

## IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH GOD

When Kenan had lived 70 years, he became the father of Mahalalel. And after he became the father of Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Kenan lived 910 years, and then he died.

When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he became the father of Jared. And after he became the father of Jared, Mahalalel lived 830 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Mahalalel lived 895 years, and then he died.

When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. And after he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Jared lived 962 years, and then he died.

When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away (Gen 5:12-24).



What's fascinating from the very beginning God has woven how His promise of peace in Jesus can be found. We'll discover this by giving meaning to the names recorded in Gen. 5:12-24 (Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, and Methuselah). God has provided the essential components from the following verses of Philippians Chapter 4:

(Phil. 4:4) tells us to always be full of joy in the Lord; Rejoice! The name Mahalalel means praising God: to be clear, to boast, to be foolish, to celebrate, praise, give in marriage.

Be delighted with the Lord. Then He will give you all your heart's desires. Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust Him to help you do it, and He will. Your innocence will be clear to everyone. He will vindicate you with the blazing light of justice shining down as from the noonday sun. Rest in the Lord; wait patiently for Him to act. Don't be envious of those who prosper (Ps. 37:4-7 TLB).

When people commend themselves, it doesn't count for much. The important thing is for the Lord to commend them. So if you want to boast, boast about Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 10:17-18 NLT). Don't be foolish

with your lives; instead, learn what the Lord wants you to do (Eph. 5:17 ERV). For God's Word says:

"God's children are always with Him, and all that is His is theirs. But it is very fitting **to celebrate** and be glad for brethren who were dead, and are now alive; who were lost and now are found."

Luke 15:31-32 ESV

For God's Word will make them as He makes us as an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; so trust in God's unfailing love. For surely, you too will **praise** Him forever for what the Lord has done; place your hope in His name for His name is so very Good (Ps. 52:8-9). Yes, give praise to the Lord God, Who alone does marvelous deeds. Praise be to His glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory (Ps. 72:18-19).

2 Samuel tells of a times when King David along with the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouts and the sound of trumpets. As the ark of the Lord was entering the City of David, Michal the daughter of Saul watched from a window. And, when she

saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, she despised him in her heart.

They brought the ark of the Lord and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the Lord. After he had finished he blessed the people in the name of the Lord Almighty.

When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, "How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, disrobing in the sight of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!"

David said to Michal, "it was before the Lord, Who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the Lord's people Israel. I will celebrate before the Lord. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by those slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor." And Michal had no children to the day of her death (2 Sam. 6:14-28).

God gives us a marriage gift (Josh. 15:19 Message), so let us rejoice and be glad and give the Lord glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready; blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb! (Rev. 19:7,9).

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let them who hear say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let them come; and whoever wishes, let them take the free gift of the water of life (Rev. 22:17).



(Phil. 4:5) Let all people know and perceive and recognize your unselfishness and your considerateness. The Lord is near (He is coming soon). The name Jared means ruling, commanding, coming down: to descend, to bring down, cause to come down, subdue.

God will give us a Son Who will be responsible for leading the people. His name will be "Wonderful Counselor," "Powerful God," "Father Who Lives Forever," "Prince of Peace." His power will continue to grow, and there will be peace without end. This will establish Him as the King sitting on David's throne and ruling His kingdom. He will rule with goodness and justice forever and ever. The strong love the

Lord All-Powerful has for His people will make this happen (Isa. 9:6-7 ERV)!

The Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a **commanding** shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words

(1 Thess. 4:16-18 NLT).

Yes, Judas led the way to the garden, and the Roman soldiers and police sent by the high priests and Pharisees followed. They arrived there with lanterns and torches and swords. Jesus, knowing by now everything that was **coming down** on Him, went out and met them. He said, "Who are you after?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazarene." He said, "That's Me." The soldiers recoiled lurching backwards, and fell to the ground (John 18:5-6 Message).

They mocked the Lord saying, "He saved others. He is not able to save Himself. He is King of Israel! Let Him **descend** now from the cross,

and we will believe in Him,” Matt. 27:42 BLB). Who causes our lamp to be lit and to shine; the Lord our God illumines our darkness. He will deliver an afflicted and humble people, but will **bring down** those with haughty looks (Ps. 18:27-28 AMP).

Behold! The Lord comes forth out of His place and will **come down** and tread upon the high places of the earth. The mountains shall melt under Him and the valleys shall be cleft like wax before the fire, like waters poured down a steep place. All this because of the transgressions and sins of the people; what transgression? Is it not their idol worship (anything and everything that is given more prominence in our lives instead of God), Mic. 1:3-5 AMP.

Rejoice! For Who is like God, Who forgives and passes over the transgression of His people. He retains not His anger forever, because He delights in mercy and loving-kindness. He will again have compassion on us, He will **subdue** and tread underfoot our iniquities. He will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. He will bless us as He promised Jacob long ago. He will set His love upon us, as He promised our father Abraham from days of old (Micah 7:20 AMP).

“If My people would but listen to Me, if they would follow My ways, how quickly would I subdue their enemies and turn My hand against their foes!”

Ps. 81:13-14



(Phil. 4:6) Don't worry or have any anxiety about anything; instead, in every circumstance and in everything - pray; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank Him for His answers. Enoch who walked in habitual fellowship with God; and he was not, for God took him home with Him (Gen. 5:24 AMP). His name means dedicated, disciplined: to narrow, to initiate or discipline - dedicate, train up.

Jesus prayed:

“Father, I'm not asking You to take them out of the world, but to protect them from the evil one. They are not part of this world any more than I am. Sanctify them by the Truth; Your Word is Truth.”

“Just as You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And so for their sake and on their behalf I sanctify



and **dedicate** Myself, that they also may be sanctified and dedicated and made holy in the Truth.”

“I am not praying for these alone but for the future believers who will come to Me because of the testimony of these. My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind, just as You and I are, Father – that as You are in Me and I am in You, so they will be in Us, and the world will believe You sent Me.”

“Make every effort to enter through **the narrow** gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to Life, and only a few find it.”

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. By this all mankind will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”

“Know that those whom I love I rebuke and **discipline**. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with them, and they with Me. To those who overcome, I will give the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

John 17:15-19 AMP, John 17:20-21 TLB, Matt. 7:13-16, John 13:34,  
Rev. 3:19-22

Paul wrote, Because my personal assignment is focused on the so-called outsiders, I make as much of this as I can when I'm among my Jewish kin, the so-called insiders, hoping they'll realize what they're missing and want to get in on what God is doing. If their falling out **initiated** this worldwide coming together, their renewal and recovery is going to set off something even better: mass homecoming! If the first thing the Jews did, even though it was wrong for them, turned out for your good, just think what's going to happen when they get it right!  
(Rom. 11:13-15 Message)

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted **up**, and the **train** of His robe filled the temple. Above

stood seraphim; each one had six wings; with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts."

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged," Isa. 6:1-6 NKJV.



(Phil. 4:7) If you do this, you will experience God's peace. The name Methuselah means: an adult; to extend, a missile of attack, spear, branch, sword, weapon, to send away. Jesus said:

"I am the Vine; you are the branches. If a person remains in Me and I in them, they will bear much fruit; apart from Me

you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in Me, they are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples."

"And now I want each of you **to extend** the same intensity toward a full-bodied hope, and keep at it till the finish. Don't drag your feet. Be like those who stay the course with committed faith and then get everything promised them."

John 15:5-8, Heb. 6:11-12 Message

Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the legs of the other. But, when they came to Jesus and found that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a **spear**, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.

The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the Truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so the Scripture would be fulfilled: Not one of His bones will be broken. And, as another Scripture says, They will look on the One they have pierced (John 19:31-37).

You want me to be completely truthful, so teach me Wisdom. Take away my sin, and I will be clean. Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Turn Your face from my sins, and wipe out all my guilt. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and make my spirit right again. Do not **send me away** from You or take Your Holy Spirit away from me. Give me back the joy of Your salvation. Keep me strong by giving me a willing spirit (Ps. 51:6-12 NCV).

Now that you have arrived at your destination: By faith in Christ you are in direct relationship with God. Your baptism in Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in an **adult** wardrobe – Christ’s life, the fulfillment of God’s original promise (Gal. 3:25-27 Message). So take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the **flaming arrows** of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the **sword** of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Eph. 6:16-17).

Trust God! For no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from God (Isa. 54:17).



God, Who is Love, and Who begins a good work in us will continue until the day of Christ Jesus, right up to the time of the Lord's return, developing and perfecting and bringing that good work to full completion in us (Phil. 1:6 AMP). God is continually working to reveal Truth so we can be freed from any and all deception we have trusted and believed and relied on and been holding tightly to as we read and apply His Word.

We shall come to know (perceive, recognize, understand) whenever our heart in tormenting self-accusation makes us feel guilty or condemns us that we belong to Truth. So let us not love (appreciate, value, respect) merely in speech, but in deed and in truth (in practice and sincerity) so we can reassure our heart in God's presence.

For we are in God's hands, He is greater than our conscience and our heart, and He knows everything (1 John 3:18-20 AMP). And beloved, once we're no longer accusing or condemning ourselves, we're bold

and free before God! We're able to stretch our hands out and receive what we asked for because we're doing what He said, doing what pleases Him.

Again, this is God's command: to believe in His personally named Son, Jesus Christ. He told us to love (appreciate, value, respect) each other. As we keep His commands, we live deeply and surely in Him, and He lives in us. And this is how we experience His deep and abiding presence in us, by the Spirit He has given us (1 John 3:21-24 Message).



Our heavenly Father watches and waits for us to return, to be born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through His living and enduring Word (1 Peter 1:23), which He has given to guarantee His promises: His Word - a Rock-solid guarantee (Heb. 6:17 Message), for the Lord is the Rock eternal. In Him we can trust forever (Isa. 26:4). So you see, God can't break His Word. And because His Word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable.

We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised Hope with both hands and never let go (Heb. 6:18 Message). For God's Word reveals His Father's love for you and me and all those who have been given Him, Who says:

“This is My Father’s will that I not lose one.”

John 6:39

God’s Word has given us an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all circumstantial 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 (Heb. 6:19-20 Message).



God has given us the power to subdue our heart so we can stop being controlled by its unquenchable desires. The browbeating we’ve endured may have taught us to be single-minded, but the heart with its skeptical, dubious, wavering...feelings causes us to become inept. Here are a few words that are synonymous for browbeating: authoritarian, bullying, callous, inflexible, merciless, hardened, demanding, uncharitable, severe, heavy-handed, stiff....which perfectly describes a heart that quenches the Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19).

A heart that prods us like cattle to store and hoard treasure here on earth, without concern for eternal consequence; a heart bound, confined, limited by the finite (what it can measure, establish and



count), while the infinite, the immeasurable wisdom and inexhaustible love of God lies by the wayside – ignored, neglected, abandoned.

What should be inconceivable - has become reality for those who are actually ignoring, neglecting or abandoning that portion of themselves that could eternally gaze upon the infinite perfection of our Creator.



The dictates of the heart keep us confined by the finite, what our senses can physically experience. A lot can definitely be accomplished in this earthly realm as we well know. However, the more important thing to know - the place where our treasure is stored, is the place we will most want to be, and end up being (Matt. 6:19 Message). If we place our faith and hope and love in God we will dwell securely with Him throughout time and eternity. .

There are only two choices a place where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 13:42), or a place with Him Who made known to us the path of Life. Who fills us with joy in His presence, with eternal pleasures at His right hand (Ps. 16:11).

The most integral part of our being makes it possible for us to follow a different path, and enter into the unfathomable realms of God's infinite grace. I love this translation of 1 John 1:2, the Word of Life appeared right before our eyes; we saw it happen! And now we're telling you in most sober prose that what we witnessed was, incredibly, this: The infinite Life of God Himself took shape before us (Message Bible).



In the Old Testament there were times when the miraculous was seen by certain people. And the power of God's awesome works would be told, from generation to generation His great deeds were proclaimed. They continue to celebrate the abundance of His goodness, and joyfully sing of His righteousness (Ps. 145:7). When God established His New Testament everyone, everywhere, at any time could experience the miraculous because the Word of Life can dwell right in our heart.

The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the Gospel in advance to Abraham:

"All nations will be blessed through you."

So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith (Gal 3:8-9). And those who are called have been drawn by God (John 6:44). Yes, He reaches down from on high and takes hold of us; He draws us out of deep waters, and brings us out into a spacious place (Ps. 18:16,19), and how we set our hearts at rest in His presence (1 John 3:19).

Our very body becomes a temple of Holy Spirit, Who lives in us and is given to us by God. With that in mind, understand we don't belong to ourselves anymore God bought us with a high price. So we must honor Him with our body (1 Cor. 6:19-20 NLT). For this reason, Jesus said:

“If your hand or foot or eye causes you to sin, remove it. Because it is better for you to enter the Kingdom of God maimed or crippled than to be thrown into hell where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.”

Mark 9:47-48



We may not like or completely understand what God's Word says, but we have been given time to decide whether we will be glad and exult in God, singing praises to His name (Ps. 9:2). However, there is one thing we can truly know and understand that reflection in the mirror is not one of a perfect person. But God by One sacrifice, has made perfect forever those who are being made holy (Heb. 10:14). Those who have heard His call, who are being sanctified by His Spirit of Truth, and preserved in His Christ (Jude 1).

We are the handiwork of our Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit three beings in unity of mind and harmony of heart – One God, Who created our one being to be three – spirit, soul and body – to live in relationship with Him. Oh, the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways (Rom. 11:33 NASB).

God has planted eternity in our heart and mind (a divinely implanted sense of a purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy), Eccl. 3:11 AMP.

God has given life to our mortal body, for the life of every creature is its blood (Lev. 17:14). Each of us are living representatives of God's

amazing grace, His goodness, mercy, compassion and His favor and loving-kindness, which He extends toward those He made in His own image.

Sadly, when the fall of mankind occurred, though Satan wanted death to be our consequence for sin, eternal separation from God; the life in the blood of those first sacrifices God Himself offered prevented a physical death from immediately occurring. However, though we live and breathe and walk on earth, that transgression against God spoiled our privilege to live and breathe and walk in God's presence.



We are spiritually dead in our transgressions and sins, living to follow the ways of this world and the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who refuse to heed God and follow His Word (Eph. 2:1-2). BUT GOD, because of His great love for us made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions (Eph. 2:4-5).

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly (Rom. 5:6). This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our

sins (1 John 4:10). Yes, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us demonstrating God's own love for us (Rom. 5:8).

Most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though some might die for a person who is especially good. BUT GOD, His mercy is so great, He made us right in His sight by the blood of Jesus (Rom. 5:7&9 NLT). How amazing is God! When we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son. How much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life (Rom. 5:10 NIV). Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins, and was raised to life for our justification. God's Word says:

"I tell you the Truth, whoever hears My words and believes Him Who sent Me has eternal life, and will not be condemned; they have crossed over from death to Life."

John 5:24



The last book in the Bible is Revelation, which speaks of things that are yet to come. And the voices of those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name were heard singing the song of the Lamb:

“Great and marvelous are Your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are Your ways, King of the ages. Who will not fear You, O Lord, and bring glory to Your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before You, for Your righteous acts have been revealed.”

Rev. 15:3-4

God so loves the world He continues to send His Word to reveal the Truth and the Way and the Life He offers to everyone. Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other (Deut. 4:39). To every heart that sin has pierced God says:

“Come to Me with your ears wide open. Come and drink even if you have no money! Why spend your money on food that doesn't give you strength? Why pay for groceries that do you no good? Listen and I'll tell you where to get good food that fattens up the soul!”

“Listen, for the life of your soul is at stake. I am ready to make an everlasting covenant with you, to give you all the

unfailing mercies and love that I had for King David. He proved My power by conquering foreign nations.”

“As the rain and snow come down from heaven and stay upon the ground to water the earth, and cause the grain to grow and produce seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry, so also is My Word.”

I send My Word out, and fruit is always produced. It shall accomplish all I want it to and prosper everywhere I send it. You will live in joy and peace. The mountains and hills, the trees of the field – all the world around you – will rejoice.”

Isa. 55:1-4 & 10-12 TLB



The myriad of choices offered in this world leads us into idolatry. Whatever seizes our heart also captures our soul. That is why Jesus gave this warning:

“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

Matt. 26:41



It is the pull of our own evil thoughts and wishes that lead to evil actions and afterwards to face this penalty from God (James 1:14-15) a place in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death (Rev. 21:6).

I share God's Word so those who are thirsty can come to the only One Who is Good, for He gives drink to the thirsty without cost from the spring of the water of Life (Rev. 21:6). God doesn't use slight of hands as a magician who deceives the eyes. God does the miraculous in us and for us when a heart is heard crying out "help me Lord."

How many times must willfulness knock us down before we rise up with willingness to make every effort to no longer lean on our own understanding. That in all our ways we would acknowledge the authority God has placed in His Word. For surely Truth will make straight the paths for those who turn away from evil's lure to be wise in our own eyes (Prov. 3:5-7).



When we ask, Holy Spirit will fill our heart with fear of the Lord for this is the beginning of Wisdom (Prov. 15:33). Several years ago a very

traumatic experience occurred in my life. A time when I would experience this Scripture Rev. 3:7 -8, when the One Who holds the key of David Who said:

“See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept My Word and have not denied My name.”

Earlier I shared the statistical results of prophecies being fulfilled by one individual so as Prov. 22:19 says, that your trust may be in the Lord. But it also instructs us to pay attention and listen and have your heart apply what is being taught. You will discover it will be pleasing when you keep them in your heart (Vs 17-18).



Let me tell you there was nothing pleasing about the events that unfolded in January 2010. As a matter of fact, there was so much emotional upset that PTSD came upon me. It didn't just happen. PTSD was a result of my trying day after day to reconcile what I thought of myself to what was being said and done.

And it wasn't just what was happening that was so disturbing. The thoughts, feelings and beliefs that filled my heart seemed to be shaken and shattering my reasoning apart. You see this incident occurred in a place and with people I thought to be safe in whom I placed my trust. But not only that my greatest fear was coming upon me. I tried everything I could think, but nothing made a difference. Why? The Lord had firmly instructed me no more people pleasing.

What I am going to share next touches a very sensitive area of my heart. However, it may also touch a sensitive spot in the heart of others. The secret my family kept hidden was mental illness. As a kid I was instructed not to speak of what was said or done in our house. There was so much unknown to be feared and as a result, I was thrown into confusion.



Over the years there were countless times I questioned and doubted my own mental health. What is wrong with you? Why did you do such a stupid thing? How could you let someone do that to you? Why didn't you speak up for yourself? So many unanswered and unanswerable questions! Like the time I attempted suicide when I was 14. What made me do such a thing? And why didn't God want me?

Life was not easy, but I never again thought of suicide that is until the age of 38. Fear, rejection, abandonment, confusion once again raised so many issues until the total frustration that anger causes and the helplessness that grows from self-pity turned inward.

Though my thoughts included a plan with a way and means that promised to fulfill such a horrid desire, I chose to seek help. Maybe it was that disturbing memory of being rejected even by God. With my husband's support I got medical assistance, but with the support of a close friend, Fern, I would receive what I never before considered – spiritual sustenance.



I began to attend Fern's church. Every Sunday I would sit among the small gathering to hear messages that seemed to address exactly what I needed to hear. My heart became filled with such appreciation when I realized God hadn't rejected me; instead, He actually saved me from myself.

I shared this side story because it was the realization of what Jesus had to go through to save me. This spiritual awakening prompted me to make the decision to learn everything I could about Him.

I was on a mission. And as the years passed I read books, listened to CD's, watched DVD's, studied the Bible, attended church, traveled to seminars. I even went on a missionary's trip - there was so much to learn, and I couldn't seem to discover enough about Jesus.



I remember one Sunday night in 2010 as I was waiting to fall asleep the Lord asked me, "Kathie, do you trust Me." Immediately I replied, "Yes Lord, with all my heart." There weren't very many peaceful days after that night for a really long time.

Honestly, I don't believe I could explain everything that occurred. Anyway we all have a story when evil brought pain and sorrow into our life through the hands of others. Sadly, for some of us it's been more than our fair share.

On this particular occasion the rug was completely pulled out from under me and I hit the ground hard. However, because of those years

of seeking knowledge about Jesus the spiritual foundation Holy Spirit had constructed within me was very sturdy. Percept upon precept, rule upon rule: here a little, there a little. The true rest, the way to true comfort and happiness, which God gives to the weary - the true refreshing (Isa. 28:10-12 AMP).

Of course, this does not happen in the way we may think. However, I would be remiss if I didn't praise God for though this particular time in my life was very difficult the thought of harming myself, was one I didn't have to struggle with.



There's a story in the Bible about the city of Jericho. After Moses died Joshua was chosen to lead God's people into the promised-land. What's interesting, and I have found everything about God's Word of Truth to be interesting, the name Joshua means Jehovah-saved: to be open, wide or free, to free, avenging, defend, deliverer, help, preserve, rescue, be safe, bring salvation, savior, get victory. All of this God has done and continues to do for those who seek Him through His Son.

When the people broke camp to cross the Jordan River, the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of them. The Jordan was

at flood stage at the time. Yet, as soon as the priests touched the water's edge with their feet, the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, while the water flowing down to the Salt Sea was completely cut off.

All Israel passed by on dry ground as the priests stood with the Ark of the Covenant in the middle of the Jordan (Josh. 3:14-17). Inside the Ark of the Covenant were the two tablets of Law, known as the Ten Commandments, which God gave to Moses, Aaron's rod which budded, and a jar of manna.

FYI: water in the Bible is used in a variety of metaphorical ways in Scripture. It is used to symbolize the troublesome times in life that can and do come to human beings, especially God's children. In some contexts water stands for enemies who can attack and need to be overcome. Throughout the Bible, water is used for salvation and eternal life, which God offers to mankind through faith in His Son. Water can also symbolize the spiritual cleansing that comes with the acceptance of God's offer of salvation. The water that does the cleansing of the bride, the Church, is directly tied in with God's Word, of which it is a symbol.

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/water/>

God spoke to Joshua saying:

“See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands. March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets in front of the Ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse.”

Jos. 6:2-5



I share this story because God was working to bring down the walls my heart had erected. Walls that were meant for my protection, but actually worked to keep me confined within a structure of one-sided, faulty (insufficient, flawed, incomplete) opinions, feelings and beliefs.

How many times when I was trying to be helpful, I thought that what I was doing would be a good thing. Because we can't see and know all things like God can, those attempts when it is believed we are being helpful can prove to be quite upsetting.



Joseph was able to say to his brothers who sold him into slavery, “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives,” Gen. 50:20. There are countless reasons why we consider what we’re doing good; however, the true motive is what’s good for us and this may certainly not turn out well for someone else.

It causes no discomfort to read about walls collapsing, but when walls that have been built as a result of personal experiences start coming down there will surely be distress. I share the Word of God instead of my own advice, which may provide encouragement but not the necessary strength to do the work that God asks of us: to believe in the One Whom He has sent - that we cleave to, trust, rely on, and have faith in His Word (John 6:29 AMP).

The entire image I had of myself, and the people and things I had placed value were collapsing. No matter my efforts to do what I had done from childhood ‘try to fix things and make them better,’ they proved futile.

~

So much of what I went through seems impossible to explain sensibly. What I do know is God brought me to these troubled waters and asked if I trusted Him, and with all my heart I do. So I will trust this will be an occasion when clarity overshadows confusion because confusion has seemed to always have the upper hand. So many unexplainable developments with the only non-variable factor - me - and the ever emerging sense (impression) that mental illness was just an arm's distance away.

Mental illness terrified me. Over the years it was as though I was looking over my shoulder trying to avoid something that had been causing my heart to flounder since childhood. What I have learned anxiety disorders are the most common mental health concern in the U.S.

We all experience anxiety. For example, speaking in front of a group or driving in heavy traffic can make us anxious. That anxiety can motivate us to prepare and practice, and will help keep us alert and cautious. However, when feelings of intense fear and distress become overwhelming and prevent us from doing everyday activities, an anxiety disorder may be the cause.

Over 40 million adults in this country (19.1%) have an anxiety disorder. Meanwhile, approximately 7% of children aged 3-17 experience issues with anxiety each year. Most people develop symptoms before age 21.

Anxiety disorders are a group of related conditions, each having unique symptoms. However, all anxiety disorders have one thing in common: persistent, excessive fear or worry in situations that are not threatening. One or more of the following symptoms are typically experienced:

Emotional symptoms:

- Feelings of apprehension or dread
- Feeling tense or jumpy
- Restlessness or irritability
- Anticipating the worst and being watchful for signs of danger

Physical symptoms:

- Pounding or racing heart and shortness of breath
- Sweating, tremors and twitches
- Headaches, fatigue and insomnia

- Upset stomach, frequent urination or diarrhea

There are many types of anxiety disorders, each with different symptoms. The most common types include:

- Generalized Anxiety Disorder
- Social Anxiety Disorder
- Panic Disorder
- Phobias
- Agoraphobia
- Separation anxiety disorder
- Substance/medication-induced anxiety disorder, involving intoxication or withdrawal or medication treatment

Scientists believe that many factors combine to cause anxiety disorders:

- Genetics – Studies support the evidence that anxiety disorders “run in families” as some families have a higher-than-average amount of anxiety disorders among relatives
- Environment – A stressful or traumatic event such as abuse, death of a loved one, violence or prolonged illness is often linked to the development of an anxiety disorder

Information taken from the NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness) website, and their article on Anxiety Disorders:

<https://www.nami.org/About-Mental-Illness/Mental-Health-Conditions/Anxiety-Disorders>



The anxiety I experienced as a child grew and delivered into the world a fear-filled adult who was more adept at developing coping mechanisms than friends. An abnormality in my thinking or behavior was inconceivable since they wore the camouflage of coping with life's struggles.

My social skills grew more and more inept as did my trust in others. What I feared the most being rejected, abandoned, disappointed in myself and others continued to occur. What I couldn't fix to my satisfaction I pulled away from.

The sad irony, there was so much about myself that had to be repaired. God knows the trouble, upset, regret, shame, guilt...the school of hard knocks generates to ensure a heart would continue to misfire.

When I invited Jesus into my wearied heart, He enrolled me into the University of Holy Spirit because this was God's choice for me to be reborn through His Word of Truth (James 1:18). It was God Who had set that fire in my heart to seek knowledge of His Son.

I wish there had been another way for me to learn about the issues with which I struggled: people-pleasing, codependency and the emotional traumas that life brings about. This verse in Phil. 4:7 says you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.



What a wonderful promise God has made. And no matter how many promises He has made, they all find their "Yes" in Christ. However, you should also know God doesn't waver between yes and no as we do. In Jesus it is always the divine yes (2 Cor. 1:19-20 AMP).

The Message Bible tells us that God affirms us, making us a sure thing in Christ, putting His Yes within us. By His Spirit He has stamped us with His eternal pledge – a sure beginning of what He is destined (and determined) to complete (2 Cor. 1:21-22).

It is for this reason we also utter the Amen (so be it) to God through Jesus to the glory of God (2 Cor. 1:20b). In Jesus we preach and pray the great Amen, God's Yes and our Yes together, gloriously evident (2 Cor. 1:21 Message).

How does our yes become gloriously evident, by trusting God's Word as Who He is, Lord. Matt. 8:10 tells of an occasion when Jesus being astonished said to those following Him:

"I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."



The Word of God, Who became flesh and made His dwelling among us (John 1:14), entered Capernaum, at which time a centurion approached asking for His help. "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering." Jesus said:

"I will go and heal him"

The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I

myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it," Matt. 8:5-9.

Like so many people this centurion was amazed for he heard the scuttlebutt, "What is this teaching? With authority and power He gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!" Luke 4:36. Why? All the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form in Christ Jesus. Those who believe have been given this fullness in Christ, Who is the Head over every power and authority (Col. 2:9). Jesus is the Lord of Heaven's Armies - Jehovah Sabaoth.

He hears our prayers, "O God, Commander of Heaven's Armies, bring us back to You," Ps. 80:7 Voice. Jesus answered by coming as the Light of heaven into our world, and whoever chooses to live by Truth will come into the light, so that their works may be plainly shown to be what they are - wrought with God - divinely prompted, done with God's help, in dependence on His Word (John 3:19-21 AMP).

Let our 'Yes' be not only heard but seen, for it is God Who makes us stand firm in Christ. He anoints us, and sets His seal of ownership on us, and puts His Spirit in our heart as a deposit, guaranteeing what is



to come (2 Cor. 1:21-22). Because of His boundless mercy we have been given the privilege of being born again so we can become members of God's own family. We can live in the hope of eternal life because Christ rose again from the dead.



Within our heart God places this living Hope, the priceless gift of eternal life, and this life is in His Son (1 John 5:11), which God has reserved for His children; it is kept in heaven for those who place their faith in Jesus.

God, in His mighty power, will make sure we get there safely to receive it because we trust Him. So be truly glad! There is a wonderful joy ahead, though the going is rough for a while down here.

These trials will test our faith, to see whether or not it is strong and pure. Our faith is tested as fire tests gold and purifies it - and your faith is more precious to God than mere gold. Through the Word of Truth we will come to love God though we've never seen Him (1 Peter 1:3-8 TLB). However, we know the life of Jesus was not only Biblical but also historical.

And what Jesus said has been documented:

“By Myself I can do nothing. I judge only as I hear, and My judgment is just, for I seek not to please Myself but Him Who sent Me.”

John 5:30

Though we may not see God, we can learn to trust Him by not seeking to please ourselves or others; instead, God. Who is so worthy of our making a decisive dedication of our bodies, and (not allowing ourselves to succumb to the nasty ‘whethers’). Instead, presenting all of who we are as a living sacrifice, devoted, consecrated and well pleasing to God, for this is our reasonable service and spiritual worship (Rom. 12:1 AMP).



The Word of Truth, is God-breathed. And though no one has ever seen God, the one and only Son Who Himself is God and is near to the Father’s heart reveals God to us (John 1:18 NLT). Jesus earnestly works to teach us, to correct us, to rebuke us and to train us in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16).

The Word of Truth helps God's children to mature into fully grown sons by thoroughly equipping us with faith, so that like Aaron's rod our faith will also bud and bloom into allegiance, commitment, devotion, faithfulness, loyalty and steadfastness; by empowering us with hope as heaven's Manna is consumed - the Living Bread - Who fills us until we are overflowing with confidence, credence, trust, certainty, positivity, Surety, conviction, dependence and reliance; by anchoring us in Love as living stones -

Jesus a carpenter from Nazareth, is the precious and chosen Cornerstone, the Rock from Whom we receive God's Word with joy (Luke 8:13) - the one and only Son of God, Who came with glory to cause our inner being to delight in, appreciate, treasure, adore, enjoy, rejoice, and feast on Him Who is building us into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood (1 Peter 2:4-6).



God has put all things under Christ's feet making Him the supreme Head of the Church - His body, which He fills with Himself, the Author and Giver of everything everywhere (Eph. 1:22-23 TLB).

Our attitude should be the kind that was shown by Jesus, Who though He was God, He did not demand and cling to His rights as God – being Omnipotent , All Powerful; Omniscient, All Knowing; Omnipresent, All Enveloping His presence everywhere.

Jesus laid aside His mighty power and glory (Phil. 2:5-6 TLB) making Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death of the cross (Phil. 2:7-9 NKJV).

My understanding of what distinguishes a person as a bondservant, a free-will decision is made to become a life-long servant to a good master, which is sealed by the piercing of the ear with an awl.

Briefly, the significance of ‘in the ears’ is for obedience and hearing signifies obeying. The ear and hearing signify the reception of Truth, notice and obedience, thus the first and the last of faith, therefore it was often said by the Lord:

“He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear.”

Matt. 11:15...

<http://www.biblemeanings.info/Words/Body/Ear.htm>

A bondservant would voluntarily have their ear placed on a door or doorpost. Jesus came to earth as God's bondservant to reveal there is only One Who is Good (Matt. 19:17). To tell - God did not desire sacrifice and offering, although the Law required them to be made, He was not pleased with them. But a body He prepared for Jesus Who said:

“Here I AM – it is written about Me in the scroll – I have come to do Your will, O God.”

Heb. 10:5-8

Jesus took on that body His Father had prepared, and modeled not only what servitude to – the Omnificent God, Creator of all – looks like, but also, to reveal Elohim Tov – the only One Who is good – and how He accomplishes the miraculous through those who choose to serve Him.

God sent Jesus in a human body to reveal the Door to heaven. Jesus lived in bodily form to face God's enemy Death so God could glorify His name. So that voice that came from heaven:

“I have glorified it”

could be heard saying in our heart,

“I will glorify it again”

John 12:28 - in you.



Jesus foretold the death of His body on that cross:

“When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to  
Myself.”

John 12:32

To the Door for the sheep,

“Anyone who enters through Me will be saved. They will  
come in and they will go out freely, and will find pasture. I  
am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His  
life for the sheep.”

John 10:7&11

And this God foretold:

“See, My Servant will act wisely; He will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Just as there were many who were appalled at Him – His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man, and His form marred beyond human likeness. Yes, My Servant shall be highly exalted. Yet many shall be amazed when they see Him – far-off foreign nations and their kings, they shall stand dumbfounded, speechless in His presence.”

“They shall see and understand what they had not been told before. They shall see My Servant beaten and bloodied, so disfigured one would scarcely know it was a person standing there. So shall My Servant prosper, for He shall cleanse many nations; those who listen to His voice and heed it.”

Holy Spirit filled the prophets with words that could not be silenced:

“The Good Shepherd calls His own sheep by name and brings them out. They know, God has given His Servant an instructed tongue, that His Word sustains the weary. God awakened Him morning by morning, wakening His ear to listen like one being taught.”

“The Lord opened His ears, and was not rebellious to pay homage to God’s sovereignty. He did not draw back; instead, He offered His back to those who beat Him, His cheeks to those who pulled out His beard; He did not hide His face from mocking and spitting.”

“So all nations could come to know Yahweh personally and intimately through this New Covenant He would make with them to be their God, and deliver them from evil. So the world would know Yahweh helped the Lord so He would not be disgraced. Jesus set His face like flint knowing He would not be put to shame.”

“For He is near Who gave His Christ justice, and declares the Lord right. Who will dare to bring charges against Him now? Let them stand forth together! Who is His adversary?”



Where are His accusers? Let them come near to Him.

Behold, the Lord God will help Him; who are they that will condemn Christ Jesus? Behold, they all will wax old and be worn out as a garment that has been eaten by moths!”

“Who among you reverently fears God, who obeys the voice of His Servant, yet walks in darkness and deep trouble and has no shining splendor in their heart? Let them rely on and trust in and be confident in the name of Jesus, and let them lean upon and be supported by God’s Word.”

“Behold, all you enemies of your own selves, who attempt to kindle your own fires, and work out your own plans of salvation. Who surround and gird yourselves with momentary sparks that you set aflame! Who walk by the light of your self-made fire you have kindled for yourself! This is the reward you will receive from the Lord, you will fall down in great grief and torment.

Isa. 52:13-14, Isa. 52:13-15 TLB. John 10:3, Isa. 50:4-5 NIV & 8-11 AMP



We can draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, with our heart sprinkled (Heb. 10:22a) by Him, Who is the Faithful Witness, the Firstborn from the dead and the Ruler of the kings of earth. Jesus, Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and makes us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father (Rev. 1:5-6) by cleansing us from a guilty conscience.

So let us go right in to God Himself, with hearts fully trusting Him to receive us because we have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and because our bodies have been washed with pure water (Heb. 10:22 TLB). This water that symbolizes baptism now also saves us - not from the removal of dirt from the body but being a pledge of keeping a clear conscience toward God (1 Pet. 3:21).

The waters of baptism do that for you, not by washing away dirt from your skin, but by presenting you through Jesus' resurrection before God with a conscience that is clear. Jesus has the last word on everything and everyone, from angels to armies. He's standing right alongside God, and what He says goes (1 Pet. 3:21-22 Message).



In the days of the Old Testament a hand was given as a pledge of fidelity and submission (Lam. 5:6 AMP). Because of the faith and love Jesus revealed by giving His life we are to give God our heart and soul as a pledge of our fidelity and submission so we can hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He Who promised is faithful (Heb. 10:23).

This message is sent to you by the One Who is holy and true, and has the key of David to open what no one can shut and to shut what no one can open (Rev. 3:7). So ears would hear and come to know the One He taught us to pray to:

OUR FATHER - EL SALI - GOD, MY ROCK

Who is immovable, unbreakable, a safe place for  
Retreat and a fortress in battle: He is our Source  
Of strength, our firm foundation, our support  
And defense (Isa. 26:4)

WHO ART IN HEAVEN - EL HAY - THE LIVING GOD

God is alive! Praise Him Who is the

Great Rock of protection (Ps. 18:46 TLB)  
One God and Father of all,  
Who is Sovereign over all  
Pervading all  
And living in all (Eph. 4:6 AMP) who profess

HALLOWED BE THY NAME - YAHWEH/JEHOVAH - SACRED

The Father and Jesus are one (John 10:30)  
For us there is but one God, the Father, from Whom  
All things came and for Whom we live;  
And there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
Through Whom all things came and through  
Whom we live (1 Cor. 8:6)

THY KINGDOM COME - EL OLAM - GOD OF ETERNITY

He calls us into fellowship with His Son  
Christ Jesus our Lord  
He is faithful (1 Cor. 1:8)  
He is the same yesterday and today  
And forever (Heb. 13:8)

THY WILL BE DONE - EL SHADDAI - ALMIGHTY, ALL SUFFICIENT GOD

That Jesus should not lose even one of all those

He has been given, but should raise them

To eternal life at the Last Day.

For this is the Father's will that everyone

Who sees His Son and believes on Him

Should have eternal life (John 6:39-40 TLB)

That you should be consecrated – separated

And set apart for a pure and holy living

(1 Thess. 4:3)

Not quenching Holy Spirit

So in everything – no matter what

The circumstances may be – thanks will be given

To Almighty God (1 Thess. 5:18)

ON EARTH - EL RAI - GOD SEES ME

There is nothing concealed that will not

Be disclosed,

Or hidden that will not  
Be made known.  
Do not be afraid of those who kill the body  
And after that can do no more.  
Fear Him Who, after the killing of the body,  
Has power to throw you into hell (Luke 12:2-5).

AS IT IS IN HEAVEN - ELOHIM BASHAMAYIM - GOD IN HEAVEN

Acknowledge and take to heart this day  
The Lord is God in heaven above  
And on the earth below.  
There is no other (Deut. 4:39)  
That you may love the Lord your God,  
Listen to His voice,  
And hold fast to Him  
For the Lord is your life (Deut. 30:20)  
Anyone who loves the Lord will obey His teaching.  
The Father will love them,  
And They will come to them  
And make Their home with them (John 14:23)

GIVE US EACH DAY - ELOHE CHASEDDI - THE GOD OF MY MERCY

Because of God's great love we are not  
Consumed,  
For His compassions never fail.  
They are new every morning,  
Great is His faithfulness (Lam. 3:22-23)  
In His great mercy God did not put an end to us  
Or abandon us, for He is a gracious  
And merciful God (Neh. 9:31)  
God is compassionate and gracious,  
Slow to anger  
Abounding in love and faithfulness (Ps. 86:15)  
Why should any living person complain when  
Punished for their sins?  
Let us examine our ways and test them  
Let us return to the Lord  
Let us lift up our hearts and our hands  
To God in heaven (Lam. 3:39-41)  
Who sweeps away our offenses like a cloud,  
Our sins like the morning mist.

Our God Who says, Return to Me  
For I have redeemed you (Isa. 44:22)  
So seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.  
Don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry  
About itself.

Each day has enough trouble of its own (Matt. 6:33a-34 NIV)  
So don't worry at all about having enough food and clothing.  
Why be like the heathen? They take pride in all these things,  
And are deeply concerned about them.

Your heavenly Father already knows perfectly well  
That you need them  
All these things will be given to you as well  
(Matt. 6:32-33 TLB)

OUR DAILY BREAD - ELOHE TSADEKI - GOD OF MY RIGHTEOUSNESS

Help me, O God, save me in accordance  
With Your love  
Let them know that it is Your hand,  
That You, O Lord, have done it  
They may curse, but You will bless  
(Ps. 109:26-28)



You, O God, tell us the Truth, it is not Moses who  
Has given us the bread from heaven,  
The Bread of God is He Who comes down  
From heaven and gives life to the world.

Jesus is the Bread of Life

(John 6:32)

FORGIVE OUR TRESPASSES - EL NOSE - GOD THAT FORGAVE

God is Light; in Him there is no darkness at all.

If we claim to have fellowship with Him

Yet walk in the darkness, we lie

And do not live by the Truth.

But, if we walk in the Light, as He is in the light,

We have fellowship with one another

And the blood of Jesus, His Son,

Purifies us from all sin.

If we claim to be without sin

We deceive ourselves and the Truth

Is not in us

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just

And will forgive our sins

And purify us from all unrighteousness

(1 John 1:5-10)

HELP US FORGIVE OTHERS - ELOHE MAUZI - GOD OF MY STRENGTH

It is God Who arms me with strength

And makes my way perfect (Ps. 18:32)

God is our refuge and strength

An ever-present help in trouble (Ps. 46:1)

Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust and not be afraid.

The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song

He has become my salvation.

“With joy you will draw water from

The wells of salvation” (Isa. 12:2-3)

God will stand and shepherd His flock

In the strength of the Lord

In the majesty of the name of the Lord

And they will live securely

For then His greatness will reach

To the ends of the earth

And He will be their peace (Mic. 5:4-5)

LEAD US FROM TEMPTATION - ELOHIM OZER LI - GOD MY HELPER

When tempted, no one should say,

"God is tempting me."

For God cannot be tempted by evil,

Nor does He tempt anyone;

Each one is tempted when, by their own evil desire,

They are dragged away and enticed.

Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin;

And sin, when it is full-grown,

Gives birth to death (James 1:13-15)

So watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.

The spirit is willing, but the body is weak (Matt. 26:41)

However, no temptation has seized you

Except what is common to man.

And God is faithful;

He will not let you be tempted

Beyond what you can bear.

But, when you are tempted,

He will also provide a way out

So that you can stand up under it (1 Cor. 10:13)  
People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap  
And into many foolish and harmful desires  
That plunge them into ruin and destruction.  
For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

Some people, eager for money,  
Have wandered from the faith  
And pierced themselves with many griefs (1 Tim 6:9-10)  
DELIVER US FROM EVIL - EL GIBBOR - MIGHTY GOD

Do not be afraid, declares the Lord,  
For I am with you  
And will save you and deliver you (Jer. 42:11)  
For those who dwell in the secret place of the Most High  
Shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty  
Whose power no foe can withstand  
Those who say of the Lord, He is my Refuge  
And my Fortress, my God;  
On Him I lean and rely, and in Him I confidently trust!  
For He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
And from the deadly pestilence.  
He will cover you with His pinions,

And under His wings shall you trust and find refuge;  
His truth and His faithfulness are a shield and a buckler

(Ps 91:1-4 AMP)

Because they have set their love upon Me,

Therefore will I deliver them;

I will set them on high,

Because they know and understand My name

They have a personal knowledge of My mercy,

My love, and kindness —

They trust and rely on Me,

Knowing I will never forsake them,

No, never

They shall call upon Me, and I will answer them;

I will be with them in trouble,

I will deliver them and honor them

With long life will I satisfy them

And show them My salvation.

(Ps 91:14-16 AMP)

Indeed the Lord will certainly deliver and draw me to Himself

From every assault of evil.

He will preserve and bring me safe

Unto His heavenly kingdom

To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen (so be it).

(2 Tim 4:18 AMP)

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM - EL BETHEL - GOD OF THE HOUSE OF GOD

Jesus spoke of God's kingdom:

"The Kingdom of God is near.

Repent and believe the Good News!" Mark 1:15

"The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed,

Which a man took and planted in his garden.

It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air

Perched in its branches," Luke 13:19

"Make every effort to enter through the narrow door,

Because many, I tell you, will try to enter

And will not be able to.

Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door,

You will stand outside knocking and pleading,

'Sir, open the door for us.'

But He will answer, 'I don't know you

Or where you come from.'"

Luke 13:24-25

"The Kingdom of God does not come

With your careful observation,  
Nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,'  
Because the Kingdom of God is within you." Luke 17:20-21  
"I tell you the Truth, no one can see the Kingdom of God  
Unless they are born again." John 3:3

THE POWER - EL ELYON - THE MOST HIGH GOD

O Lord, God of our fathers,  
Are you not the God Who is in heaven?  
You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations.  
Power and might are in Your hand,  
And no one can withstand you  
(2 Chron. 20:6-7)  
To God belong wisdom and power;  
Counsel and understanding are His (Job 12:13)  
Therefore, say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds!  
So great is Your power  
That Your enemies cringe before You.  
All the earth bows down to You;  
They sing praise to You,  
They sing praise to Your name

Come and see what God has done,  
How awesome His works in man's behalf! (Ps. 66:3-5)  
By His power God raised the Lord from the dead,  
And He will raise us also (1 Cor. 6:14-15)  
The message of the cross is foolishness to those  
Who are perishing,  
But to us who are being saved  
It is the power of God. For it is written:  
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
The intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate"  
(1 Cor. 1:18-19)  
Like Abraham we are strengthened in our faith  
And give glory to God,  
Because we too have been fully persuaded  
That God has power to do what He has promised  
(Rom. 4:20-22)  
So may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace  
As you trust in Him,  
That you may overflow with hope  
By the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:13)  
For God did not give us a spirit of timidity,  
But a Spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline



(2 Tim. 1:7)

AND THE GLORY - EL HAKABODH - THE GOD OF GLORY

The Lord your God is a consuming fire (Ex. 34:14)

Do not worship any other god, for the Lord,

Whose name is EL KANNA

Jealous God (Ex. 34:14) says

I am ADONAI, that is My name

I will not give My glory to another

Or My praise to idols (Isa. 42:8)

The Lord God is wonderful in counsel

And magnificent in wisdom (Isa. 28:29)

He does not treat us as our sins deserve

Or repay us according to our iniquities

For as high as the heavens are above the earth

So great is His love for those who fear Him

As far as the east is from the west

So far has He removed

Our transgressions from us

As a father has compassion on his children

So the Lord God has compassion

On those who stand in awe of Him

For He knows how we are formed  
He remembers that we are dust  
But from everlasting to everlasting  
God's love is with those who reverence Him  
With those who keep His covenant  
And remember to obey His teaching (Ps. 103:10-18)  
God does good to His servants that we may live  
Father, open our eyes that we may see wonderful,  
Glorious things in your Word (Ps. 119:17-18)



Who could know when Jesus said:

“This is how you should pray”

That all of this and so much more depth and meaning is contained within this small but oh so powerful prayer. If ears are open to hear God's Word there would be so very much to learn. For He Who made the earth, the Lord Who formed it and established it – the Lord is His name – would love His invitation to be heard:

“Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”

Jer. 33:2-3

Yes, it is Jesus Who walks before God’s flock, and the sheep follow Him because they know His voice. They will never (on any account) follow a stranger, but will run away for they don’t know the voice of strangers or recognize their call. The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. Jesus said:

“I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance.”

John 10:3-10

God sent His Word so we may enjoy good health, and prosper in all things, just as our soul prospers (3 John 2 NKJV). How precious this faith that Christ Jesus our God and Savior gives to us (2 Peter 1:1).

For this purpose: that we would be encouraged in heart and united in Love. That we could have the rich experience of knowing Jesus with real certainty and clear understanding. For God’s secret plan, now at last made known, is Christ Himself; for in Him lie hidden all the mighty, untapped treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col. 2:2-3

TLB). That we could truly come to know the Lord as described in the Twenty-Third Psalm written by David who knew:

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

JEHOVAH ROI - THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

I SHALL NOT WANT

JEHOVAH JIREH - THE LORD SHALL PROVIDE

HE MAKES ME TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES

JEHOVAH MACHSI - THE LORD MY REFUGE

HE LEADTH ME BESIDE THE STILL WATERS

JEHOVAH SHALOM - THE LORD (OUR) PEACE

HE RESTORETH MY SOUL

JEHOVAH ROPHE - THE LORD (OUR) HEALER

HE LEADS ME IN THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

JEHOVAH TSIDKENU - THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

FOR HIS NAME SAKE

ADONAI JEHOVAH - LORD GOD

YEAH THOUGH I DWELL

JEHOVAH ADON KOL HA-ARETS

THE LORD, THE LORD OF ALL THE EARTH

IN THE VALLEY

JEHOVAH SALI - THE LORD MY ROCK

OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH

JEHOVAH KEREN-YISHI

THE LORD THE HORN OF MY SALVATION

I SHALL NOT FEAR

JEHOVAH IZUZ WEGIBBOR - THE LORD STRONG & MIGHTY

FOR THY ROD (OF PROTECTION)

JEHOVAH CHEREB - THE LORD...THE SWORD

AND THY STAFF

JEHOVAH MAGINNENU - THE LORD OUR DEFENSE

THEY COMFORT ME

JEHOVAH ORI - THE LORD MY LIGHT

THOU HAS PREPARED A TABLE BEFORE ME

JEHOVAH JIREH - THE LORD SHALL PROVIDE

IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES

JEHOVAH MEPHALTI - THE LORD MY DELIVERER

THOU HAS ANOINTED MY HEAD WITH OIL

JEHOVAH MEKADDISHKHEM

THE LORD THAT SANCTIFIES YOU

MY CUP RUNNETH OVER

JEHOVAH KABODHI - THE LORD MY GLORY

SURELY GOODNESS

JEHOVAH GOELEKH - THE LORD THY REDEEMER

AND MERCY

JEHOVAH EL EMETH - LORD GOD OF TRUTH

SHALL FOLLOW ME

JEHOVAH ELI - THE LORD MY GOD

ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE

JEHOVAH TSURI - THE LORD MY STRENGTH

AND I WILL DWELL

JEHOVAH MAUZZI - THE LORD MY FORTRESS

IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

JEHOVAH SHAMMAH - THE LORD IS THERE

FOREVER

For JEHOVAH MOSHIEKH - is THE LORD YOUR SAVIOR

~

Yes, how very precious our faith, and how just and good God is to give this same faith to each of us. Do you want to know more of His

kindness and peace? Then learn to know Him better and better. For as you get to know Him, He will give you, through His great power, everything you need for living a truly good life. He even shares His own glory and His own goodness with us!

By that same mighty power He has given us all the other rich and wonderful blessings He promised; for instance, the promise to save us from the corruption all around us, and to give us His own character and nature (2 Peter 1:1-4 TLB).

God will always help us so we can make a willing and decisive dedication of ourselves by turning us away from impaired judgments so we can believe and trust what is true (2 Tim. 2:25). For this faith that comes to us from God, and His love that works to unite us springs from the hope that He has stored up for us in heaven. Hope that you have already heard about in the Word of Truth (Col. 1:4-5), Christ Jesus in us is our hope of glory (Col 1:27).



Making our heart glad, and causing our tongue to rejoice; knowing our body will rest secure for You, O God, will not leave our soul among the dead (Ps. 16:9-10 NLT). We are loved and chosen by You, Father,



for we listened to the Good News with great interest (1Thess. 1:4 TLB), which was not only with words but also with power, deep conviction and with Holy Spirit Who gives us full assurance that what is being said is true (1 Thess. 1:5 NLT).

Holy Spirit helps us to come to our senses and escape from Satan's trap of slavery to sin so we can do the will of God (2 Tim. 2:25-26), offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Christ Jesus (1 Peter 2:5).

Paul wrote, God has made us to be kings, to distribute His blessings as servants of Christ not His masters. Now the important thing about a servant is they do just what their Master tells them to. That they are found faithful, worthy to guide others into God's most sublime secrets, not security guards posted to protect them. Yes, the requirements for a good guide are reliability and accurate knowledge.

It matters very little what you think of me, even less where I rank in popular opinion. I don't even rank myself. Comparisons in these matters are pointless. I'm not aware of anything that would disqualify me from being a good guide for you, but that doesn't mean much. The Lord Himself will examine me and decide.



So don't get ahead of Him and jump to conclusions with your judgments as to whether someone is a good servant or not before all the evidence is in. When the Lord comes, He will bring out in the open and place in evidence all kinds of things - inner motives and purposes and prayers - so everyone can see exactly what each one of us is really like deep down in our heart. Only then will any one of us get to hear the "Well done!" of God.

It's important to look at things from God's point of view. I would rather not see you inflating or deflating reputations based on mere hearsay. For who do you know that really knows you, knows your heart? And even if they did, is there anything they would discover in you that you could take credit for? Isn't everything you have and everything you are sheer gifts from God? So what's the point of all the favoritism and comparing and competing. You already have all you need. You already have more access to God than you can handle (1 Cor. 4:1-8 Message).

Therefore, seek peace (Ps 34:14); and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace (2 Tim. 2:22). For God promises His peace shall be yours,

that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot of whatever sort that is, for God's peace which transcends all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your heart and mind in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:4-7 AMP).



What I have discovered that is so unique about the Bible, though it is historical and theological because its pages are filled with God's Word, its content is also meant to be personally applied. For three years the Apostles had their eyes fixed on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith (Heb. 12:2), while their heads were being filled with knowledge.



Yes, this paragraph is repeated - what I have discovered that is so unique about the Bible, though it is historical and theological because its pages are filled with God's Word, its content is also meant to be personally applied. For three years the Apostles had their eyes fixed on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith (Heb. 12:2), while their heads were being filled with knowledge.

However, it wasn't until this knowledge was applied in their personal lives, that their hearts were filled with understanding. They were really able to believe, cleave to, trust in, rely on and place their absolute trust in Jesus.

You see, when Jesus was facing His accusers people scattered, but they were soon to come to know how miraculous God's Word, like David who prophesied these words as he grew to believe and trust in the Lord:

"I saw God always before Me. Because He is at My right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore My heart is glad and My tongue rejoices; My body also lives in hope, because God will not abandon Me to the grave, nor will He let His Holy One see decay."

The Son of Man was handed over by God's set purpose and foreknowledge, and with the help of wicked men, Jesus was put to death by being nailed to the cross. But God, raised Him from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him (Acts 2:23-27).

Being familiar with the agonies of death, Jesus continues to speak of God's grace and love and forgiveness as the Word of Truth. However, some seeds He cast will be quickly devoured by the vulture-self-interest.

Some seeds will just fall from hearts so badly trodden by pride and anger and disbelief, which has made them as hard as rock; other seed will land on hearts that are choked by their worries, pleasures and riches so God's Word does not become fruitful in their lives.

But, there are hearts that receive seeds from the Lord and hold the Word of Truth fast in a heart that acknowledges just how worthy the Lamb, Who was slain, is to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise (Rev. 5:12).

They invite Jesus into their heart as Savior, and serve Him as Lord with all their strength and soul. And the Word of Truth through their faith and perseverance (Luke 8:11-15) grows roots that are deep so Holy Spirit can cultivate His fruit in their lives (Gal. 5:22).



I found this article posted by Northern Seminary, "Truth or a Lie - Matthew 28:11-15," to be very informative.

Living in denial of the Truth is – I’m sad to say – a fairly ordinary, everyday event for many of us. People say things like:

- “I’ve smoked thirty a day since I was a teenager. Cigarettes won’t kill me.”
- “A few extra pounds doesn’t do anyone any harm.”
- “Never mind the speed limit. My driving is safe at a hundred.”

Well, I’ve conducted the funerals of people who died young thinking cigarettes would never do them any harm, and the funerals of people whose “few extra pounds” was a euphemism for being massively obese and who died suddenly of a heart attack. And the man who said he was safe driving at a hundred found that the police waiting down the road didn’t share his opinion.

People just like us have a way of ignoring or denying inconvenient truths.

In his Gospel Matthew recorded what may be the greatest denial of truth ever in human history, and it happened just after the resurrection of Jesus.

The background to the story is outlined in the early verses of chapter 28. Matthew describes a violent earthquake and an angel rolling away the stone that blocked the entrance of Jesus' tomb. Earthquakes are terrifying and the angel no less frightening.

The tomb was being guarded by the governor's soldiers. They were stunned by the earthquake and the angel. They shook visibly with fear, and then collapsed to the ground. The angel spoke to the women at the tomb, told them Jesus had risen from the dead, and sent them to tell his disciples. And then Matthew continues the story of the guards who had been at the tomb.

While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day (Matthew 28:11-15).

~

Matthew is giving the background to a rumor which still existed at the time he was writing his Gospel, the rumor that the disciples had stolen the body of Jesus.

The story is ludicrous on several levels:

- 1) What motive would the disciples have had to steal the body of Jesus? Grave robbing was a serious offence and might even result in a death sentence.
- 2) If the guards were asleep, are we really to believe a group of men, *without making a single sound*, could have rolled away a massive stone in front of the tomb and lifted out the corpse of Jesus?
- 3) If the guards were asleep, how could they have known *who* had stolen the body?
- 4) If the guards were asleep why did they not suffer the usual penalty for failure to protect the body entrusted to them, the penalty of being put to death?
- 5) If a guard did identify the disciples stealing the body, why did that guard not raise the alarm at the time and stop the theft?
- 6) If the authorities had any evidence at all that the disciples had stolen the body, then surely they would have had them arrested immediately and put on trial.



7) Within weeks the apostles were being persecuted and put on trial for preaching that Jesus was alive. Why would they accept death if they knew all along that Jesus was not raised and in fact they had taken the body?

The disciples had not taken the body.

The guards had not been asleep.

Instead, the stone had been rolled away and Jesus had emerged from the tomb alive and triumphant over death.

The chief priests tried to cover up that inconvenient truth with a convenient lie that the disciples had stolen their Lord's body.

But why that lie? There are two main reasons.

1. The chief priests could not believe it was true that Jesus had risen from the dead.

- They despised Jesus. They saw him as a rabble rouser, a disturber of the peace, a radical who could upset the social order. For them Jesus was no more than a country boy come to the big city of Jerusalem with grandiose ideas and an ability to get a following.

They had no reason to think he was special. He would not be someone who would rise from the dead.

- But their main issue was far more basic: how could *anyone* rise from the dead? People of ancient times were not stupid. Whether someone died of a fever or an injury or death on a cross, they were dead. And then they were buried. And then – as far as this world was concerned – nothing more. Dead people did not come back to life. In those days they may have lacked modern medical knowledge, but the basic laws of life and death were no mystery to them. When someone was dead, they stayed dead.
- Therefore, for the chief priests, whatever those guards thought they saw, that grave stone could not have been rolled back by an angel and Jesus could not have walked out of that tomb. They invented another story because the real one was impossible.
- The chief priests back in the first century, and people down through every century since, have wanted to deny the resurrection of Jesus because their starting point was that the miraculous had to be excluded. For them, Jesus cannot have risen back to life. But the tomb was empty, so how could they explain that? And, like the people down through the centuries who

cannot believe that God's mighty power had raised Jesus from the dead, they created a lie.

2. The chief priests could not face the implications of the truth.

- They knew that many people believed in Jesus. The crowds had heard his teaching and believed he had authority. Many of those people had seen and even experienced his miracles and knew God was with him. And at least some considered Jesus the Christ, the Messiah, the one God would send to save his people. That is what many believed, and the priests knew it.
- And what if it was all true? What if Jesus really had risen from the dead, proving he was God's Messiah? If he *was* the Messiah, then they, the religious leaders in Israel, had handed God's anointed Savior to the Romans to be crucified. In the Apostle Peter's first sermon, on the Day of Pentecost, that's exactly what he said they'd done: "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah" (Acts 2:36).

Did the chief priests ask themselves obvious questions:

- Had they missed what God was doing?
- Had they misunderstood the one God was sending?

- Had they mistaken the Messiah for a rabble rouser?



If they asked, they didn't want the answer 'yes.' The thought that they had got everything wrong about Jesus was too dreadful and too significant. They could not let it be true that Jesus was the Messiah and had now risen from the dead. So, like many leaders through the ages, they tried to suppress the truth with a lie.

They had reasons for doing that, reasons to protect the status quo. To accept the resurrection had implications for them:

- **They would lose their prominence.** They would not bow the knee before this Jesus. They were the leaders in Israel. They determined the teaching, the rituals. They would not surrender their place over the people.
- **They would lose their authority.** The Romans gave them freedom to go about their business, latitude to manage the people according to their usual customs. The Roman rulers did not care what religion the Israelites had providing they kept quiet and served Roman interests. The priests could ensure that happened. But not if the people believed this itinerant preacher and miracle

worker called Jesus was thought to be alive. People would follow him, and their place of authority would be lost.

- **They would lose their reputation.** If Jesus was alive, any and all respect the people had for these religious leaders would be gone. How could people who said they spoke for God reject and ultimately kill the Messiah promised for hundreds of years?

No one can be sure the chief priests analyzed their thoughts in neat categories like these. But their prominence, authority, and reputation did control their thinking.

And the marketing people among them said, “Here’s what we do: we pay the guards to say that while they were asleep the disciples stole Jesus’ body. That explains why the tomb is now empty and no one need think Jesus has been raised from the dead.” And they all agreed the marketing people were geniuses.

Except they weren’t! For the testimony of the disciples that they had seen Jesus after He was raised to life was believed, their preaching carried the same authority as Jesus’ preaching; and they did miracles in the power of the Spirit like Jesus had; and the Gospel spread through Jerusalem, out to Samaria, and gradually to the ends of the

earth. The truth about Jesus, the Christ, could not and would not be contained by a hastily-concocted lie.



The chief priests chose self-interest over Truth. The evidence about Jesus was right before them. It had always been before them. They knew that Jesus had healed blind, deaf, and lame people. They knew he'd fed five thousand with a small boy's lunch. They knew he'd raised back to life the daughter of a synagogue leader called Jairus. They knew he'd called a man named Lazarus, dead in his tomb for four days, to come out and everyone saw he was alive. And now they knew that the disciples had not stolen the body, but an angel from God had rolled the stone away and pronounced that Jesus had been raised.

- They knew... but chose a lie instead of the Truth.
- That must not be our choice.
- I believe Jesus has saved me from my sins.
- I believe God raised Him from the dead and He is with me always.

- I believe He is my Lord and all my life – every thought, word and deed – must now be His.
- I believe His Spirit lives in me, and by His Spirit even I may do great things.
- I believe He is the Savior for all people, and therefore all must know of Him.
- I believe He is coming again, and I must be ready for His return and be urgent in all He gives me to do before His return.
- I believe all this and much more. This is Truth.

And every time I step outside that Truth, when I choose less than God's best, when I use time wrongly, or skills for unworthy purposes, or my energies to prosper myself or boost my reputation, or ignore the needs of others, or fail to speak out as a witness for Jesus, or live as if this world and not as heaven is my home... Any time I know what's true, but think or act differently, I too have chosen a lie rather than the Truth.

“Live what you believe,” I tell myself often; for I must. Truth is not an optional extra, nor a commodity to be owned when convenient and set aside when inconvenient.

Jesus is risen! He is really risen! I believe that, and therefore I must live what I believe. So must any Christian. Not self-interest nor any other unworthy motive can be allowed to control our thinking over and against that great Truth. He is risen, He is with us, He is to be honored and served every moment of every day.

No other goals. No lifestyle displeasing to Him. No ambitions other than those He places in our hearts. No purpose to life other than to glorify Him each day. We are those who choose the Truth. It’s challenging and it’s costly but it’s also wonderful and for all eternity glorious. We choose Truth over all lies, and we live out that Truth day by day by day.



The Lord had said:

“Those who believe in Me will enjoy experience with God’s Word of Truth for as the Scripture says: From their



innermost being shall flow continuously springs and rivers of living water.”

Jesus was speaking of Holy Spirit Who was to be given after the Lord was glorified - raised to honor (John 7:38-39 AMP).

If we are willing to do as Jesus instructs, “Have faith in God,” Mark 11:22, and have faith in the Message of God, Who has raised Jesus from the dead we also will be raised with Him through this faith given to us by God (Col. 2:12 KJV).

For the Apostles, understanding rose after Jesus endured the cross, after He endured the scorning of its shame (Heb. 12:2). For the Spirit of God, Who raised up Jesus from the dead, was given to live in them so they could spread this awe-inspiring Good News that God will make our dying bodies live again after we die by means of this same Holy Spirit, Who He sends to live within those who choose to place their faith in His Son, Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:11 TLB).



I don't know the path you are currently traveling; however, I do know that by sharing knowledge of God's Word Holy Spirit will bring about

understanding not only so we can discover what pleases the Lord (Eph. 5:9), but so we can experience the new heights God has seated us in because of our faith in Christ Jesus. Yes, God has great plans and specific purposes for each one of us. His intentionality toward each and every individual is more than amazing it is miraculous.

However, my heart feels the weight of melancholy (sadness, sorrow, upset) knowing not everyone will experience the realms of joy and peace and contentment that only the Word of Truth can provide.

Jer. 29:11-14 makes known God's intentions:

"I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, and will bring you back from captivity."

You may hear of God's great love and the promises He has made, but this knowledge must penetrate our soul before the heart will truly understand the richness of God's mercy (Eph. 2:4) and choose to glorify Jesus above all else.

When we seek God with all our heart through the Word of Truth, we too can be strengthened in our faith and give glory to the Lord as Abraham did. Abraham did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God. He listened and obeyed and walked into new heights with God being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised (Rom. 4:20).



1 John 5:3 tells us that loving God means doing what He tells us to do, and really, that isn't hard at all; for every child of God can obey Him, defeating sin and evil pleasure by trusting Christ to help them. But who could possibly fight and win this battle except by believing that Jesus is truly the Son of God? We know He is for this is the One Who came by water and blood – Christ Jesus.

We accept the testimony given by people, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which He has given about His Son. And God's voice was heard from heaven when Jesus was baptized –

“This is My Son, Whom I love, with Him I am well pleased.”

Matt. 3:17

And again as Jesus was facing death -

“I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.”

John 12:28

Jesus had prayed:

“Now My heart is troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour? No! It was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name! The time of judgment for the world has come - and the time when Satan, the prince of this world, shall be cast out. And when I am lifted up on that cross, I will draw everyone to Me.”

Jesus said this to indicate how He was going to die (John 12:27-33 TLB).

~

So you see, we have these three witnesses: the voice of Holy Spirit in our hearts, the voice from heaven at Christ's baptism, and the voice before He died. And they all say the same thing:

## Jesus Christ is the Son of God!

We believe people who witness in our courts, and so surely we can believe whatever God declares. And God declares - Jesus is His Son. All who believe this know in their heart that it is true. Those who don't believe this are actually calling God a liar. And what is it that God has said?

“I am sending Christ to be the carefully chosen, precious Cornerstone of My Church, and I will never disappoint those who trust in Him.”

1 Peter 2:6 TLB

God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. So whoever has God's Son has life (1 John 5:3-12 TLB).



Surely, the time for judgment (belief, conviction, faith) for the world has come. God has chosen you to know His Word of Truth. To believe, to have faith, to develop trust because this is the kind of truth that changes lives - so you can know that you have received the promise

God made before the world began – eternal life – and He cannot lie (Titus 1:1 TLB).

Through faith we are saved because of the kindness and the grace of God. Salvation is all His idea, and all His work. All we do is trust Him enough to let Him do it. Eternal life is God's gift from start to finish!

We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and the saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join Him in the work He does. Now with all the time in this world and the next God can shower His grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:7-10 Message).



How absolutely amazing is God's grace and His loving-kindness, for He made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions (Eph. 2:5). How awe-inspiring to realize that for the joy set before Him, Jesus endured the cross (Heb. 12:2) for redemption, for recovery, for renewal, for reconciliation, for relationship with God! So we could receive the righteousness that comes from God through faith in Christ (Phil. 3:9).

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. We are freely justified by God's grace through the redemption that came by Christ. God presented Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood. He did this to demonstrate His justice (Rom. 3:22 NIV).



God says He will accept and acquit us – declare us “not guilty” – if we trust Jesus to take away our sins. God sent His Son to take the punishment for our sins and to end all God's anger against us. He used Christ's blood and our faith as the means of saving us from His wrath. On the basis of trust in Jesus, God sets us free from the punishment and penalty that sin demands. We are saved by faith in Christ, not by the good things we do. And only by trusting Jesus can we truly obey Him (Rom. 3:21-31 TLB).

When we truly comprehend what Jesus did because God so loved the world (John 3:16) a heart change occurs because things have gotten personal when it is really known for God so loves you, \_\_\_\_\_, He gave His one and only Son so you can believe and trust in Him and

not perish but instead, have eternal life. And everyone who confesses that Jesus is the Son of God has God living in them, and they are living in God.

We are loved because God first loved us. God is love. As a result of the faith He has given, we live with Christ and our love will continue to grow more perfect and complete because we believe what God has told us, that He loves us dearly. We need have no fear of someone who loves us perfectly; God's perfect love casts out all fear. So you see, our love for Him comes as a result of His loving us (1 John 4:16-19 TLB).



So I pray that out of His glorious riches God would strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being so that Christ may dwell in your heart through faith (Eph. 3:16). For that power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion (Eph. 1:19).

For those who believe Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification (Rom. 4:24), believe we have



been buried with Him in baptism, and raised with Him through our faith in the power of God (Col. 2:12).

Our faith professes we have been crucified with Christ. Our trust in the One Who raised Jesus from the dead is revealed when Christ's death is not treated as meaningless.

It is through reading the Scripture that we come to realize that we could never find God's favor by trying-and-failing to obey the laws. We come to realize that acceptance with God comes by believing in Christ.

We no longer live for ourselves, but for Christ Who lives in us. We have been crucified with Christ; and the real life we now have within our bodies is a result of our trusting in the Son of God, Who loves us and gave Himself for us. If we could be saved by doing things to impress or appear righteous, then there was no need for Christ to die so we could be a child of God (Gal. 2:19-21 TLB).



Therefore, until we all reach unity in faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the

fullness of Christ (Eph. 4:13), we must remember it is God's desire to help free us from the errors in our thinking so we can come to know His will for us (2 Tim. 2:25-26).

So we can come to trust as that Hillsong United song says:

There is another in the fire standing next me;  
There was another in the waters holding back the sea.  
And should I ever need reminding  
There is a cross that bears the burden  
Where another died for me

We can trust God is accomplishing all this and so much more as we daily:

PUT INTO PRACTICE THESE PRINCIPLES  
FOR TAKING STEPS TOWARD  
RENEWAL AND RECOVERY  
TO BE MORE GOD-DEPENDENT INSTEAD OF  
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, believing, trusting:
  - God exists and I matter to Him
  - Admitting I am powerless
  - Acknowledging in certain areas my life became unmanageable
  - Believing God will restore me with Love, a Sound Mind and Power
  - Believing God will help me stay committed to this decision to put all of who I am into His possession and safekeeping
  - Believing the Word of God will encourage, support and strengthen me as I make a searching and fearless moral inventory of myself
  - 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
  - With Truth as my solid foundation I have become entirely ready to have God remove all my defects of character
  - Having received faith and hope and love for the Surety God has given I humbly ask Him to remove my shortcomings

- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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



- As we work at reserving daily time with God, we begin the journey of applying what we have discovered in the steps we have already taken

- We humbly live daily – in reality, not in denial
- We have done our best to make amends for our past
- Through God’s guidance, we can make choices about the emotions that affect our thinking and actions
- We start to take action – positive action – instead of constant reaction
- During this time of self-examination, if we uncover wrongdoings we admit them promptly
- These steps guarantee we do not ever have to be a victim again
  
- We may need to acknowledge our lives were filled with
  - judgment and attempts at perfection
  - we judged ourselves and others
  - if we did wrong our defenses flew up, and we tried to deny our part, afraid we were not worthwhile if we were not perfect
  - we used our mistakes to reinforce our anger and resentment toward ourselves and others
  
- Taking this step to reserve time with God daily and for self-examination we learn that making mistakes is normal, expected and to be anticipated – important lessons can be uncovered in our less-than-perfect behaviors

- We discover if our self-esteem is resting on being right all the time - --- an attitude like this does not leave room for much growth of self-esteem
- We become more comfortable with ourselves - so we can become more open, vulnerable and humble about this process of growth and renewal and recovery
- This time of self-examination with God teaches us we don't have to listen to our old messages -
  - We can acknowledge how uncomfortable it is to admit our wrongs to people
  - How difficult it is for us to become aware of a new behavior that needs to be worked on
  - The struggle with pride and our defenses will continue
  - That our need to be right and in control and perfect will still be nagging at us
- This time we spend with God for self-examination and prayer helps us to recognize our peace, our joy, our respect for self and others comes when we accept ourselves - when we allow ourselves to be honest, open and responsible - when we are responsible to ourselves and others

- We realize our self-esteem and self-respect comes back when we promptly address the wrongs we do to others and ourselves
- Taking this step in order to know God and His will for your life gives us permission to be ourselves and to be imperfect
  - Giving us permission to care for and nurture ourselves, and focus on what's right with our lives
  - Allowing us to be vulnerable in relationships with other vulnerable people
  - Allowing us to forgive ourselves - and forgive others
  - Helping us to weave the concept of forgiveness and acceptance into our daily life
  - Giving us permission to be honest about who we are
  - Helping us acknowledge we can deal with things as they come up
- This step to daily reserve time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and His will for your life and to gain the power to follow His will helps us to remove that victim's mentality

When I think of the wisdom and scope of God's plan, I pray

And give thanks to our heavenly Father

That out of His glorious, unlimited resources

He will give you the mighty inner strengthening of

His Holy Spirit.

And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home

In your heart, living within you as you trust in Him.

May your roots go down deep into the soil of

God's marvelous love;

And may you be able to feel and understand,

As all God's children should,

How long, how wide, how deep, and how high

His love really is;

And to experience this love for yourselves,

Though it is so great

That you will never see the end of it

Or fully know or understand it.

And so at last you will be filled up with God Himself.

Eph 3:14-18 TLB