

GOD CALLED THE LIGHT "DAY"

Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded (Isa. 40:21)? The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God from the beginning (John 1:1-2). To whom will you compare Him? Or who is His equal?

Lift your eyes and look to the heavens, Who created all these? He Who brings out the starry host one-by-one, and calls them each by name. Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing (Isa. 40:25-26).

And though we can see and understand only a little about God now, as if we were peering at His reflection in a poor quality mirror; someday we are going to see Him in His completeness, face-to-face. Now all that we know is hazy and blurred, but then we will see everything clearly, just as clearly as God sees into our heart right now (1 Cor. 13:12 TLB).



In verse 11 Paul said as an adult his thoughts had grown far beyond those of his childhood. But, he also said: I know God's law is spiritual,

but I am carnal sold as a slave to sin. I don't understand myself. I do what I don't want to – what I hate. I really want to do what is right, but I can't do it. I know perfectly well what I am doing is wrong, and my bad conscience proves I agree with the laws I am breaking. The sin within me brings about what is evil (Rom. 4:14-17 TLB).

“There is something deep within me, in my fallen nature that is at war with my mind and often wins the fight, making me a slave to the sin that is still in me. So you see how it is: My new life tells me to do right, but that old nature that is still inside me loves to sin. Oh, what a terrible predicament I'm in! Who will free me from my slavery to this deadly fallen nature? Thank God! It has been done by Christ Jesus our Lord. He has set me free.”

“There is now no condemnation awaiting those who belong to Christ Jesus. For the power of the Life-giving-Spirit, and this power is mine through Jesus, has freed me from the vicious circle of sin and death. We aren't saved from sin's grasp by knowing the commandments of God because we can't and don't keep them. We're saved by the plan God put into effect, when He sent His Son in a human body so sin's control over us could be destroyed.”

“We are saved by not only knowing but accepting and believing what Jesus did so we can once again walk in God’s presence. Christ gave Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. Now, when the choice is made to follow after Holy Spirit, He gives us the power to obey God’s Word. He gives us the power to resist the temptation to obey the old evil nature within us,” Rom. 7:21-8-4 TLB.



When we not only know Christ, but truly understand He didn’t just use words to express His love, He gave His life in the most horrible fashion so we could offer Love, God is love, our voice, our vows and promise, to honor and obey His precious Word. If only the songs we sang with our mouth would be accompanied by a heart where understanding dwells.

FIRES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOrSj9w01xw>

Lord, I remember how You told me
That life may not be easy
And everything I need

You've already given me

I remember how You told me

I can trust You completely

So why am I doubting

When You proved that You'd fight for me

You've walked me through fires

Pulled me from flames

If You're in this with me

I won't be afraid

When the smoke billows higher

And it feels like I can barely breathe

I'll walk through these fires

'Cause You're walking with me

I'm changed by Your mercy

Covered by Your peace

I'm living out the victory

Doesn't mean I won't feel the heat

You've walked me through fires

Pulled me from flames
If You're in this with me
I won't be afraid

When the smoke billows higher
And it feels like I can barely breathe
I'll walk through these fires
'Cause You're walking with me

I can face anything - anything
'Cause You're here with me
I can do all things
'Cause You strengthen me

I remember how You showed me
The price of my redemption
Lord, how could I question
When You proved that You'd die for me

Song by Jordan St. Cyr



Unfortunately, the roots of low self-esteem, lack of self-worth and shame can be found embedded in our childhood because this is where codependency begins.

As a result, beliefs are formed on a foundation of immature thinking that is carried over into adulthood. For example, neglect can cause great emotional trauma. Without recognizing, identifying, and interpreting the Truth, the far reaching effects of abuse whether verbal, physical, emotional, mental or sexual, when experienced cannot be fully understood.

When a child is neglected or abused, this mistreatment can cause a person to become emotionally arrested. Stuck in or anchored to an emotional level of development due to negative childhood experiences.

Sadly, harmful tendencies and self-destructive behaviors arise from words that are not only powerful but binding, for they inadvertently bring us into a contract that's sealed by those inner vows and promises that don't just give a voice to negativity; they bring about actions that serve the purposes of evil – to kill, steal and destroy (John 10:10).

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Fortunately, there are steps that can be taken to overcome the character deficits, negative personality traits, tendencies and compulsions, codependent ways, emotional trauma and learned behaviors, when Truth is sought for then the eyes of our heart will be opened.

God's Word is all powerful! Love and Life and Truthfulness are bound by words and vows and promises that ensure the purposes of Good are accomplished – healing, deliverance and salvation.

We must recognize, identify and interpret God's Word correctly so His loving-kindness and patience can be understood. Because, He doesn't want anyone to perish, but that everyone would come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).



There is power to be received from the Spirit of Grace when a person comes to repentance. God's Word says:

“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit. It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I come not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

“Yes, the natural came first causing mankind to be adulteress, spiritually adulteress to God. Perverse and deceitful words were heard and the straight paths were left and dark ways would be walked.”

“Wrong doing became a delight. The perverseness of evil brought rejoicing as those crooked paths were followed and deviousness filled the ways of people, who like wayward wives ignore, reject a covenant with God.”

“Life is not just physical but spiritual. I come that you may have life, and have it to the full. That you may receive a rich welcome into your heavenly Father’s kingdom.”

“Seductive words lead a spouse into the act of adultery; behavior that causes the vows and promises of a marriage covenant to be broken. Spiritual adultery leads a person to Death. A whole life doomed, and brought closer to Hell. Every person has taken these steps, and without God’s Spirit of Truth the path of Life will not be attained.”

Zech. 4:6, Luke 5:31-32, 1 Cor. 15:46, Prov. 2:12-15, John 10:10, 2 Peter 1:11, Prov. 2:16-19



As we acquire knowledge of God's Word of Truth, Holy Spirit will always teach and guide us, comfort and encourage us to remember we possess the power of God's grace to help us recognize, identify and interpret so we can perceive what is Good and what is Evil, and think differently.

It doesn't matter who is against us, who has betrayed us or what the circumstances we must face, with God's Word of Life in our heart we can know, that we know, that we know the good God is working in and through and for us within the scope of present time, this gift of "today" that He has bestowed, will most definitely become apparent.

But God, He has gives us so much to hold onto through His Word:

"The Sovereign Lord helps Me, I will not be disgraced. I have set My face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. He Who vindicates Me is near. Who then will bring charges against Me?"

“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

Isa. 50:7-8, Isa. 41:10



I write about God because the Source of power He offers, Holy Spirit, is always ready and willing to reveal the Truth. God’s Word not only points us in the right direction, but makes it possible for Holy Spirit to help us delve deep into the chambers of our heart, so the unhealthy issues with which we struggle can be reconciled and inner peace can be found.

And, inner peace can be found when we believe in and rely on and proclaim God’s Word:

- The Lord is for me not against me; He will turn to help me (Ezek. 36:9)
- The Lord will not reject me; I am His inheritance He will never forsake me (Ps. 94:14)

- The Lord Himself goes before me and is with me; He will never leave me or forsake me. I will not be afraid. I will not be discouraged (Deut. 31:8).
- The Lord Himself is my inheritance, my prize. He is my food and drink, my highest joy, my cup of blessing! He guards all that is mine. I will bless the Lord Who guides me; even at night He instructs my heart. I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for He is right beside me (Ps. 16:5-8 NLT).
- No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice. My body rests in safety. For the Lord will not leave my soul among the dead, or allow His holy one to rot in the grave. He will show me the way of Life, granting me the joy of His presence, and the pleasures of living with Him forever (Ps. 16:9-11 NLT)
- I will trust in the Lord with all my heart, and lean not on my own understanding; in all my ways I will acknowledge Him, and He will make my paths straight (Prov. 3:5-6).
- I will honor the Lord not only with my words but with a tenth of my wealth for this is the Lord's promise:
 "Test me in this and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

Mal. 3:10



The Lord will show me His ways, He will teach me His paths; He will guide me in His truth and teach me, for He is God my Savior, and my hope is in Him all day long. The Lord remembers His great mercy and love, and forgets my sins and my rebellious ways; according to His love He remembers me, for the Lord is good.

Yes, the Lord is good and upright; He instructs sinners in His ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way. All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful for those who keep their covenant promise (Ps. 25:4-10) to love and honor and obey God's Word:

“Why should you be beaten anymore? Why do you persist in rebellion? Your whole head is injured, your whole heart afflicted. From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness – only wounds and welts and open sores, not cleansed or bandaged or soothed with oil.”

“The Lord will restore your soul. He will guide you in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though you

walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you shall fear no evil.”

“The Lord is very near you; God’s Word is in your mouth and in your heart. That is the Word of faith you are proclaiming. If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

“It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Anyone who trusts in Jesus will never be put to shame. There is no difference among people – the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him.”

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Isa. 1:5-6, Ps. 23:3-4, Rom. 10:8-13



Look, I’m not for one minute suggesting that learning about God and His Word will somehow magically change our thinking. No, not at all! What I’m saying, we seek the miraculous from God, but ignore the fact that we continue going around those same mountains, trying to slay

our Goliath by depending on our own strength and strategies and opinions, and whatever counsel received from others.

I know because even with the knowledge of God's Word that I possessed, I continued to allow my heart to determine what felt best. And, sure enough, I kept going round-and-round that same mountain of self-interest. Having knowledge of God and His Word definitely provided a sturdy foundation for me to stand on; however, the huge fault-line of self-reliance kept me trying instead of completely trusting God.

When my grandkids say 'I'm trying,' I tell them stop trying and just do it. Though 'Just do it' seems a simple principle to follow, when the "it" causes our earthen vessel to quake, then trying naturally seems the best that can be done. However, trying brings with it those expectations we place on self that cause us to be plunged into anger, doubt and ridicule that not only gives "trying" a new meaning - failure; but, also to self - 'I'm a failure.'

I didn't realize the strength I had received from God's Word because, though I kept hearing that voice saying "You're a fake Christian, a

failure,” I kept on “Faithing” it ‘til I really believed what God’s Word said about me.



If you are hearing words that don’t strengthen, encourage or comfort you, please don’t receive them. Delete them! Send them to the waste disposal bin, definitely don’t recycle them! During the time when life seemed at its’ hardest, and my behavior seemed at its worst I heard the very worst from a Christian leader, “I question your salvation.”

Thank God, the time I had invested in His Word gave me the very best protection – the love of God. I knew that I knew that I knew, so there was absolutely no reason to question I was loved by God. No matter how flawed the love we share with one another, the realization of God’s unconditional love when experienced cannot be extinguished.

Though this is not pleasant to admit, I wasn’t very pleasing to myself and those around me. What made matters worse I had no answers for the Why? Thankfully, God remained my closest ally. Holy Spirit told me:

“God looks at the heart, and He knows how much you love Him. Together we will work on the behavior that is robbing Peace from you.”



There's a Scripture that says, people look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart (1 Sam. 16:7). Well life has a way of happening that can absolutely bring the very worst out of a person. As a nurse, when caring for those battling sickness, we can have compassion for the worst bodily excretions. Why should we be less compassionate when emotions are secreting, because what may be most needed - a hug, someone who will listen not try to fix it or us.

How many times have we told ourselves or we've been told "Control yourself." Just another expectation that can once again, within the trying, set us up to feel a failure. Why? The lifestyle we live leads us into co-depending on one another, and brings about harmful traits and self-destructive tendencies.



Codependency causes problems for everyone. Only God can help us recognize, identify and determine to what degree we struggle. When things in my life seemed their worst and I was trying to do my best, at times mostly failing to cope with and control and manage my emotions and such unwanted circumstances. I felt so distanced from the Lord. Where was He? Why wasn't He answering my prayers?

There are times we go through known as "The dark night of the soul," but don't let any thought of darkness fool you because feelings are not facts. When you know with all your knower, you are loved by God, and if you don't, trust me you most definitely are, don't let circumstance and behavior or whatever you may think or feel sway you.

If you have no connection with God, you can know with your knower there is hope. I cannot "NOT" speak of God and His Word and Holy Spirit because without them the world would have filled, then overwhelmed me, with its darkness - hopelessness, despair and incompetency.

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At the time, I didn't understand the realm of the miraculous that I was walking with God and His Word, because I didn't realize life could be experienced that way. For two and a half years I floundered through those "Dark nights of the soul" not realizing God was answering my prayers.

The problem of course was me. He was not giving me the answers I thought would please me, the solutions I thought were best. As a result, I wasn't able to allow myself to stop striving so I could relax and grow and know I was going to receive what God knew I needed right then and always.

What do I mean by this? God's Word says:

"My people are perishing from lack of knowledge."

Hosea 4:6



Of course this means we need knowledge of God and His Word, but we also need practical knowledge so better understanding of the human condition and Holy Spirit can be attained. I never would have sought information about betrayal or trauma or codependency... if I

wasn't walking in miraculous realms with Holy Spirit prompting me to read, to learn, to listen, a skill that needs to be fine-tuned.

FYI: Practical knowledge is roughly defined as knowledge that does and will (from a normative, prudential or moral point of view) motivate us to act in a certain way. Practical knowledge can often lead to a deeper understanding of a concept through the act of personal experience.

Theoretical learning is what the knowledge is about and the practical application is how the knowledge we've learned needs to be implemented in certain real life situations.

Information taken from the article "What is Practical Knowledge," written by Christoph Lumer, University of Siena.

http://www.lumer.info/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/A085_Lumer_WhatIsPracticalKnowledge_FinalMs1.pdf



Years ago, I made the decision to gather information about Jesus so needless to say I turned to God's Word. Opening the Bible was the easy part, developing the practical ability to apply what I was learning is what's challenging.

Sadly, when troubling circumstances come knocking what we need the most to do – stand firm in faith grasping tightly and leaning into the support of the Door for the sheep (John 10:7 AMP), Christ Jesus.

We can't prevent trouble from finding us. As a matter of fact, the enemy sends more trouble than we'd like to once again pull us away from God and His Word. However, we can counter his dastardly efforts, by opening our mouths and proclaiming all the good God shares with us through His Word.

We can think and behave differently instead of readily accepting thoughts that distract, and over running emotions that can drown us in offense, sorrow, upset, shame...



When I began this spiritual journey with Holy Spirit as my guide, I told Him I was not the brightest bulb on the shelf. I can be easily stymied in the process of implementing the practical knowledge I acquire. More often than not I have been guilty of getting in God's way. Being a visual

learner, I asked for pictures to be drawn. Sure enough Holy Spirit was willing to provide enriching imagery.

Just the other night I wasn't sure why I was being stirred with thoughts about a TV show I never really followed Star Trek. I envisioned the spaceship "Enterprise," and was reminded of the catch-phrase so often used by the crew, "Scotty, beam me up."

It's difficult to describe such an experience, because the first knee-jerk reaction is to ignore those "what the heck" thoughts. I had/have no interest in Star Trek. But I have learned if I pay attention there's a point Holy Spirit will be making.



From God's perspective we encounter aliens all the time. Before knowledge of God's Word is sought and believed then accepted, we are the aliens, outsiders, migrants, and exiles, excluded from possessing the rights of citizens of heaven (Eph. 2:19a AMP).

And, the only possible way for us to gain understanding of God's perspective is through His Word. But, once we do there is no doubt the only place where we remain aliens is in this world (1 Peter 2:11a AMP).

Holy Spirit has a good sense of humor. The point He made was this: Jesus is the Captain of His Father's "Enterprise of Salvation," and when we make the decision to look in His direction; to honor God by allowing the Spirit of Truth to help us realize the value of God's Word by assessing the merits of practical application, as we respond in faith as the Lord's mother had once instructed others, "Do whatever He tells you," John 2:5.

The only way for us to gain personal experience is in the doing. For then understanding dawns, those who desire to be servants of Christ Jesus will behave as aliens in this world abstaining from our sensual urges (those evil desires and passions of the flesh that our lower nature) use to wage war against our soul (1 Peter 2:11b AMP).



Holy Spirit brings us to that place where we know, that we know we are no longer aliens of heaven; instead, we are saints who share citizenship as God's own people, consecrated and set apart through Him, Who gives us an upright stance on the foundation the apostles

and prophets laid with God's Word, Christ Jesus Himself, the chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:19-20 AMP).

And though we cannot see Jesus, we love Him and believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for we are receiving the goal of our faith, the salvation of our soul (1 Peter 1:8-9).

Believing and living as those who know the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God "to beam us up." First the dead in Christ will rise. After that, those who are living lives to bring glory to our heavenly Father, will be caught up together in the clouds to meet Jesus in the air. But, we don't have to wait til then to join Jesus in God's Enterprise of Salvation.

I pray these words bring you encouragement for surely we will be forever with the Lord (1 Thess. 4:16-18).



Personally speaking, it wasn't until I became exhausted by the futility of all my efforts to fix, control, manipulate, lose-control in fear and

anger...that blatantly revealed I wasn't too good at following Holy Spirit's counsel:

“Be still, for how else will you come to know God will be exalted not the likes of fear or frustration or anger.”

Ps. 46:10

Please understand I write about God and His Word so you can know it isn't necessary for us to walk through a door that opens to the discovery of what is impossible for man. But, if you are like me determined to do things the way you see fit, then know all things are possible for the One Who lives in us and walks beside us (Mark 10:27). How many times I heard this and reassured myself by declaring God's Word, but I didn't truly experience God doing the impossible for me until I stopped trying to do what only He can - the impossible.



A door opened before me that I would never have walked through, but now I can say if that door hadn't opened I don't think my attitudes and opinions and learned behaviors would have made room for God's Word to become the governing Force in my life.

I leaned on and relied on those who told me not to do or say or behave in certain ways. Like every other adult I had earned the right to steer the course of my life, that position as captain was mine. I wanted to do things my way, and of course collisions occurred because the helm was being controlled by a spiritually dulled and willful soul.

Without God and His Word and Holy Spirit I would still believe I was at the helm, in control, not being controlled by soulish thoughts and desires. I was guilty of trying to humble myself while at the same time doing what came naturally – following the ways of learned behaviors.

It wasn't until I kept getting tripped up by following my own way of thinking, that I began to realize even though I would approach a problem from different angles it was impossible I couldn't change the outcome.



This is a definition offered for insanity – doing the same thing over and over again expecting different results. God helped me to see the insanity in trying to do what only He can – the impossible – when the only thing we can change is ourselves.

God helped me to understand there is insanity in continually trying to please people. Yes, that meant the anxiety and upset I had earned by working at doing the same things or by the different attempts I made to please others. However, a new problem arose. One I couldn't avoid or deny or ignore because I also wanted to not only please God, but to be pleasing to Him.

God had sent His Word, and I was to discover how unconditional the love Jesus said God has for me, but it's my actions not mere words that speak volumes about the love I have for God and His Word:

“Whoever has My commands and obeys them, they are the ones who love Me. Those who love Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love them and show Myself to them.”

“I will lead the spiritually blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.”

John 14:21, Isa. 42:15-16



This spiritual journey with the Lord will most definitely take you on unfamiliar paths. For me I had to discipline myself to heed Holy Spirit's guidance and stop being a people-pleaser. A person will endure discomfort if they truly have the desire to be pleasing to God. I don't say this in a condescending fashion, instead to be encouraging. I can't tell you how many times I caught myself wanting to do what God said no more - people pleasing.

We don't have to be struggling with a physical illness to know the body has some unpleasant excretions. Well, God knows when a person is struggling with a spiritual malady, unpleasant by-products of confusion or doubt or deception will be spewed. God's Word tells us:

“Trust God, He won't let you be put to shame, nor will He let your enemies triumph over you. No one whose hope is in God, will ever be put to shame. So learn to trust in God and not be afraid. What can man do to you? Should you fear someone who could kill the body, or Him Who has the power to throw you into hell?”

“You may be someone who makes judgments without the fear of God or concern for what people think. Know, how beneficial for Holy Spirit to be poking at your conscience with promptings to do what is best; instead of, being overtaxed by those attempts to avoid, neglect or ignore doing what is right and just and fair.”

“Those controlled by their sinful, fallen nature cannot please God, when they are trying to win the acceptance and approval of people. Therefore, I urge you, My dear brethren, because of the great mercy God has shown you, offer your life as a living sacrifice to Him – an offering that is only for God and pleasing to Him.”

“Consider what He has done, for it is right that you should worship Him this way. Don’t behave as those who conform to the patterns of this world. For everything in the world causes people to do whatever satisfies the lust of their eyes, the cravings of a sinful heart and the prideful boastings of what they have and do – these do not come from your heavenly Father but from the world.”

“The world and its desires will pass away, but those who train and discipline their heart to do the will of God shall live forever. Heed Holy Spirit’s promptings and be transformed by the renewing of your thinking. For the Kingdom of God is not a worldly matter, but a matter of righteousness, peace and joy in Holy Spirit”

Ps. 25:2-3. Ps. 56:11, Luke 12:5, Luke 18:4-5, Gal. 1:10, Rom. Rom. 12:1-2.ERV, 1 John 2:16-17, Rom. 7:14



Holy Spirit will not only help us recognize, but become familiar with God’s loving-kindness and the Lord’s unbelievable goodness. God’s Word is not only a matter of speech, God sent His Word to do what we could never do for ourselves – remove from us the punishment for our sins and the penalty of facing Death a second time.

God’s Word says:

“My heavenly Father will send another, Holy Spirit, to comfort and counsel and speak to you of Truth.”

John 16:13

The perception I had of Holy Spirit was only from a mind's-eye level. I'll try to explain, the years I spent BC (before Christ), I believed God was too busy to be concerned about me. The error in my thinking prevented me from drawing closer to Him and receiving all that He wanted to give me through His Word and His Holy Spirit.



When a person comes into our lives as an acquaintance, someone we like, but there are no heart-strings tying us together; well, that's the type of relationship we start out sharing with God and His Word and Holy Spirit.

Like a diamond ring on display its beauty and value can be seen; however, there's a whole different perspective to be had when the heart's involved, and that diamond is seen sparkling with promise and commitment, new beginnings and potential on our finger.

Who knew? Not me! From a distance my mind's eye could see what Jesus had done and accomplished on that cross so I could enjoy a relationship with God. However, it wasn't until I did what God's Word

instructs – through Holy Spirit, crucify the deeds of your body (Rom. 8:13) that my heart was truly able to comprehend His love.

We have names that identify who we are; however, we also possess bynames (titles, labels, designations) that give enhancement to our identity. Jesus doesn't just offer us a new title so we can identify ourselves as a child of God. No matter the labels the world has attached, Jesus bestows upon us a new identity "Christianos."

The original Greek word for Christian is "Christianos," which comes from the two Greek words "Christ and tian." The word Christ means "anointed" and tian means "little." So the word "Christian" literally means "little anointed ones." We are the Lord's "little anointed ones" who have been anointed by His Holy Spirit to represent Him in this world.

Information taken from the article, "Just what do you mean Christian?"
Written by Barry Pettit, the Trumpet Sounds, and posted on the website
Record Herald.

<https://www.recordherald.com/news/religion/61978/just-what-do-you-mean-christian#:~:text=The%20original%20Greek%20word%20for,the%20anointed%20one%E2%80%9D%20and%20we>



But not only that! Jesus gives us an identity that is so blessed it exceeds the natural and mundane, and allows us to enter into spiritual and miraculous realms so we can reach unfamiliar and unlimited heights. How? Through willingness to take those steps of faith and do what brings honor to our heavenly Father.

But God, He knows it is easier said than done. He gave His Son a life to live in our world so He could bless us with Life, and Truth could be known and the Way into heavenly realms revealed, for this is where an abundance of life will be found.

So God continues to send His Word for it is through Jesus that we receive heaven's life-giving Spirit of Truth (1 Cor. 15:45-46), Who always speaks to us of God's Word, Christ Jesus:

“The time has come when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.”

“Always remember, the spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.”

John 4:22-23, 1 Cor. 15:46



There is so much to learn, but there is a greater need to develop a different perspective – a godly one. Naturally, there is knowledge to be gained when Scripture is read. I'll use the Easy to Read Version of Isa. 54:2-5 to make my point:

Make your tent bigger. Open your doors wide.

Don't think small. Make your tent large and strong,

Because you will grow in all directions.

Your children will take over many nations

And live in the cities that were destroyed.

Don't be afraid!

You will not be disappointed.

People will not say bad things against you.

You will not be embarrassed.

When you were young, you felt shame

But, now you will forget that shame.

You will not remember the shame you once felt

When you lost your husband.

Your real husband is the one Who made you.

His name is the Lord All-powerful.
The Holy One of Israel is your Protector,
And He is the God of all the earth!

God's Word speaks to our mind, to make us aware of God's concern for our life, our physical welfare right now, right here on earth. But, when we remember God is spirit and His Word also speaks to our heart, His Spirit of Truth gives us new horizons to view so we can venture into greater depths of meaning, when God's Word is read with concern for our spiritual welfare right now, right here on earth.

For it is Jesus Who makes our tent bigger.
When the doors of our soul are open wide.
So don't think of yourself as small and ordinary
Don't complain; instead, trust God
Who gives you entrance into the land of Promise
To know and experience His kindness, His goodness
His unfailing love and forgiveness

God's Word will make the earthly tent you live in
Large and strong
Your faith and hope and love will grow in all directions

Your children will take over many nations
And live in the cities that were destroyed by
Spiritual adultery and corruption
Don't be afraid!

You will not be disappointed!
People will not say bad things against you.

You will not be embarrassed.

When you were young, you felt shame.

But that shame will be forgotten.

That shame caused by deception and doubt and disbelief

You will not remember how it felt

When you lost your husband

The one who kills and steals and destroys

Through God's Word many discoveries are made

For your real Husband is the One Who made you.

His name is the Lord All-Powerful.

The Holy One of Israel is your Protector,

The God of all the earth, and of your earthen vessel

The great I AM

Whose banner over you is Love

Who has given every earthen vessel
Time and opportunity to receive an eternal identity
“I am” a child of God



- I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in and confidently rely on the loving-kindness and the mercy of God forever and ever (Ps. 52:8 AMP)
- I am as a wonder and surprise to many, the Lord is my Benefactor; my praise is continually to Him Who is my strong Refuge (Ps. 71:6-7AMP)
- I am the Lord’s servant, He has loosed my bonds (Ps. 116:16 AMP)
- I am God’s servant, He gives me Understanding that I may know His testimonies (Ps. 119:125 AMP)
- I am hoping and waiting eagerly for the Lord’s salvation (Ps. 119:166 AMP)
- I am looking and waiting for the Lord. My hope is in Him, for with the Lord there is mercy and loving-kindness, and with Him is plenteous redemption (Ps. 130:6-7 AMP)

- I am not ashamed of the Gospel, the Good News of Christ, for it is God's power working unto salvation to everyone who believes (Rom. 1:16 AMP)
- I am persuaded beyond doubt that nothing in all creation will be able to separate me from the love of God, which is in my Lord, Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:39 AMP)
- I am well pleased for the sake of Christ to take pleasure in infirmities, insults, hardships, persecutions, perplexities and distresses; for when I am weak in human strength, then am I truly strong, able, and powerful in divine strength (2 Cor. 12:10 AMP)
- I am an ambassador boldly and courageously proclaiming God's Word, Christ Jesus (Eph. 6:19-20 AMP)
- I am convinced and sure of this very thing, God Who began a good work in me will continue until the day of Jesus (Phil. 1:6)
- I am confident and fully trusting in the Lord (Phil. 2:24 AMP)
- I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency; I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me (Phil. 4:13 AMP)

- I am more than a conqueror, overwhelming victory is mine through Christ Who loved me enough to die for me (Rom. 8:37 TLB)
- I am bound to thank God always because my faith and hope and love are exceedingly growing (2 Thess. 1:3 MB)



Jesus' heart is bound by His faith and hope and love for His Father. So much so, He willingly offered His body to be bound on that cross -

- So faith in God would grow as eyes would become fixed on the unseen not the seen, for the unseen is eternal (2 Cor. 4:18)
- So hope would abound as understanding dawns - we have peace with God through Christ Jesus, through Him we gain access by faith, which justifies us so we can stand and flourish in God's grace rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God (Rom. 5:1-2), which is Christ Jesus in us (Col. 1:27)
- So love for God would be ever overflowing as Holy Spirit clothes us in God's Word (Rom. 13:14) and the joy and delight of Christ would be in us, and that our joy and gladness would become of

full measure - complete and overflowing (John 15:11) with praise and worship, thanksgiving and gratitude for our heavenly Father!

So much so, that we willingly offer our heart daily to Jesus. A heart bound by faith with hope placed in the greatest of all Love (1 Cor. 13:13), for God is love (1 John 4:8).

We have come to know and believe and trust - God has loved us with an everlasting love; He has drawn us to Himself with loving-kindness; He will build us up again, and we will be renewed by the Grace and Life and Truth we receive from heavens' cord of three strands (Eccl. 4:12) - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, not just for time but for all eternity.



Every person is unique, and Holy Spirit will use all the time it takes to help and support and comfort those who have groped and stumbled in the darkness (Prov. 4:19 TLB) that spiritual blindness causes. Sadly, many will not come to the Light, because the Light will show all the bad things they have done.

But, those who choose to follow the more excellent Way through God's Word of Truth they come into the Light of Life. And, heaven's Light will show that whatever they have done was done through God (John 3:20-21 ERV).

Jesus continues to give His all, doing and accomplishing for us and through us to bring all glory to His Father, when we are properly connected to the resurrection power of Holy Spirit. Sadly, for years I was just naturally out of sync with the Trinity.



There were so many words I had compiled that were so different from the words of Truth that God speaks. I continued thinking and speaking and behaving in ways I just naturally approved. Though I had acquired knowledge of God and His Word, I had difficulty truly understanding because so many times the message Holy Spirit received from me was very clear - I'll do it my way.

It wasn't until I understood and believed God's Word is alive, sustained by the very breath of Life that is within Christ Jesus. In Jesus the whole fullness of the Deity (the Godhead - Father, Son and Holy

Spirit) continues to dwell in bodily form (giving complete expression of the divine nature) Col. 2:9 AMP.

Holy Spirit breathes life into God's Word, and those who are in Christ Jesus are made full and have come into the fullness of Life (in Christ. We too are filled with the Godhead - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - and reach full spiritual stature) Col. 2:10 AMP.



God wants us to grow up, to know the whole Truth and to be able to share His Word with others in love - like Christ in everything (Eph. 4:15a Message). Jesus Himself existed before all things, and in Him all things consist (cohere, are held together). He also is the Head of His body, the Church (Col. 1:17-18 AMP).

We take our lead from Christ, Who is the Source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with God's Holy Spirit and with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in Love (Eph. 4:15b-16 Message), Who says:

“Beloved, don’t forget My teachings. Remember what I tell you to do. What I teach will give you a good, long life, and all will go well for you. Don’t let love and faithfulness leave you.

Tie them around your neck, and write them on your heart.”

“Trust the Lord completely, and don’t depend on your own understanding. With every step you take, think about what the Lord wants and He will help you go the right way.”

“My child don’t reject the Lord’s discipline, and don’t become angry when He corrects you. The Lord corrects the one He loves, just as a father corrects a child he cares about. Those who find godly Wisdom are fortunate they will be blessed when they gain understanding.”

“Profit that comes from godly Wisdom is better than silver and even the finest gold. Godly Wisdom is worth more than fine jewels. Nothing you desire has more value. So don’t trust in your own wisdom; instead, fear and respect the Lord and stay away from evil. If you do this, it will be like a

refreshing drink and medicine for your body, soul and spirit.”

Prov. 3:1-15 ERV



So begin taking new steps to seek a deeper relationship with God, for He wants us to grow. It's not the one who plants or the one who waters who is at the center of this process, but God, Who makes things grow within us. Planting and watering are menial servant jobs. What makes them worth doing is the God we are serving. We happen to be God's field, and He is working (1 Cor. 3:6-9 Message) to cultivate and grow an abundant harvest.

No one knows better than God how difficult life can get. So don't jump to conclusions that God isn't on the job (1 Peter 4:12 Message). When we have spoken of God in certain ways, we have sinned, for God is greater than man. Why should we fight against Him just because He does not give an account to us about what He does?

God speaks again and again, in dreams, in visions of the night when deep sleep falls upon us as we lie in our beds. He opens our ears in times like that, and gives us godly Wisdom and instruction, to cause us

to change our minds, and to keep us from pride, by warning us of the penalty of sin, and to keep us from falling into some trap.

God may send sickness and pain that draws us near to Death. But, there is a Messenger from heaven that intercedes for us as a Friend, to show us what is right, so God's mercy and loving-kindness can be known for He says:

“Set them free. Do not make them die, for I have found a substitute.”

When Life eternal is received, our body will become as healthy as a child's, firm and youthful again. And when we pray to God, He will hear and answer and receive us with joy, and return us to our duties. We will declare to our friends, “I sinned, but God let me go. He did not let me die. I will go on living in the Light of Life,” Job 33:12-28 TLB.



So when life gets difficult, don't get angry or complain; instead, we must train ourselves to apply godly wisdom. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for

both the present life and the life that is to come (1 Tim. 4:7). Think about things that are excellent and praiseworthy.

Yes, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, think about these things. Whatever you have learned and received and heard or seen regarding God's Word – put it into practice. And, the God of peace will be with you (Phil. 4:8-10).

For this is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner. So we should rejoice and be glad that we are in the very thick of what Christ experienced (1 Peter 4:13 Message). When you really start to put into practice God's Word and the principles for taking steps toward renewal and recovery, then you will most definitely become more God-dependent instead of being Co-Dependent.

- The first key is to maintain an honest view of reality not only considering particular circumstances and events as substantial, but recognizing the substance of Truth – the Life, the Alpha and Omega, the heart and the spirit as we work on taking steps of faith remembering:

- God exists and I matter to Him – that God could and would if He were sought
- Admitting I am powerless – If God is your co-pilot, switch seats
- Acknowledging in certain areas my life became unmanageable – Sorrow shared is halved; Joy shared is doubled
- Believing God will restore me with Love, a Sound Mind and Power – Success means getting your BUT out of the way
- Believing God will help me stay committed to this decision to put all of who I am into His possession and safekeeping – There is no magic in this process of renewal and recovery only miracles
- Believing the Word of God will encourage, support and strengthen me as I make a searching and fearless moral inventory of myself – There is pain in this process. Misery is optional
- Because of God’s loving-kindness I have become willing to admit to God, to myself and another person the exact nature of my wrongs – The road to resentment is paved with expectation
- With Truth as my solid foundation I have become entirely ready to have God remove all my defects of character – Courage is faith that has said its prayers

- Having received faith and hope and love for the Surety God has given I humbly ask Him to remove my shortcomings -
F.A.I.T.H. = Fantastic Adventure In Trusting Him
- Having gained knowledge and insight and understanding I have become willing to make a list of anyone I have harmed, and to make an amends to them all - Just for today I will try to live through this day only, and not tackle my whole life problems at once
- Having gained confidence and trust in God's refuge I have become willing to step out with the mindset I am doing this with God and for His glory to make my amends whenever possible unless to do so would cause injury to others -
Remembering nothing is going to happen today that you and God can't handle
- I embrace my covenant relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit by continuing to take a personal moral inventory, and when I am wrong being prompt to admit it - We are not human beings having spiritual experiences; we are spiritual beings having human experiences
- I invest in my relationship with God by communicating through prayer and meditation to improve my conscious

contact with Him seeking knowledge of His will and the power of grace to carry that out – If God seems far away, who moved?

- I seek Revival, Restoration and Reconciliation, a spiritual awakening, as a result of taking steps to carry God's message to others and to practice these principles in all my affairs – Worry is a conversation you have with yourself about things you cannot change. Prayer is conversation you have with God about things He can change



The most essential gift we receive from God is His Word – through Jesus God bestows His gift of Life, eternal life. When a person places the gift of faith God gives them into Jesus, His Word becomes for us a spiritual segue. A spiritual transition is made without any thought or action required by us – for God places us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:4-6 explains: Because of His great love for us, God, Who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we are dead in our transgressions – it is by grace we are saved, and God raises us up with Christ and seats us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.

I read and reread God's Word for years with a mind's-eye perspective. Like that diamond, I loved the meaning and the purpose and intention of God's Word, but I didn't realize there's an entirely different meaning when that love reaches heart-level. How many times I read Isaiah 54:5, For your Maker is your Husband - the Lord Almighty is His name. When Holy Spirit helped me to finally make the connection, vows were exchanged.



God's Word tells us:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and intellect. This is the greatest, most important principle and the first commandment that I give."

"The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as you do yourself. These two commandments sum up and upon them depend on all the Law and the writings of the Prophets."

Matt. 22:37-40 AMP

Jesus offers us a very different token of His love, one that I looked at and admired for years from a distance appreciating its great value and significance. However, it wasn't until the right chord was struck in my heart that I realized God's Word made vows personally with and for me. That's when my soul became tied to my Maker, my Husband, the Lord Almighty, for time and eternity.

You see, I was no longer looking at that cross from a distance. From heart-level I not only had a new perspective, I entered the newness of Life. That cross so badly stained by the blood flowing from the heart of Jesus, I knew was co-mingled with mine. For the hope and promise and commitment flowing from the heart of Christ filled my heart to overflowing with this one desire to do as God's Word had done and does, give all of myself to Him.



Let us constantly be praising God and be in favor and goodwill with all the people so the Lord will keep adding to our number daily those who are being saved from spiritual death (Acts 2:47 AMP). For through God's Word Holy Spirit will be heard:

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. They will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.”

Seated on the white cloud is One “like a son of man” with a crown of gold on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand ready to reap when the harvest of the earth is ripe (Rev. 14:13-15). Those with faith and hope and love for God the earth will not cover their blood. Their cry will never be laid to rest!

Even now our Witness is in heaven; our Advocate is on high. Our Intercessor is our friend. With gratitude our eyes pour out tears to God (Job 16:18-20), Who says:

“On My servants, both men and women, I will pour out My Spirit and they will prophesy.”

Acts 2:18

To make known – God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you, and give relief to all who are troubled. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with His powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey His Word. They will be punished with everlasting destruction

and shut out from the Lord's presence and from the majesty of His power on the day He comes to be glorified in His holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed (2 Thess. 1:6-10).

God chose the Lord for this purpose long before the world began, and brought Him into public view in these last days as a blessing to us (1 Peter 1:20 TLB). So we could know God's Word goes on and on forever.

This is the Word that conceives new life in you. So clean house! Make a clean sweep of malice and pretense, envy and hurtful, worthless talk. You've had a taste of God. Now drink deep of His pure loving-kindness, and you'll grow up mature and whole as does your faith and hope and love for Him (1 Peter 1:2-3 Message).



However, for many it is hard to believe words when experience is lacking. It can be hard to imagine God's loving-kindness when trouble has caused great heartache. It may be easy to understand why the miraculous ways of God are rejected, but believe me it is not a very wise choice to make. For surely this discovery is waiting to be made,

trouble is absolutely meant to harm us; But God, He intends for good to always be revealed.

However, in order for Good to not only be seen but greatly appreciated our eyes must be opened so accountability can be grasped – no excuses can be made, no one else can be blamed for our reasoning and the choices that we've made.

But, as Hans Christian Anderson once said, "Where words fail, Music speaks."

GOD ONLY KNOWS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5cPQg3oq-o>

Wide awake while the world is sound asleep
Too afraid of what might show up while you're dreaming
Nobody, nobody, nobody sees you
Nobody, nobody would believe you
Every day you try to pick up all the pieces
All the memories, they somehow never leave you
Nobody, nobody, nobody sees you
Nobody, nobody would believe you

God only knows what you've been through
God only knows what they say about you
God only knows how it's killing you
But there's a kind of love that God only knows

God only knows what you've been through
God only knows what they say about you
But God only knows the real you
There's a kind of love that God only knows

There's a kind of love
There's a kind of love that God only knows

You keep a cover over every single secret
So afraid if someone saw them they would leave
But somebody, somebody, somebody sees you
Somebody, somebody will never leave you

God only knows what you've been through
God only knows what they say about you
God only knows how it's killing you
But there's a kind of love that God only knows

God only knows what you've been through
God only knows what they say about you

But God only knows the real you
There's a kind of love that God only knows

There's a kind of love
There's a kind of love that God only knows

For the lonely, for the ashamed
The misunderstood, and the ones to blame

What if we could start over?

We could start over

We could start over

Oh, for the lonely, for the ashamed
The misunderstood, and the ones to blame

What if we could start over?

We could start over

We could start over

'Cause there's a kind of love that God only knows

God only knows what you've been through

God only knows what they say about you

But God only knows the real you

There's a kind of love that God only knows

Song by King and Country



God's Word, Christ Jesus, can change your life because Truth makes all the difference:

- God rejoices over you – Isaiah 62:5
- The sound of weeping and of crying will be heard no more – Isaiah 65:19
- You will be called Hephzibah, for the Lord delights in you – Isaiah 62:4
- The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing – Zephaniah 3:17
- The Lord takes great delight in His people; He crowns the humble with salvation. Let the saints rejoice in this honor – Psalm 149:4-5

“I will make an everlasting covenant with them. The sun will no more be their light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on them, for the Lord will be their everlasting Light, and their God will be their glory.”

“Their sun will never set again, and their moon will wane no more; the Lord will be their everlasting Light, and their days of sorrow will end. Then will all My people be righteous and they will possess the land forever. They are the shoot I have planted, the work of My hands, for the display of My splendor.”

“I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear Me, so that they will never turn away from Me. I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in the land with all My heart and soul.”

“For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; I promised you to one Husband, to Christ. I will betroth you to Him forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. I will betroth you in faithfulness, and the Lord will be known by you.”

Isa. 60:19-21, Jer. 32:40-41, 2 Cor. 11:2, Hos. 2:19-20

For this very reason, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may

live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way:
Bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,
being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so
that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving
thanks to the Father, Who qualifies us to share in the inheritance of the
saints in the Kingdom of Light (Col. 1:9-14).



For time and eternity I will be diving and floating in the depths of love
Jesus has for me. He has assured me former things have taken place,
and new things He's declares; before they spring into being He
announces them to us so we can sing a new song to the Lord, and
praise Him from the ends of earth (Isa. 42:9-10).

The Lord has put His words in our mouth and has hidden us safely in
His hand. The Lord has stretched out the sky like a canopy (Isa. 51:16a)
to pour out His Spirit upon us (Acts 2:17 AMP). Holy Spirit works in us
to ordain peace - God's grace and blessings, both temporal and
spiritual (Isa. 26:12 AMP). Through His Word of Truth, God lays a solid
foundation within us so we can stand firmly in faith while on the earth;
so we know and believe the Word God has sent for us:

“You are Mine! do not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything the Lord your God has forbidden. For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God. ”

Isa. 51:16 NLT, Deut. 4:23-24



God’s Word helps us to think differently as we gain a heavenly perspective. There are only two choices to be made in the way we think and behave. For instance, from an earth-bound perspective a word such as jealous suggests a meaning apart from the way the Thesaurus explicitly describes: controlling, demanding, covetous, suspicious, mistrustful, grudging, greedy, malicious, spiteful...all these attitudes and behaviors that find life in a human heart.

This definition for jealous is provided by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary:

1. Hostile to a rival or one believed to have an advantage

God is He Who gives salvation, and rescues His servants from the hurtful sword of evil. He rescues and delivers us out of the power of hostile people whose mouths speak deceit and who raise their right hands in taking fraudulent oaths (Ps. 144:10-11 AMP).

2. Intolerant of rivalry or unfaithfulness

Those who have bitter jealousy (envy) and contention (rivalry, selfish ambition) in their hearts, should not pride themselves on it and thus be in defiance of and false to the Truth. This superficial wisdom is not such as comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual even demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and contention (rivalry and selfish ambition) there will also be confusion (unrest, disharmony, rebellion) and all sorts of evil and vile practices (James 3:14-16).

God is not a God of confusion, but of peace (1 Cor. 14:33). Godly wisdom is first of all pure (undefiled by deception); then it is peace-loving, courteous (considerate, gentle). It is willing to yield to reason, full of compassion and good fruits; it is wholehearted and straightforward, impartial and unfeigned (free from doubts, wavering and insincerity). The harvest of righteousness (of conformity to God's will in thought and deed) is sown in peace by those who work for and make peace (James 3:17-18 AMP).

3. Disposed to suspect rivalry and unfaithfulness

There is no suspecting about the unfaithfulness of people, for the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the Lord (Hos. 1:2).

Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things (Phil. 3:18-29).

Those who do what is sinful are of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin (1 John 3:8-9). For everything in the world – the cravings of the flesh, the lust of eyes and the boastings of pride about possessions and self-accomplishment – come not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires shall pass away, but those who do the will of God shall live forever (1 John 2:16-17).

4. Vigilant in guarding a possession

God has given us His Word to help us be well-balanced, vigilant and cautious at all times, for that enemy of ours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring, seeking someone to seize upon and devour (1 Peter 5:8 AMP).

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God's Word will help us to keep and guard our heart with all vigilance, above all that we guard for out of it flows the spring of Life. So put away from you false and dishonest speech; willful and contrary talk and behaviors put far from you. Let your eyes look right on with fixed purpose, and let your gaze be straight before you (Prov. 4:23-25 AMP).

Let those who fear the Lord remember what He's said:

"They will be Mine, in the day when I make up My treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not."

Mal. 3:17-18

So consider well the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established and ordered aright. Turn not aside to the right hand or to the left; remove your foot from evil (Prov. 4:26-27 AMP). For the Lord is near, so don't be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:5-7).



Human beings are numbered among the animal kingdom that resides upon the earth. However, we have distinction, for we've been made in the image of God. We've been given time and opportunity to determine how majestic the Lord's name in all the earth! He has set His glory above the heavens.

When His heavens are considered, the work of His fingers, the moon and the stars, which He has set in place, what are humans that He is mindful of us, that He would care for us? He has made us a little lower than the heavenly beings, and yet crowns us with glory and honor.

He has made us rulers over the works of His hands; He has put everything under our feet; all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth (Ps. 8:1-9)!



God shared His Word on tablets so the Law would reveal how sin defiles our lives, our homes, our schools, our judicial system, our world...But God:

“This is the covenant I will make with you. I will put My law in your mind and write it on your heart. I will be your God, and you will be My treasured possession. No longer will someone teach their neighbor saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ because My people will know Me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness, and will remember their sins no more.”

Jer. 31:33-34



I pray that God will open minds to see His Truth (Eph. 1:18 ERV) so gratitude could make hearts joyful. For God adheres to His promise rigorously and jealously. And, by having the eyes of your heart flooded with Light, you can know and understand the hope to which God has called you, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints, His set-apart ones (Eph. 1:18 AMP).

The promise God gave Abraham – that he and his children would possess the earth – was not given because of something Abraham did or would do. God’s promise was based on His decision to put everything together for Abraham, which He then entered when he believed.

If those who get what God gives them only by doing everything they are told to do and filling out all the right forms properly signed, that eliminates personal faith and trust completely, and turns the promise into an ironclad contract! That’s not a holy promise; that’s a business deal.

A contract drawn up by a lawyer with plenty of fine print only makes sure that you will never be able to collect. But, if there is no contract in the first place, simply a promise – and God’s promise at that – you can’t break it. This is why the fulfillment of God’s promise depends entirely on trusting God and His way, and then simply embracing Him and what He does.

God’s promise arrives as pure gift. That’s the only way everyone can be sure to get in on it, those who keep the religious traditions and those who have never heard of them. For Abraham is father of us all. He’s

not our racial father – that’s reading the story backwards. He is our faith father.

We call Abraham “father” not because he got God’s attention by living like a saint, but because God made something out of Abraham when he was a “nobody.” God said to Abraham:

“I set you up as father of many peoples.”

Abraham was first named “father,” and then became a father because he dared to trust God to do what only God could do: Raise the dead to life, with a word make something out of nothing (Rom. 4:13-17 Message).



God’s promise comes by faith, for it is by God’s grace that we are saved, and not from ourselves. Eternal life is the gift of God – it cannot be acquired by works; therefore, no one can boast (Eph. 2:8-9).

Those with faith and trust in God are considered to be Abraham’s children, for like Isaac we too are children of promise (Rom. 9:8 NLT);

who believe God confirmed His promise with an oath to make the unchanging nature of His purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised (Heb. 6:17).

Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim Light and Life to His own people and to the Gentiles (Acts 26:23). Yes, God gives Life to the dead, and calls things that are not as though they were (Rom. 4:17). God confirmed His promise with an oath so it would be clearly understood His purposes never change (Heb. 6:17 ERV).

So be greatly encouraged and fight the good fight of the faith. Rigorously and jealously take hold of the eternal life for which you were called (1 Tim. 6:12), for this hope God has offered to us is as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. Never let it go!

This hope is an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God where Jesus, running on ahead of us, has taken up His permanent post as High Priest for us, in the order of Melchizedek (Heb. 6:19-20 Message).



Always remember, we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Eph. 2:10). So while we are here on earth we continue 'Faithing it 'til we make' to the home our Father and His Son are preparing for us in heaven.

My prayer, my hope is for a different perspective of God's Word to be received so no matter the circumstances new depths of Love would be reached. But, for those who have no faith I pray for willingness 'To fake it 'til you make' this discovery - God so loves you _____, that He gave His one and only Son, and that cross seen off in the distance is being offered to you personally as a reminder of the Lord's unfailing love for you.

Yes, that cross symbolizes the heartfelt love and commitment the Lord has for you right now, you don't have to earn His love and affection. I pray you choose to receive the personal significance and meaning and intent of the cross of Jesus, for then you shall not perish or be abandoned or forsaken or be shamed by this decision to receive heaven's Love and Life and eternal Allegiance, which comes to us only through Christ Jesus.

God doesn't send His Word of Truth to condemn you; instead, so He can save you through what Jesus has done and accomplished in the world (John 3:16-17).



However, when words fail music speaks;

WE ALL NEED JESUS

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRX-r51_1TA

We're so quick to point a finger
We judge things from our point of view
The things that we say, the trouble it makes
It hurts you and it hurts me too
This is such a fallen world we live in
It's really not the way it's supposed to be
What if we could see each other different?
It'd probably change everything
We're all broken people, don't we all need Jesus?
Every moment of our lives, 24, 3-6-5
Our human is equal, don't we all have our weakness?

Everybody makes mistakes, everybody needs that grace

We all need Jesus

Everybody needs a Savior

Even the ones who think they don't

We've got stuff we hide, deep down inside

There's so much that we don't show

Yeah, it's just a wounded world we live in

It's really not the way it's supposed to be

Isn't that the beauty of redemption?

It changes everything

We're all broken people, don't we all need Jesus?

Every moment of our lives, 24, 3-6-5

Our human is equal, don't we all have our weakness?

Everybody makes mistakes

Everybody needs that grace

We all need Jesus

From the beggar to the rich man

From the prisoner to the preacher

All I know is we, all need Jesus

All I know is we, all need Jesus

Every man and every woman
Every city, every nation
All I know is we, all need Jesus
All I know is that
We're all broken people, don't we all need Jesus?
Every moment of our lives, 24, 3-6-5
Our human is equal, don't we all have our weakness?
Everybody makes mistakes
Everybody needs that grace
We all need Jesus
Everybody in the world need Jesus

Song by Danny Gokey and Karyn Hawthorne



I pray for each of us to acquire a new and different perspective so a deeper more intimate relationship with Holy Spirit would develop, for through Him God's Word can do and accomplish so very much in our heart, in our lives. Holy Spirit generously sows Truth and Life within

us so blessings will not only come to us, but we also reap generously and with blessings (2 Cor. 9:6) that reach far beyond mere expectation.

So take time and every opportunity to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give to God and others and even yourself.

This will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in giving whatever that may be – kindness, an ear to listen, some form of assistance....This is what God's Word says about giving of ourselves;

“Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.”

“Then your salvation will come like the dawn, and your wounds will quickly heal. Your godliness will lead you forward, and the glory of the Lord will protect you from behind. When you call, the Lord will answer, ‘Yes, I am here.’”

Isa. 58:6-9 NLT

God pours His blessings on us in astonishing ways so that we're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done (2 Cor. 9:7-8 Message).



BLESSINGS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQan9L3yXjc>

We pray for blessings

We pray for peace

Comfort for family, protection while we sleep

We pray for healing, for prosperity

We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering

And all the while, You hear each spoken need

Yet love is way too much to give us lesser things

'Cause what if your blessings come through raindrops?

What if Your healing comes through tears?

What if a thousand sleepless nights

Are what it takes to know You're near?

And what if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise?

We pray for wisdom

Your voice to hear

And we cry in anger when we cannot feel You near

We doubt Your goodness, we doubt Your love

As if every promise from Your Word is not enough

And all the while, You hear each desperate plea

And long that we'd have faith to believe

'Cause what if your blessings come through raindrops?

What if Your healing comes through tears?

And what if the thousand sleepless nights

Are what it takes to know You're near?

What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise?

When friends betray us

And when darkness seems to win

We know that pain reminds this heart

That this is not, this is not our home

It's not our home

'Cause what if your blessings come through raindrops?

What if Your healing comes through tears?

And what if the thousand sleepless nights

Are what it takes to know You're near?

What if my greatest disappointments
Or the aching of this life
Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy
And what if trials of this life
The rain, the storms, the hardest nights
Are Your mercies in disguise?

Song by Laura Story



Since we were born into this temporal world first, the enemy has had a huge amount of time and opportunity to wash our brain with the polluted waters of negativity. As a result the plaque of bitterness, envy and selfish ambition restricts our thinking and our vision so perception would remain at a mind's-eye level.

At this level our thoughts and vision are being constricted by the heart's selfish and self-centered desires. As a result, defiance and doubt and denial of God and His Word and the Spirit of Truth commonly occur. Why? Earthly wisdom is 'unspiritual' because it teaches us to focus on the demands of our physical needs and desires. The

consequence for that choice made so long ago, sin sentenced each of us to face death. However, those who just naturally continue living a lifestyle controlled by sin will face the penalty of sin – Death facing them a second time – condemned for all eternity.

Death is God's last enemy (1 Cor. 15:26), which means those who have not received an inheritance from God, will discover an eternal dwelling place where Love and Mercy and Compassion are never again to be experienced.



I'm sure there are people whose heart claims to possess faith in the Lord because it seems advantageous for them to do so, but again God knows each heart. When there is envy and selfish ambition, there too you will find disorder and every evil practice (James 3:16).

How is it possible for righteousness and wickedness to have anything in common (2 Cor. 6:14)? Matters of the heart are meant for God alone to judge. We are to discern what spirit is afflicting a person so we can pray with and for them.

So many times we try, with the best of intentions, to fix someone else's problem not remembering who really is, God. I say this for one reason, only God knows every detail from every different perspective that's involved.



Look, I'm a nurse and I've had people ask for my diagnosis regarding physical ailments. There are multiple reasons for symptoms to occur. Many times we hear what we want to hear, and a false sense of security may result. A physician is essential if denial and doubt, even fear are to be confronted and eclipsed.

Well, the same is true in regard to spiritual ailments. So again I point people to the great Physician because He is our Source for permanent healing and deliverance of doubt, confusion, denial and defiance.

Because the reasons lingering behind a false sense of security most definitely need to be confronted and eclipsed.

God sent His Word so the first thing would be accomplished, the Lord bestowing upon us a glorious inheritance; however, God wants us to be able to unpack every blessing from our inheritance. To make this possible, the second thing God does is send us Holy Spirit, to be our

Guide and Teacher for we need His insight and revelation so we can learn how and what and why the need to receive from God's Word.



The Lord continues to tell His disciples:

“The Counselor, Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things, and will remind you of everything I have said.”

John 14:26

God sent His Word with very personal intentions for the salvation of our soul, but He also intends His Word to be pervasive. Confusion and deception and disbelief, in fact any dark force that wields the sword of Death, presents no problem for the Lord. It is our weak and prideful heart that's the problem.

Here is what Jesus said to the people who had accused Him of having an evil spirit inside Himself:

“Satan will not force his own demons (fallen angels) out of people. A kingdom that fights against itself will not survive.

And a family that is divided will not survive. If Satan is against himself, and is fighting against his own people, he will not survive. That would be the end of Satan.”

“Whoever wants to enter a strong man’s house and steal his things must first tie him up, than they can steal the things from His house.”

“I want you to know that people can be forgiven for all the sinful things they do. They can even be forgiven for the bad things they say against God. But, they will always be guilty of one sin, speaking against Holy Spirit, this will never be forgiven.”

Mark 3:23-30 ERV



God’s Word matter-of-factly states:

“In this world you will have trouble, and what accompanies it (complication, disorder, fever, disease, weakness, danger, liability, threat...). But take heart, I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

God sends His Word to pervade the chambers of our heart to bring Light and Life and Truth, so the most important choice can be made - follow the Way, Christ Jesus. From God's Word we receive everything that's essential to overcome the negativity our heart possesses.

Because of the empowerment of Holy Spirit we can recognize, identify and determine God's Word of Truth:

"It is not by force, nor by strength, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies."

Zech. 4:6



Since trouble is found not only dwelling in our world but also in our heart, it continues to work to divide even when we have faith in the Lord. There's that caricature depicting a person with an angel on one shoulder whispering in one ear, while the devil is on the other shoulder speaking loudly so attention would be given to the heart's desires. The Lord said to His prophet Elijah:

“Go out and stand before Me on the mountain. As Elijah stood there the Lord passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain with such a terrible blast rocks were torn loose, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake, there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. After the fire, there was the sound of a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his scarf and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And the voice said, “Why are you here, Elijah.”

1 Kings 19:11-12 TLB



Why are you here _____? What have you learned of God’s Word of Truth? Jude 19 tells us there are ungodly people who view life from a mind’s eye perspective, who are following mere natural instincts and impulses. They do not have God’s Holy Spirit (Jude 19) so their talk and their ways cause trouble since they are walking in the futility of their mind. Their understanding has been darkened by the ignorance that binds their heart causing them to be alienated from the Life of God (Eph. 4:17-19 NKJV).

Sadly, their moral understanding is darkened and their reasoning is beclouded. Alienated, self-banished with no share in the Life inherited from God. Their need of knowledge and perception, their willful blindness so deep-seated in them; as a result, they suffer spiritual apathy. Their heart has become calloused, past feeling and reckless. They have abandoned themselves (as prey) to unbridled sensuality, eager and greedy to indulge in every form of impurity (Eph. 4:18-20 AMP).

But we do not so learn Christ!



If indeed you have heard Him and have been or are being taught by Him: ALL Truth is in Jesus (Eph. 4:21 NKJV). Anyone who repents and turns to the Lord with heartfelt contrition (contrite, remorseful, repentant), God receives them and places them among His most treasured possessions.

Though God's Word pervades a heart, if we don't give Holy Spirit our heartfelt attention all the possessions that it treasures can prevent God

- Father, Son and Holy Spirit - from becoming our most treasured possessions.

Why? Many times God is blamed for the trouble we experience, or for the horrendous acts occurring on our planet. Truth be told, we don't have to look for trouble, trouble is going to find us for that is the devil's heartfelt intention. The miraculous occurs all around us because Good will always be resurrected from what appears desolate, destroyed or even dead. Spring gives evidence as the rebirth of life occurs all around us.

As God's Word enters our heart through faith in Jesus, the intent of our heavenly Father is for us to personally experience the realm of the miraculous through our relationship with Holy Spirit. For it is Holy Spirit Who prompts us to consider those things that just don't seem to come so naturally; for instance, looking for the Lord in everyone and everything, for surely He will be found.

Holy Spirit helps us grow and mature as sons of God who cling to Gratitude, giving our heavenly Father thanks in each and every circumstance we encounter. For maturity helps us to realize, though not too much of what we're going through makes it apparent, Good

will surely rise so we can see the Lord is always there. Trouble isn't strong enough to push Him out of the way. Only our very own heart has the power to do that.



And since, our personality deficits and traits and tendencies have become for us normal and natural residing in a very ordinary and easily recognizable place – ourselves. How can we view God and His Word and Holy Spirit from a different level other than a mind's eye, when what we know and think and feel holds such a strong sense of familiarity?

Even when we come to depend on the Lord, if we are not also depending on Holy Spirit to empower us as we co-labor with Him to better understand God and His Word, those issues that have caused our heart to harden and become calloused, cracked and sore - unhappiness, disappointment, rejection, betrayal, depression, fear, unforgiveness, bitterness....won't decisively be dealt with.

Why? We have become accustomed to the language we've spoken for so many years. Language compiled with words of human wisdom. So

it's just natural for more importance to be placed on managing and coping with daily life while the most essential, our spiritual welfare, is downgraded to a place of no concern, no regard, no interest....

God sent His Word for us to receive and to turn to for the strength and support of His love and forgiveness. God's Word which we speak was given to us by His Spirit to explain spiritual truths (1 Cor. 2:13).

Now we can credit ourselves for studying and learning and memorizing God's Word, but we cannot do what only God's Holy Spirit can - empower us to overcome, to defeat, to rise above whatever may be troubling our heart by the same resurrection power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God's right hand in heaven (Eph. 1:19 TLB).



Are you kidding me! No! Though God's Word says when we come to Him through Jesus the old is gone, and the new has come (2 Cor. 5:17), but we keep resurrecting that old self with all its bad habits and behavior, over and over again.

Our heart, our will, our thoughts and opinions may no longer have the ability to condemn us to eternal doom, but they surely reserve the power to drive us into trouble whenever we give ourselves over to the control of stinking thinking and emotional disturbances.

I'll offer this explanation, I read and heard this verse many, many times over the years, "I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents," Luke 15:10. Now this sounds great, and can be pretty persuasive, when it's heard there's a celebration in heaven when someone returns to God through His Word, Christ Jesus. And this truly is a life-changing decision.

However, though we join the angels as we point to Jesus and God's Word to evangelize, the celebration will be slightly skewed at that mind's eye perspective. I'm not saying that we shouldn't feel good about leading someone to the Lord, I'm suggesting we give thought to include Holy Spirit in whatever we're doing.

I'm using evangelizing to make this point. EE, Evangelism Explosion, uses our hand as a tool because it's always with us. Each finger represents five points in the Gospel:

THUMB – Heaven is a free gift

INDEX FINGER – Sin is the problem we cannot fix

MIDDLE FINGER – God loves us and hates sin

RING FINGER – A life-long relationship with Jesus

LITTLE FINGER – Faith is how we receive God’s free gift-

Eternal Life

Granted, this is a very simple way that will help us point someone to the Lord. But, just as we did before turning to the Lord, giving preference to our will and ways while ignoring our spiritual welfare, this EE model points to God and Jesus but doesn’t teach the essential need for Holy Spirit, Who reveals the will and ways of God, through His Word. Of course, there is direction given to attend a Bible teaching Church.



Father, Son and Holy Spirit work in harmony together with one purpose – Redemption. Back in the 60’s there was a redemption program “S&H Green Stamps.” When purchases were made not only would a receipt be given, but also a certain number of green stamps. The consumer filled their S&H booklet with these stamps until they

accumulated the amount needed to redeem the item of interest from the S&H Catalogue.

Well, God is filling His redemption book. Jesus knows how big it is, and how many souls have received the seal of Holy Spirit, for God sent His Son to save the world (John 3:16). God has filled the pages of our book with our life story. He is aware of every detail; indeed, the very hairs of our head are all numbered (Luke 12:7).



Though money was spent, those S&H products were freely given in exchange for those green stamps. And though we invest our time and finances in many different ways, life offers unlimited opportunity to make the most unbelievable exchange so we may share in God's holiness (Heb. 12:10).

Sadly, when that decision was made to buy into deception this exchange was made:

- The Way of Holiness for disgrace, dishonor and shame
- The Truth for deceit, dishonesty and dread
- The Life for doom, destruction and death

When the glory of God was exchanged what mankind received was all that is bad: immoral, unethical, vile, unlawful, contemptible, cruel, atrocious, obscene, cruel, corrupt, condemned, depraved...But God, He never stopped offering all that is Good: faith and hope and love, encouragement, peace and comfort; kindness, gentleness and joy...

When the Truth is shared we were sold for nothing (Isa. 52:3a). How much worse can it be? The same egregious exchange continues to be made - buying into deception - by people who claim to be wise. They ignore, reject or deny the glory of God and His Word to worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator, Who is blessed forever (Rom. 1:22 RSV).



Hopefully, before the sands of time run out they will come to understand what sin purchases for them without money - an eternal death to all that is Good. Truth and Understanding are what Holy Spirit shares:

“Because of your sins you were sold. You will be redeemed without money. Blood was poured out to purchase back your souls.”

“Jesus of Nazareth was a Man accredited by God by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among the people through Him, and this was well known. This Man was handed over by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge so wicked men could put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross.”

“But God, He raised the Son of Man from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death, where Good does not dwell, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on the Son of God.”

Isa, 50:1, Isa. 52:3b, Luke 22:20 TLB, Acts 2:22-24

Now God makes this offer to all of mankind:

“Your life has been redeemed. Death can be exchanged for an eternity with all that is Good when faith is invested in the Way and the Truth and the Life – Christ Jesus, Who for the wrong done to you took up your case.”



God's Word challenges us to consider our life now spent in time, and life that could be spent in eternity when faith is invested in Christ:

“What good will it be for a person if they gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? What can be given in exchange for their soul? The Son of Man is going to come in His Father's glory with His angels, and then He will reward each person according to what they have done.”

“So don't be afraid of those who oppose your faith. If you will obey My voice in truth and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own peculiar possession and treasure from among and above all peoples; for all the earth is Mine.”

“Because you are precious in My sight and honored, and because I love you, I will give men in return for you and peoples in exchange for your life. My people saw what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore them on eagles' wings and brought them to Myself.”

“So don’t be afraid, the Lord your God will fight for you. You shall be to Him a kingdom of priests, a holy nation, consecrated and set apart for the worship of God.”

“Do not fear! Leave them alone! Let them go! If their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. No one can stop My purpose. They will only find themselves fighting against Almighty God.

Matt. 16:26-27, Deut. 3:22-23 AMP, Isa. 43:4-5, Acts 5:38-39



God’s purpose was for Christ to do exactly what He accomplished - redeem the souls of mankind. However, only those who have received God’s seal of Holy Spirit, whose presence in our heart is as the security deposit and guarantee (2 Cor. 1:22 AMP) that God really will give us all He has promised. When the seal of Holy Spirit is set upon us this means God has already purchased us, and that He guarantees to bring us to Himself (Eph. 1:14 TLB).

So now anyone who offers God their faith in Christ Jesus, they are not judged guilty. That is because in Christ the Law of the Spirit that brings Life made us free. It made us free from the Law that brings sin and

death. The Law was without power because it was made weak by our sinful selves.

But God, He did what the Law could not do: He sent His own Son to earth with the same human life that everyone else uses for sin. God sent Jesus to be an offering to pay for the penalty of sin - Death. God used a human life to destroy sin. He did this so that we could be right just as the Law said we must be. Now we don't live following our sinful selves. We live following the Spirit (Rom. 8:1-4 ERV).



Holy Spirit is the assurance that our names are written in God's S&H book, Salvation and Honor, to be given those who believe Jesus faced Death so life with all that is Good could be enjoyed forever.

How many people are filling the pages of their books with stories of their intentions for good? How many times did our good intentions turn out not to be so good? With or without Jesus in the story of our life, those pages will keep turning with each passing day.

When our book is completed, only then will our work be rewarded. This is the work God asks of us: Believe in the One He has sent (John 6:29 NLT). Are you working out your salvation with Holy Spirit working in you (Phil. 2:12) helping you to clothe yourself with God's Word, Christ Jesus, or are you allowing stinking thinking to fuel unhealthy desires (Rom. 13:11) that destroy the work of God (Rom. 14:20)?



With the reward Judas received for betraying Jesus, he bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language "Akeldama," that is, Field of Blood. It is written in the book of Psalms, "May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it," and "May another take his place of leadership."

No one but our own heart can prevent our books from be stamped

"REDEEMED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS"



God-of-the-Angel-Armies will step in, and take care of His flock. He has saved us and He'll put muscle in us with training for strength and endurance. He knows our pain and will make us good as new. We'll get a fresh start, as if nothing had ever happened. And why? Because the God-of-the-Angel-Armies is our very own God, and He'll do what needs to be done for us.

He'll revive our spirits, and make us proud to be on His side. God will use us in His work of re-building, using us as foundations and pillars, as tools and instruments to oversee His work. We'll be a workforce to be proud of, working as one, our heads held high, striding through swamps and mud, courageous and vigorous because God is with us, undeterred by the world's evil thugs (Zech. 10:3-6 Message).

When God's Word of Truth enters our heart not only will amazing realizations be common occurrences, but so too will the miraculous. How awe-inspiring to know through the Word of God a heart can receive assurance and confidence and the strength of faith, which God bestows so Holy Spirit can accomplish the miraculous from the get go by drawing an, oh so proud and stubbornly independent soul to Himself, so Love and Truth and Grace can make their presence not only known but surely felt.



How amazing to understand, without Holy Spirit people can't accept the things that come from God, for they are perceived as foolishness to them; they just can't comprehend the things of God, because they are spiritually discerned (1 Cor. 2:14).

How amazing God gives us ample time and opportunity to consider when Holy Spirit dwells within our heart, we've gained entrance into the Kingdom of God. A spiritual realm where God's judgments are made known, His point-of-view not only better understood, but the truly astounding continues to occur for what Holy Spirit can accomplish in us and for us, even when little time is spent with God's Word.

Truth may make us feel somewhat uncomfortable, and circumstance may cause us to wonder, but if we resist the urge to move away there is so very much astonishment and admiration and reverence to be experienced for the God and Father of Christ Jesus.



Holy Spirit will always work to bring glory to God through His Word by helping us to see and feel Truth changing our perspectives:

God, the Lord, created the heavens; He stretched them out.
He created the earth and everything in it. He gives breath to
Everyone; He gives life to everyone who walks the earth. It is
He Who says:

“I have called you to demonstrate My righteousness,
I will take you by the hand and guard you.”

The Father has given His Word to His people as a symbol of
His covenant with them. The Lord will be a Light to guide the
Nations. God’s Word of Truth will open the eyes of the blind.
God’s Word of Life will free the captives from prison
releasing Those who sit in dark dungeons.

“I am the Lord, that is My name!
I will not give My glory to anyone else
Nor share My praise with carved idols
Everything I prophesied has come true
And now I will prophesy again

I will tell you the future before it happens”

“So join in the chorus! Rejoice!

Let My people sing for joy!

Let them shout praises from the mountaintops!”

Let the whole world glorify the Lord, let it sing His praise.

The Lord will march forth like a mighty Hero; He will come out like a Warrior, full of fury. He will shout His battle cry, and crush all His enemies. He will say:

“I have long been silent!

Yes, I have restrained Myself

But now, like a woman in labor

I will cry and groan and pant

I will level the mountains and hills

I will turn rivers into dry land

I will lead blind people down a new path

Guiding them along an unfamiliar way”

“I will brighten the darkness before them

And smooth out the road ahead of them

Yes, I will indeed do these things
I will not forsake them!
But for those who trust in idols
Who say, 'They are our gods,'
They will be turned away in shame"

Isa. 42:5-17 NLT



There are many things that work to turn us away from the Lord – shame and guilt, doubt and disbelief, unforgiveness and anger – all of these and so many more dangerous weapons we've acquired from the hands of wrong doing. The sad realization, though we look to the source of all the world's evil, the real reason for its manifestations in our lives and on the earth human feet are following the prodding of a sinful heart.

We each have thoughts and beliefs that set our feet moving in wrong directions. Like the Apostle Paul, a Pharisee who was determined to kill all Christians. That is until he was knocked off his high horse.

In Philippians Paul wrote: The real believers are the ones the Spirit of God leads to work away at this ministry, filling the air with Christ's

praise as we do it (Phil. 3:3a Message). Rejoicing in the Lord for it is a safeguard for us (Phil. 3:1). In 2 Corinthians he wrote: Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity (2 Cor. 8:2).



There are so many awesome things to discover, as Paul did: We couldn't carry this off – working away at this ministry – by our own efforts, and we know it (Phil. 3:3b Message). Don't allow any impressive credentials you've acquired prevent you from filling the air with praise and thanksgiving for Christ even in the most extreme circumstances.

Nehemiah wrote: the joy of the Lord is your strength (Neh. 8:10). Though Hannah struggled with all the emotion and upset of being childless, she discovered when she sought the Lord her heart overflowed with praise for His goodness, for His unfailing love: My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my strength is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in the Lord's deliverance (1 Sam. 2:1).

In the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, which means heard of God, saying, "Because I asked the Lord for him," 1 Sam. 1:20).

There are so many unpleasant things we experience in this world that prevents joy from being felt. But, we can be just as determined not to allow any disturbing experience to prevent our joy in the Lord from being expressed. Gratitude is essential, and this quote encourages us to remember:

"It is not joy that makes us grateful;
It is gratitude that makes us joyful."



So I share knowledge of God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - so we can become aware and understand and receive Truth. The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. Who can understand it (Jer. 17:9 KJV).

When a heart is charting our life-courses, we will continue formulating our own plans; we will each follow the stubbornness of our evil heart (Jer. 18:12). When we do this, our heart is being used as the vehicle that

drives us far away from God, for He will have nothing to do with evil (Ps. 101:4). Why? Evil is always plotting, always working to stir up dissension (conflict, discord, division). Why? So the absolute worst would occur: For disaster to overtake so many in an instant; they will suddenly be destroyed – without remedy (Prov. 6:14-15).

So I share God's Word so the six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to Him would be known:

1. Haughty eyes
2. A lying tongue
3. Hands that shed innocent blood
4. A heart that devises wicked schemes
5. Feet that are quick to rush into evil
6. A false witness who pours out lies
7. A person who stirs up dissension among brothers

Prov. 6:16-19



God sends His Word to shine light on Truth, on the Life Holy Spirit will always point us to, Christ Jesus. God sends His Spirit to bring revelation of Love, for God is love (1 John 4:8), and He extends to everyone this invitation - "COME, IN-TO-ME-SEE."

I have heard much trash talk spoken about God, but I've always offered this suggestion: Take a half hour of your time and read the first six chapters of Genesis. You will discover that much has not changed in regard to the behavior of human beings since evil gained entrance in our soul.

The first to make an appearance was fear, and fear is accepted because it has to do with thoughts of punishment (1 John 4:18). Then shame and guilt will always be working to make us think and feel poorly about ourselves and others, until anger rises, and a stand is taken to blame and accuse, pointing fingers in all different directions, futile attempts to reclaim what was lost - integrity and honor.



Surely, there are countless ways and means and reasons for weaving that protective covering of denial to divert (distract, avert, move) punishment and consequence as far away as possible. This is when and where and how the process of Codependency began.

The one and only person we have the power to change – ourselves, and that’s where power and empowerment will be found within the process of change. But this is not the only reason for my pointing to the first six chapters of Genesis. God knew a relationship would have to be developed so a heart yearning to feel the caress of all that is Good, could come to understand how integral its need for Love and Truth and Forgiveness, which is made known through Intimacy.

God doesn’t want that hook that’s baited with the sparkle of fool’s gold to be swallowed, for the glory of pride is counterfeit, a horrendously horrible substitute for the glorious splendor of God.



Once again I find myself repeating there is so much to learn about God and His Word and our human condition. God was and has been and will continue to be very intentional in regard to His peculiar creations. So much so He made man and woman in His very own image. He designed a very special relationship for us to share with Him and with each other, one of covenant.

A relationship of covenant (alliance, pact, understanding, guarantee, surety, partnership, promise, agreement, engagement, betrothal, vow) to love (appreciate, treasure, esteem) and cherish (hold on to, value, delight in), to honor (be honest with, compliment, commend) and obey (respect, listen to, heed).

Anyone who has ever been married knows this is definitely not an easy undertaking to join two individuals who are so vastly different in their roles and sexes, thoughts and feelings, opinions and beliefs. While the glue meant to hold such a union together: A three strand cord, which is not easily broken (Eccl. 4:12) Love and Truth and Knowledge, intimate knowledge.



Adam and Eve shared in a relationship with one another as they did with God in the Garden of Eden. However, it wasn't until God drove them out of the garden, that Adam knew Eve as his wife (Gen. 3:24&4:1).

Two souls-tied together, two bodies joined as one, two hearts united in the symmetry (beauty of form arising from balanced proportions).

Sometimes in tune with one another, sometimes not so much; but God, He designed this very special relationship for a man and woman to walk and achieve and overcome together. For two are better than one, they will have a good reward for their labor; if they fall one will lift up their companion (Eccl. 4:9-10 NKJV).

Love and Honesty and Intimate Knowledge work together to produce harmony between two unique and dissimilar souls. Don't, by the way, read too much into the differences here between men and women.

Neither man nor woman can go it alone or claim priority (1 Cor. 11:10-11 Message). It's God's own Truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you're from - if you want God and are ready to do as He says, the door is open (Acts 10:34-35 Message) to enter a relationship of covenant with Him.

And mark that you do this with humility and discipline - not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert noticing differences and quick to mend fences. We were all called to travel on the same road in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly (Eph.4:2-4 Message).

God gave man a helper, and showed them how to tend that beautiful garden in Eden; thankfully, His guidance has never ended. For God gave that couple a new pursuit to tend the soil of their heart.

Yes, we're all Christ's representatives. God's Word persuades us to drop our differences and enter into God's work of making things right between us. We're speaking for Christ Himself now: Become friends with God; He's already a friend with you (2 Cor. 5:20 Message).



So I pray for God to grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in knowledge (Eph. 1:17 AMP) of the amazing grace of the Lord, Christ Jesus, the extravagant love of God, and the intimate friendship of Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14 Message).

Intimate knowledge is meant to be so much more than gaining familiarity. Physical exertion is not required for intimacy uncovers what is held personal and private. Intimacy isn't a carnal activity as the world downgrades it to be. Intimacy allows us to look at ourselves through the eyes of another. Intimacy edges us out of our own zones of

comfort not to belittle or humiliate; instead, to do what is unnatural – constrain and humble a prideful heart with concern for another.



So you see, intimacy isn't just a matter for discussion, it is meant to be more than a fleeting sensation. Intimacy makes an emotional connection a force much stronger than a feeling. God knew our fallen nature would prevent us from understanding all of what is Good since a prideful heart desires what feels good.

When what feels good about being intimate is acted upon, very often a person may think even believe badly about themselves and others and even God because love and honor are what Intimacy requires.

Yes, God established covenant with mankind knowing when Intimate knowledge dwelt within a soul thoughts and feelings, beliefs and motives would just naturally change. When a heart's desire is to be seen through the eyes of another faith and trust work to remove barriers, hope and love will tear down walls so the way to be vulnerable and transparent can be found.



Covenant is meant to take us deeper than the surface level of perception. Covenant is a lifetime exploration unpacking the observations, interests and needs of someone other than self. An invitation: Come, "IN-TO-ME-SEE" my determination and dependability, hear my heart speak of meaning and intent, receive my promise and accept my commitment to experience the ups and downs of loving one another.

The first mention of covenant was in Genesis 6:18 when God established His covenant with Noah. There had to be a willingness on Noah's part to enter into such a relationship. Obviously, Noah had faith and trust and love for God before construction on that ark began. However, because of Intimacy he not only experienced the power of Love, but the powerlessness of Love to sway a calloused heart.

How can words adequately describe the joy of life that trust in God bequeaths, when it is comingled with the ever present melancholy of such unnecessary death? Why do people refuse to listen?

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Many asked, "Why listen to Jesus?" When the heart is not involved, and perception is at that surface level then thoughts like this will arise, "He is demon-possessed and raving mad." But others whose hearts were touched by God's Word said, "These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

Those same Jews that questioned Jesus gathered round Him, saying, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered:

"I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in My Father's name speak for Me, but you do not believe because you are not My sheep. My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me."

"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of My hand. My Father, Who has given them to Me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

John 10:19-30

The Amplified Version of First Corinthians 8:3 tells us, if a person truly loves God with affectionate reverence, prompt obedience and grateful recognition of His blessings, they are known by God recognized as worthy of sharing such intimate knowledge of Love, for they are His treasured possession. And, there is no one He would ever exclude if only they desired His embrace.

The Bible speaks of miraculous triumphs God achieved by sharing intimately with normal average individuals who honored Him and placed their faith and trust in His Word. However, they didn't share an average relationship with God; instead, one of covenant, which begins by taking that very first step.



This is important to remember fear and all it produces (doubt, anxiety, concern, worry, apprehension...) walks together with faith in God. But, what is even more important to believe when we open ourselves up to God, He will be doing what He always does working all things together so Good will not only be seen but experienced.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit will be working to change unhealthy perceptions and opinions, so fear would be transformed into reverence and awe and the wonder of such heartfelt admiration the fear of God bestows. What an amazingly personal experience.

What's even more amazing recognizing what God is doing in us by opening Himself up to us through His Word; while Holy Spirit works to fill us to overflowing with faith and trust, hope and love for the Truth and the Life and the Way to receive all God desires to bestow.



Holy Spirit doesn't want anyone to be deceived. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights, Who doesn't change like shifting shadows. God chose to give mankind birth into glorious Life through His Word of Truth (James 1:16-18).

And though you may have faith as small as a mustard seed, nothing will be impossible for you (Matt. 17:20). Noah's seed was probably bigger than a mustard seed, but how vastly it grew as he experienced

God's will being accomplished through his seed of faith. Jesus explained:

“The kingdom of heaven is like that mustard seed, which a man takes and plants in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches.”

Matt. 13:31-32

So I join Paul and pray for you to receive insight and the boldness to bring others into relationship with God (1 Cor. 14:13 Message) because everything is possible for those who believe (Mark 9:23). So do as Jesus instructs:

“Have faith in God, for did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God.”

Mark, 11:22, John 11:40



Whatever you do, do it FOR GOD AND FORE HIS GLORY is coming!

The glory of the One and Only, Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14). And beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great:

God's Word appeared in a body,
Was vindicated by the Spirit,
Was seen by angels,
Was preached among the nations,
Was believed on in the world,
Was taken up in glory

1 Tim. 3:16

Without faith it is impossible for anyone to be commended as one who is pleasing to God, because those who come to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him (Heb. 11:5-6).



Holy Spirit establishes the intimacy we share with God through His Covenant of Love. Unfortunately, much time and opportunity has been given for evil to be intimately known. With the smallest seed of faith we may not readily be able to share our heart, but we can share with

Him this wee bit of faith, “Father I want to believe or Father I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief,” Mark 9:24).

Jesus prayed with a heart overflowing in faith:

“Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering away.”

Matt. 26:42

But His heart wasn't just filled with faith, but with hope and the greatest of all love (1 Cor. 13:13) so as recorded in Matt. 26:42, the Lord said:

“May Your will be done.”

Jesus gave Himself up and drank the cup of God's wrath for you and for me. His love for God and mankind, was and continues to remain a personal matter of interest to Him. However, Jesus revealed publicly the intimate knowledge He shared with His Father, Who gave Him the authority to lay down His life, and the authority to take it up again.

“I lay My life down for the sheep, no one takes it from Me.”



Jesus laid Himself down on that cross so His great faith in God would incline (point, suggest, lean) souls toward Humility and Repentance. Those things a heart isn't naturally inclined to, but what it desperately needs the heartache and true remorse of godly Sorrow.

Jesus laid His life down so God could build His Church. The Lord gave Himself to make the Church holy, cleansing her by the washing with the Water of the Word. Through the resurrection power of Holy Spirit we have been given authority to lay our life down, and be raised up with Jesus, Who presents to Himself a Church made radiant, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish; instead, holy and blameless (Eph.5:20).

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him. The death He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life He lives He lives to God (Rom. 6:8-10).



The Lord calls you back as if you were a wife deserted, rejected and distressed in spirit (Isa. 54:6). As He did Peter, (John 13:38) Jesus asks,

“Will you really lay down your life for Me?”

If we say yes, we give Holy Spirit time and opportunity to lay a strong foundation of Faith and Hope and Love in the depths of our soul so we rise to exalt our Maker regardless of the circumstance. The Lord Almighty is His name. The Holy One of Israel is our Redeemer, our Husband (Isa. 54:5), Who loves His betrothed, God’s Church, as His own body.

So don’t be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is; be filled with Holy Spirit. So in the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies, and wives must respect and submit to their husband. For this is the hierarchy established by God: the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the Head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior.



Always remember: Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. For peace and harmony begin in our homes, as does revival. And he who loves his wife loves himself. After all no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church (Eph. 5:17-18,21,28-29). Know too much talk leads to sin (Prov. 10:19 NLT). Opinions of course should be exchanged, but trying to change someone else or their opinion certainly can lead to trouble.

Now we are the body of Christ, each and every believer has a part of it (1 Cor. 12:27), and the Lord's love for us is unconditional. We were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, being led along the way together by Holy Spirit to be patient with each other, making allowances for each other's faults because of your love and reverence for Christ, so to be at peace with one another.

We are all parts of one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future. For us there is only one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and we all have the same God and Father (Eph. 4:2-5 TLB), Who rules over all, works through all and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with the Oneness of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



This doesn't mean we should all look and speak and act the same. Out of the generosity of Christ, each of us is given their own special gift. The text for this is, "He climbed the high mountain, He captured the enemy and seized the booty, He handed it all out in gifts to the people." It's true, the One Who climbed up also climbed down, down to the lowest valley of earth. And the One Who climbed down is the One Who climbed back up, up to the highest heaven. He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with His gifts, filled earth with His gifts. Yes, that He might fill all things everywhere with Himself, from the very lowest to the very highest.

He handed out gifts of apostleship, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christians in skilled service to work within Christ's body, the Church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ (Eph. 4:4-13 Message).



So when you pray ask your heavenly Father whose name is hallowed for His kingdom to come, for His will to be done in you and through you on the earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:9-10). For Jesus said:

“I tell you the Truth, anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. They will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask Me for anything in My name, and I will do it.”

John 14:12-13

Anything that will bring glory to the Father, Who asks:

“How long will you harbor wicked thoughts? Come join Me, and we will wash the evil from your heart, and you will be saved, for the only Way to draw near to Me is through Jesus.”

Jer. 4:14, John 14:6

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Holy Spirit will always point to God's Word so to destroy the work of the enemy in our heart. So I've included articles that may be of some interest. For instance, in this article written by Carmen Sakurai, "18 Characteristics of Codependents and 9 Truths to Support Recovery," these common characteristics of dysfunction in families are listed:

- **Unsafe & unsupported.** The non-dysfunctional parent usually becomes the enabler, always standing behind the abusive parent. The children are left to believe they are not worthy of protection.
- **Unpredictable.** Children are constantly on edge due to the emotionally and mentally unstable parent.
- **Manipulative.** Children watch as dysfunctional parents control those around them in order to get the behavior they want and need.
- **Pitting siblings against one another through triangulation.** The dysfunctional parent bad-mouths about one child to another, creating a divide. In an effort to avoid being the loser-child, the children begin to compete with one another for the already limited attention and affection.
- **Emotional and/or physical neglect.** Children are accused of being selfish for expressing their emotions and punished for inconveniencing others.
- **Using shame to control children and keep them in their place.** *"Getting straight A's means nothing because you're such a bad and ugly girl!"*

- **Judgmental and setting unrealistic expectations for children.** Then constantly raising expectations as the child works hard to reach it, making certain they will never be rewarded. This results in shame, low self-esteem, and feelings of inadequacy.
- **Children are blamed for the family's dysfunction.** It's easier to blame others for your problems than to go in deep and fix it once and for all. Blame is often used to provoke shame, self-doubt, and inadequacy, making it easier for dysfunctional parents to maintain control of their children.



I pray you don't lose interest if none of the above seems to apply. Growing to adulthood is not an easy process. Adolescence is a time when power struggles and issues of control often arise. Codependency begins in our homes, and has become a universal problem causing a vast array of harmful behaviors and personality deficits. Whether we struggle with traits or tendencies, codependence can amass. Know that issues with control and anger are primary indicators.

Codependency is primarily a reactionary process – over-reaction to the problems, pain, lives and behaviors of others. It is a process of individualized programming that occurs because of our leaning on, trusting in, depending on and relying on self and others. What they

think and their behavior of course causes some form of concern that can range from overly concerned to a sheer lack of concern.



When we are functioning from a mind's-eye level, attempts are made to control so the situation would be pleasing for ourselves (and as we often do – justify, rationalize..) because I am making it better for them – this is Codependency.

There is much to be shared not only throughout this booklet, but on our website ForGodForeHisGlory.com. I have learned God doesn't need to receive glory He is already glorious; however, doing what gives Him glory is in our very own best interest.

In James 4:7-10 we are told if we humble ourselves before God He will lift us up. So come close to God, and He will come close to you. When you resist the devil and his temptations, he will flee from you. So let God work within you to purify your heart, for your loyalty has been for far too long or in certain instances divided between Him and the world.



The knowledge I share is about God and His Word and human conditions such as codependency, trauma and people-pleasing that cause us to struggle. However, I speak from personal experience to strengthen, establish, comfort, encourage and exhort you in your faith.

My hope and prayer is for you to come to know and trust God so you are not disturbed or confused or lead astray by the afflictions and difficulties that so often occur (1 Thess. 3:2-3), for anger and confusion and upset are very often what we share even though that's not our intention.

I pray your focus would turn to God so you can be a witness, as my husband and I are, to God working good in every mess we set before Him. And, that all God has in mind, especially and specifically for you, would be received.

That you may be able to identify forces of negativity – fear, vanity, unforgiveness, bitterness, resentment...that rob our peace of mind and heart.

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We may be able to identify when negativity was personally experienced. However, we are unable to recognize to what extent its effect when soul-ties are made. Why? Evil works to inflict its ugliness from the time of conception with troubling thinking and emotional upheavals; the purpose and potential of aborted hopes and dreams and lives is astronomical.

Evil robs so much more from us than childhood innocence (naivete', virtue, faith - hope - trust - confidence, morality, even that sense of being loved). Why? To ensure that not only would our behavior be perceived as foolish, but that a new identity would emerge - a fool.

I can only speak for myself, but I never viewed myself as being a fool, that is until Truth was made known:

- Doing wrong is fun for a fool (Prov. 10:23 NLT)
- A fool will die in helpless frustration, overcome by their own anger (Job 5:2 TLB)
- A fool turns from God and may be successful for the moment, but then comes sudden disaster (Job 5:3 TLB)
- A fool's way seems right in their own eyes, but those who heed counsel are wise (Prov. 12:15 NKJV)

- A fool shows their annoyance at once, but a prudent person will overlook an insult (Prov. 12:16)
- A fool spurns discipline
- The mouth of a fool feeds on folly (hocus-pocus, foolishness, nonsense) (Prov. 15:14)
- A fool defies sound judgment
- A fool finds no pleasure in understanding, but delights in airing their own opinions (Prov. 18:1-2)
- A fool's lips are perverse (Prov. 19:1)
- A fool scorns wisdom (Prov. 23:9)
- A fool rages and scoffs there is no peace (Prov. 29:9)
- A fool gives full vent to their anger
- The brutality of a fool is stupefying, and destroys the strongest heart (Eccl. 7:7 Message)
- The words of a fool bring destruction (Eccl. 10:12)



When Truth is found so too is Understanding - foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child (Prov. 22:15a AMP). The question is how much foolishness have we retained? People ruin their lives by their own

foolish folly, so again the question is why does God get so much blame?

God's Word of Truth says it's what comes out of a person that pollutes (making them to be not only unclean, but a fool): obscenities, lusts, thefts, murders, adulteries, greed, depravity, deceptive dealings, mean-spiritedness, slanderous, arrogant, all such foolishness is vomit from the heart. There is the source of the problem (Mark 7:20-23 Message).

Sadly, when Truth was made apparent so much of my behavior was like that fool God's Word describes, which caused me to reconsider. If immaturity sets the stage for foolishness in the different acts that occur throughout life, how many performances have been and are being directed by the folly in a heart?



How much foolishness is carried over from childhood that continues to cause inner turmoil, and incongruity in our words and actions? Childhood is the time when both physical and emotional bonds develop. A time when negativity begins the process of binding a soul within a web, woven by our own thoughts and feelings.

As a result, bad habits, self-destructive behaviors, character deficits, harmful tendencies, impulses and obsessions, self-defensive and protective means and methods all this and so much more are developed.

God applies His Word as His rod of discipline to drive all such folly far from us (Prov. 22:15b AMP). With the help of Holy Spirit we can apply the Truth, and be freed from the likes of fear and bitterness, shame and unforgiveness...

We can lay our burdens down at the cross where Jesus laid God's burden for loving us. That it would be known His outstretched arms invite everyone and anyone come, draw near to God.

Hands that were open, the hiding place of His power, nailed so Goodness could shine on the world like the rising sun (Mal. 4:1a); feet that were nailed so we could follow God's Word, no longer wavering between two opinions (1 Kings 18:21); a heart pierced so we could learn the unforced rhythms of grace (Matt. 11:29 Message).



The King of the Jews, His head was crowned with thorns so we could be crowned with knowledge (Prov. 14:18 TLB). For those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to Righteousness, will forever glitter like the stars (Dan. 12:3).

The Lord, God Almighty, was flogged His back torn to shreds so we would no longer be torn to pieces by our sins (Ps. 41:4 Message).

Sin that forced God to deliver us to the ungodly, to the evil one, and cast us headlong into the hands of the wicked, the host of Satan. Our adversary has torn us in his wrath. He hates and persecutes us; he has gnashed upon us with his teeth; our adversary sharpens his eyes against us.

Like Job we too may have lived at ease, but Satan waits for opportunities to crush us and break us apart. Yes, his desire is to seize us by the neck and dash us in pieces; then set us up for his target. His arrows whiz around us. He stabs us, making breach after breach and attacks again and again; He runs at us like a giant an irresistible warrior.

Even now, behold, our Witness is in heaven, and He Who vouches for us is on high. Oh, that there might be one who would plead for a man with God (Job 16:9-21 AMP). Yes, God is gracious for the Son of Man, Who had no place to lay His head (Matt. 8:20), rested it on that cross to be lifted up (John 12:34) that we could lift our head so the King of Glory may come in. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle (Ps. 24:7-8 AMP).



God's chosen One, stood in the breach before Him to keep His wrath from destroying us (Ps. 106:23). That we would know death has been swallowed up in victory! Where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the Law (1 Cor. 15:54).

The Law that requires doing, but never being fulfilled by the knowledge of the Truth that leads to godliness (Titus 1:1). But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:54-55).

Yes, victory rests with the Lord (Prov. 21:31).

He holds victory in store for the upright, He is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for He guards the course of the just and protects the way of His faithful ones (Prov. 2:7-8). Those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God; who declare by their actions this is love for God: Obeying His commands.



And His commands are not burdensome (1 John 5:3) for He won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on us; instead, when we keep company with God's Word and work with Jesus we'll learn to live freely and lightly (Matt. 11:30 Message).

Therefore beloved, I encourage you to stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you will discover, if you don't already know, your labor in the Lord is not in vain (1 Cor. 15:58); for everyone born of God overcomes the world, and this is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith (1 John 5:4).

A faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, Who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and at His appointed season He brought His Word to light (Titus 1:2-3).



God's Word will set even the skeptic on a spiritual journey so they too can experience Holy Spirit's resurrection power. God speaks about gardening so a spiritual comparison can be made. When a dead seed is planted, soon there will be a flourishing plant.

There is no likeness between that seed and plant. You could never guess what a tomato would look like by looking at a tomato seed. What we plant in the soil, and what grows out of it doesn't look anything alike (1 Cor. 15:35-38 Message).

When we live our lives following the ways of the world and the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the devil is the spirit who works in those who have wandered far from God. We are dead in our transgressions and sins. Everyone has lived to gratify the cravings of our fallen nature following its desires and its ways of thinking (Eph. 2:1-3).

BUT GOD, though we were by nature objects of wrath, because of His great love for mankind, and because He is so very rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions – it is by grace that we are saved (Eph. 2:3-5).



Yes, God so loved the world, He gave His one and only Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish; instead, have an eternally glorious life (John 3:16). The blessings we receive from God are freely given because He loves us, and like any parent wants the very best for us. By His free gift of grace we are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through our faith.

God's gift of eternal life (our salvation) is not of ourselves; it is not a result of our own doing (it comes to us not by our own striving), it is the gift of God (Eph. 2:8 AMP). This bountiful free gift of God is eternal life. A gift He offers to everyone. There are no exceptions. Those who receive God's gift have joined hands with Jesus. Through faith in God and His Word the wages of our sin, which is death, has been paid for us by Jesus, but not just for us for the world (Eph. 2:8 AMP).

God's free gift of salvation comes to us through Jesus.



Know, the Word that saves is right here, as near as the tongue in your mouth, as close as the heart in your chest. It's the Word of Faith, Christ Jesus, whose work on earth set things right for us with God. When these welcoming words are said to God - "Jesus is my Lord and Savior" - we can embrace body and soul God's work of doing for us as He did for Jesus: Raise us from the dead.

That's it. You're not "doing" anything; you're simply calling out to God, trusting Him to do it for you. That's salvation. With your whole being you embrace God setting things right, and then you say it, right out loud: "God has set everything right between Him and me!"

Scripture reassures us: No one who trusts God like this - heart and soul - will ever regret it. It's exactly the same no matter what a person's background may be; the same God for all of us, acting the same incredibly generous way for everyone who calls out for His help. Everyone who calls, "Help God!" gets His help (Rom. 10:8-13 Message).



There are things we should definitely be re-gifting to the ruler of the kingdom of the air. Since childhood we have been coaxed to stay bound to earth by a heart that takes pride in what is seen. As a result, we become unaware of the forces of good and evil that have power to affect our lives.

Hebrews 11:3 tells us it is by faith that we come to understand that the universe was created by the Word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible (ESV). Well the dark forces of negativity step in to lure our heart to trust our own thoughts and feelings and beliefs. In this way though the sun rises every morning the Son will be prevented from rising in a heart.

When we are going in the wrong direction trusting what is seen and not believing time is a temporary gift from God, we develop all kinds of traits and idiosyncrasies by depending on ourselves and others.

Traits that represent:

- One's difficulties in loving, accepting, trusting and being true to Self

- Shame, guilt and feelings of inadequacy are carried and lead into habitually trying to please others, prove worth of self, and seek external validation at great costs, but little reward
- An outward focus – trying to please, help, fix, wrapped up in, and attempt to intervene or control other people and situations
- Happiness and feelings are based on what people are doing, rather than internal feelings and values



As a result of our leaning on, depending on and trusting our own point of view and that of others our heart works in deceptive ways to deny and minimize, rationalize and excuse the things we do. Another name for all of this is Codependency.

Codependency is a group of personality traits or personality characteristics. They are cognitive, emotional and behavioral patterns that effect an individual's ability to have a healthy, mutually satisfying relationship with oneself and with others and with God. They are maladaptive patterns we develop as a result of being abused, lied to, cheated on, neglected, ignored, cursed at, rejected, made to feel

invisible or invalidated all this inner wounding that never seems to heal.

During infancy and throughout childhood and adolescence is when personality is forming. The core personality is formed by the age of 5, and the years that follow are just add-on personality characteristic or traits.

Codependency develops during those important formative years as a way to cope with disappointments, rejections, upsets and trauma of any kind. Many codependents grew up in a family with mental illness, a family of addiction, a family system of dysfunction or other problems.

Other individuals with codependency traits appear on the surface level to have had seemingly normal childhoods, but codependent traits and behavioral patterns were passed down unknowingly by primary caregivers who were themselves codependent.

Other individuals with codependency traits have buried so deeply the wounding or painful emotions of childhood that it is like amnesia and therefore stored in the subconscious.



Codependency is also known as “relationship addiction” because people with codependent characteristics often form and maintain unhealthy relationships. These unhealthy relationships, are often one-sided, emotionally destructive and/or sometimes physically, emotionally, psychologically abusive.

Codependency can be difficult to accept because it has received such a negative stigma by the public. However, many “codependents” feel ashamed, blamed and like they have done something wrong (or that something is wrong with them) and caused all these traits.

So I encourage you to understand two important basic points about codependency. 1.) You are not responsible for what occurred in your childhood. It is not your fault. You are not to blame. 2.) You are an adult now and the most important relationship you will ever have is the one you have with yourself, and God.

I will list some of the characteristics of codependency (although, the list is not exhaustive). Deciding whether you are codependent or not is not

about how many of these traits you have, but more about whether they are causing you distress and interfering with your physical and emotional well-being, peace of mind, and relationship with self and others and with God.

- Hyper-aware of other people's problems and needs in the form of care-taking, controlling, advice giving and over-worrying about them
- Demanding, controlling and perfectionistic. You want things to be done a certain way and may resort to telling others what to do and how to do it
- Hyper-critical of others because they often don't live up to your high expectations
- Your high expectations also make it hard for you to ask for or accept help
- Stressed out or anxious when things don't go exactly and perfectly as planned
- Hyper-focused on predictability, structure and certainty – things you probably didn't have in your childhood family
- Self-critical, unrealistic expectations for yourself. Self-talk is often harsh about your imperfections and mistakes

- Your self-criticism is a result of your low self-esteem and the harsh criticism you've received from others during childhood
- You feel responsible for everything and everyone, even other people's happiness, but deny your own happiness and needs
- "People Pleaser." You're afraid to upset or disappoint others, but this can lead to over-extending yourself and exhaustion
- Dependable and responsible. People can always count on you to be reliable. You feel guilty if you don't follow through even if you are sick in bed
- Boundary issues. You have trouble with speaking up for yourself and saying "No." Sometimes you allow people to mistreat or take advantage of your kindness because you don't want to hurt their feelings, let them down or create a conflict
- Ignore your own feelings and needs, often suppressing them, denying them, avoiding them or numbing them. These occur at the conscious level. They look like self-defeating behaviors
- In addition to denying your feelings and needs, you may have a difficult time seeing how unmanageable or unhappy your life is and has become. This is a form of subconscious defense:
repression

- Your happiness is dependent upon what other people are feeling or doing. For example, if your partner is in a good mood, you can relax a little bit. However, if your partner is angry, you likely feel anxious
- You have a hard time separating yourself from other people's feelings, needs and experiences
- You define your Self (identity) in relation to others, but lack a strong sense of Self (knowing who you are, what you believe, want and like)
- Emotional pain. For some individuals, the pain is close to the surface (manifest) such as shame, and for others the pain is buried in the subconscious (latent) such as, anger and rage
- Guilty and ashamed. Guilt and shame are the roots of low self-worth and low self-esteem
- You probably feel there is something wrong with you. Perhaps someone told you this directly or you may have come to this conclusion based on how you've been treated. Yet, you minimize the problems or sensitivities
- Martyr or saint or savior, taking care of everyone else, giving without receiving, and then feeling angry, resentful and taken advantage of by others

- Passive-Aggressive. Sometimes you feel good (needed and worthwhile) and other times you feel angry and resentful and you complain about “having to do everything,” but you still continue the pattern of “people pleaser”
- Reactive. Anger and resentments build up over time causing you to seemingly explode over trivial matters. Then, you feel shame and guilt and then may overcompensate as “Polly-Anna do good”
- Overwork and over schedule yourself as ways to prove your self-worth and/or distract yourself from low self-esteem or other painful feelings
- Intimacy, open communication and trust are difficult because you didn’t have role models for healthy relationships in childhood. And in adulthood you’ve probably been betrayed in your relationships, but stayed anyway
- Afraid of anger, criticism, rejection and failure. You “play it safe” or “become invisible” with your own needs
- Minimizing problems, minimizing other’s behavior and minimizing one’s own needs
- You probably feel on edge, or episodes of anxiety and/or depression.

- You probably have ongoing or re-occurring or episodic physical problems manifesting from stress

Information taken from the article “Codependency Traits: What, How, When are the Traits Formed?” posted on line by Shawna Freshwater, PhD.

<https://spacioustherapy.com/codependency-traits-what-how-when-formed/#:~:text=The%20Key%20Point%3A%20Codependency%20traits,great%20costs%2C%20but%20little%20reward.>



I pose this question: How long will we allow ourselves to ignore or avoid or neglect what negativity causes us not only to do but to become liars, swindlers, adulterers, murderers... – fools? How much longer will we continue scratching the surface, when God’s Word assures, people are being destroyed from lack of knowledge (Hos. 4:6). How long we allow our heart to keep us bound on earth because our Glory has been exchanged for something disgraceful (Hos. 4:7)?

The Lord is a shield for us, our Glory and the Lifter of our head (Ps. 3:3 AMP). Jesus is the Way for those who are heaven bound. He is the Word, Who introduces us to God as Father for we need to know and experience Love that is unconditional.

Though we claim to love, the self-serving agendas we conceive with our ways of thinking and feeling and the opinions we form bring about the development of unwholesome, unhealthy and toxic attitudes and behaviors that prove themselves to be destructive to our relationships with Self (Identity), with others and with God.

How to explain the miraculous transformation the Spirit of Truth accomplishes within us; when faith and hope and love become for us as strong as death; when it is believed without a doubt the Word of God is the Way to follow; when there is absolute certainty the Spirit (character, temperament, heart, makeup, identity) of Truth is vastly different from the spirit (psyche, soul, heart) within us; when complete trust is placed in the Life described in John 14:6 as Lord, Jesus Christ, God's Word will not only touch our heart, but transform our lives so He can lead us by the hand into God's embrace right here on earth, right now.

That we would know the Word dwells on the pages of God's book; and better understand the Spirit of Truth, Administrator of CPR (Christ's Program of Renewal and Recovery) delivers the breath of Life that professes Jesus is our Savior. The breath of God revives our spirit by heaven's Word, Who never changes - for Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Heb. 13:8).

Yes, Holy Spirit delivers the Breath of Life through God's Word, so we can grow strong in faith, firmly believing the Truth will always reveal new depth of meaning regarding the ways, the will and the words of God at every opportunity He's given; for this purpose, that we would comprehend the meaning of God's Word - Jesus is to be proclaimed - Lord over everything that matters.

As evidenced by the words of Truth recorded in Romans 3:22-27 - It is meant for all who believe, there are no distinctions the righteousness of God comes by believing with personal trust and confident reliance on Jesus Christ (the Messiah). Since everyone has sinned and has fallen short of the honor and glory God bestows.



In the beginning God called the Light Day, and when the final sunset arrives, the darkness of negativity will be no more. For there shall no longer exist anything that is accursed (detestable, foul, offensive, impure, hateful or horrible).

And those who face the Lamb of God will spend eternity in the Glory they receive from God (Rev. 22:3-5). However, God sends warm and comforting rays of Light so that in this present life you can enjoy

wonderful times of refreshment from the presence of the Lord (Acts 3:19).

So it will do you well to pay attention to the words of Truth for they shine light in a dark place until the Light of Day dawns and the Morning Star rises in your heart (2 Pet. 1:19). Jesus is the bright Morning Star (Rev. 22:16) whose light shines to expose everything, and make it visible. So I pray you don't just hear, and continue to hit that snooze button; instead, wake up O sleeper, rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you (Eph. 5:13).

Today God removes the penalty and consequence of sin – fears, anger, upset, bitterness, vindictiveness, denial, unforgiveness... – when His generous Life-giving gift is received.

Death got the upper hand through sin, but it doesn't have to get the upper hand on you. Can you imagine the breathtaking Renewal and Recovery that your life can experience? Sovereign Life, for those who grasp with both hands this wildly extravagant Life-gift, this grand setting-everything right Light of the World, the Word of God, Jesus Christ provides (Rom. 5:17 Message).

So I invite you to take the first step in this spiritual journey of Renewal and Recovery, and admit:

- God exists and I matter to Him
- I am powerless over my compulsive and learned behaviors



Yes, we are powerless to change anyone but ourselves, and at times our issues with control, anger and denial have caused our lives to become unmanageable, when we're being controlled by emotion.

It's important to understand how differently Denial will appear when it's learned denial works to prevent the light of Truth from shining through deception, rejection, repression, suppression, discouragement...It will also be very enlightening and eye-opening when the different patterns of Denial, as identified by Terence Gorski, are known:

1. AVOIDANCE
2. MINIMIZING - problem is less serious
3. RATIONALIZING - finding ways to justify problem
4. BLAMING - refusing to accept responsibility

5. COMPARING – other people have the same problem
6. MANIPULATING – forcing others to act as rescuers to solve your problem
7. SCARING SELF INTO RECOVERY – fear of consequences
8. COMPLIANCE – say anything – leave me alone
9. FLIGHT INTO HEALTH – feeling better means I’m better
10. STRATEGIC HOPELESSNESS –nothing works don’t try
11. DEMOCRATIC DISEASE STATE – right to do as I please – live my life
12. ABSOLUTE DENIAL – refusing to admit



Healing occurs when confronting replaces avoidance

- Avoidance is a hallmark of the anxiety disorders
- It seems natural to avoid pain and suffering; however, without awareness, integration does not occur
- When we avoid we never learn that we can triumph over our fears

- When we avoid we never learn new coping skills, and we remain controlled by the past
- We can learn to confront in a safe and orderly way
- This journey of renewal and recovery means dealing with the entire package of our self-defeating, compulsive behaviors and any other problems that may have emerged
- We don't deal with these behaviors or problems by thinking we're bad for having them
- We address ourselves and this process of our renewal and recovery with a sense of forgiveness, expressing gentleness and kindness toward ourselves
- We begin to understand the behaviors we've used were survival tools -we've been coping - doing the best we could - protecting ourselves
- It has been suggested these behaviors may have saved our lives
- Whether it's a compulsion to care-take, control, work or eat --- compulsive behaviors initially are about stopping the pain - although they are only temporary, and they create more pain that may take on a habitual, and problematic life of their own

- We don't change perfectly or completely – in our renewal and recovery, we still protect ourselves with survival behaviors
- We still give to people, we continue to care about people, but we learn we are responsible for our behaviors, and our behaviors have consequences
- We learn we are accountable to God, to ourselves and to others for the decisions and choices we make
- We learn some behaviors are self-defeating, and have resulted in our making unhealthy and at times harm-filled choices
- Therefore, it is necessary we acquire a deeper understanding of Codependency – leaning on, trusting in and relying on ourselves and others instead of being God-dependent
- Codependency is primarily a reactionary process – overreaction to problems, pain, lives and behaviors of others
- Because we lean on, trust in and depend on others, their behavior will naturally affect us, and we naturally attempt to control that individual's behavior so as to make it pleasing to us (or as we often justify) better for them - this is Codependency – sound familiar

- It is necessary for us to learn how not to react, and to act in healthier ways, which can be accomplished by taking steps in this process of renewal and recovery because they point us toward God Who guides us and comforts us throughout our life's journey
- The heart of the definition of codependency and renewal and recovery lies in ourselves, not in other people, in the different ways we have let another person's behavior affect us and in the ways we try to affect them:
 - The obsessing
 - The controlling
 - The obsessive "Helping"
 - Caretaking
 - Low self-esteem bordering on self-hatred
 - Self-repression
 - Abundance of anger and guilt
 - Peculiar dependency on peculiar people
 - Attraction to and tolerance for the bizarre
 - Other-centeredness that results in abandonment of self
 - Communication problems
 - Intimacy problem

- An ongoing whirlwind trip through the five-stage grief process:
 - Denial
 - Anger
 - Bargaining
 - Depression
 - Acceptance

- There is also a seven-stage grief process which definitely could be applicable:
 - Shock
 - Guilt
 - Denial
 - Depressions
 - Anger
 - Acceptance
 - Bargaining

- We also learn we don't change by ourselves, or by exerting greater amounts of willpower – intertwined with this process of changing our behaviors is a Higher Power, for me Jesus Christ

- The most vital lesson to learn is we change most during those tremendous moments when we run out of willpower

In Jesus Name (God of Possible)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihrUIPfvTh8>

I speak the name of Jesus over you

In your hurting, in your sorrow

I will ask my God to move

I speak the name 'cause it's all that I can do

In desperation, I'll seek Heaven

And pray this for you

I pray for your healing

That circumstances would change

I pray that the fear inside would flee in Jesus name

I pray that a breakthrough would happen today

I pray miracles over your life in Jesus name, in Jesus name

I speak the name of all authority

Declaring blessings, every promise

He is faithful to keep

I speak the name no grave could ever hold

He is greater, He is stronger

He's the God of possible

I pray for your healing

That circumstances would change

I pray that the fear inside would flee in Jesus name

I pray that a breakthrough would happen today

I pray miracles over your life in Jesus name

In Jesus name

Come believe it

Come receive it

Oh, the power of His Spirit is now forever yours

Come believe it

Come receive it

In the mighty name of Jesus, all things are possible

I pray for your healing

That circumstances will change

I pray that the fear inside will flee in Jesus name

I pray that a breakthrough

Would happen today

I pray miracles over your life in Jesus name

I pray for revival

For restoration of faith
I pray that the dead will come alive in Jesus name

In Jesus name

Song by Katy Nichole

