,
He seems to change the subject?
Why?

Mainly because we have missed what God's heart is!

One day Jesus was teaching about the heart,
teaching about what is inside of man,
when He was asked this question,

*Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying,
"Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."
--- Matt. 12:38*

To which Jesus replied,

*... "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign,
and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah."
--- Matt. 12:39*

Why did Jesus talk about the "sign of Jonah"?
and seemingly change the subject,
when they wanted proof of what He had said to them?

Jesus did that for the same reason He does with us,
when we ask a question or look for a sign;
because ...

God wants us to check our heart ... our motives!

Jesus was saying to the Pharisees,
*"... in the same way that Jonah's heart was wrong,
when God asked him to go to Nineveh,
... your hearts are wrong,
trying to justify yourselves, instead of looking at yourselves!
**You are seeking something on the outside,
instead of listening to God on the inside!"***

Jesus was saying that signs on the outside will do nothing for you,
but what is on the inside of you,
what you have done with what you've already heard from God,
that ... is what is important,
that ... is where the answer lies.

***A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things:
and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.
--- Matt. 12:35***

Don't look for answers on the outside.
**Check what is inside,
and let God change you from the inside ... out!**

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The teaching ministry of Jan D vander Merwe is founded on the uncompromised Word of God.

In fulfilling his ardent desire to lead believers into a closer personal relationship with God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, he also travels regularly to countries all over Africa to teach, train and encourage local pastors & leaders, equipping them with Bible Courses & teaching material, so they can equip others

DAILY NUGGETS

Nuggets from God's Word

Practical teachings and application of God's Word,
giving answers to the challenges and problems,
... that we face daily,
... to help us be victorious in our lives,
... by building a personal relationship,
... with God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.