

THE CROSS



“A CHURCH WHERE EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY AND CHRIST IS LORD OF ALL”



July-August 2022 — Volume 26 Issue 4

Welcome Back Pastor Moses L. & First Lady Eledia Harvill



From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Cross Street Church Family,

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We care deeply for our members and visitors. In addition, we strive to be a community where people are known and loved. We want to let you know that we care

about you and notice when you cannot be with us.

In these changing and challenging times, we can say with assurance that God is always good! Jesus never promised that we wouldn't have any hard times or difficult situations to go through, but He DID promise that He would walk with us!

John 16:33 (NIV) 33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

I can hear LaTia Holley singing with the children's choir:

People are dying everywhere,

Drugs are taking them away.

Children are crying all around,

A solution must be found.

Gangs are destroying all our schools,

No more interest in the golden rule;

They took prayer out of the class,

Tell me how long it will last.'

Yes, there is hope; Lord, there is hope.

There is hope for all, and there is hope.

(As long as Jesus is alive),

Yes, there is hope.

There is hope for the Church as we re-enter the Sanctuary for Worship and Praise. We have missed many of our members for in-person service. We are prayerful others will feel comfortable in returning. Prayerfully you are connecting to one of the platforms for worship.

We need every member to join us in worship service and giving. It will take all of us to give our best to keep the Church going. We recognize the difficult economic season with gas prices, food, and everything increasing. In the words of Dr. Nathan Proche' "God is not broke." The Lord has promised never to leave us nor forsake us.

Let's work through this together, experience the victory, and may God receive the glory. Much love to all.

We look to seeing you in Church.

Reverend Moses L. Harvill, Pastor/Presiding Elder



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WWW.crossstreetamezion.org

Memo from GOD

Effective immediately, please be aware that there are changes YOU need to make in YOUR life. These changes need to be completed in order that I may fulfill My promises to you to grant you peace, joy and happiness in this life. I apologize for any inconvenience, but after all that I am doing, this seems very little to ask of you. I know, I already gave you the 10 Commandments. Keep them. But follow these guidelines, also.

1. QUIT WORRYING

Life has dealt you a blow and all you do is sit and worry. Have you forgotten that I am here to take all your burdens and carry them for you? Or do you just enjoy fretting over every little thing that comes your way?

2. PUT IT ON THE LIST

Something needs done or taken care of. Put it on the list. No, not YOUR list. Put it on MY to-do-list. Let ME be the one to take care of the problem. I can't help you until you turn it over to Me. And although My to-do-list is long, I am after all ... God. I can take care of anything you put into My hands. In fact, if the truth were ever really known, I take care of a lot of things for you that you never even realize.

3. TRUST ME

Once you've given your burdens to Me, quit trying to take them back. Trust in Me. Have the faith that I will take care of all your needs, your problems and your trials. Problems with the kids? Put them on My list. Problem with finances? Put it in My list. Problems with your emotional roller coaster?

For My sake, put it on My list. I want to help you. All you have to do is ask.

4. LEAVE IT ALONE

Don't wake up one morning and say, "Well, I'm feeling much stronger now, I think I can handle it from here." Why do you think you are feeling stronger now? It's simple. You gave Me your burdens and I'm taking care of them. I also renew your strength and cover you in my peace. Don't you know that if I give you these problems back, you will be right back where you started? Leave them with Me and forget about them. Just let Me do my job.

5. TALK TO ME

I want you to forget a lot of things. Forget what was making you crazy. Forget the worry and the fretting because you know I'm in control. But there's one thing I pray you never forget. Please, don't forget to talk to Me - OFTEN! I love YOU! I want to hear your voice. I want you to include Me in on the things going on in your life. I want to hear you talk about your friends and family. Prayer is simply you having a conversation with Me. I want to be your dearest friend.

6. HAVE FAITH

I see a lot of things from up here that you can't see from where you are. Have faith in Me that I know what I'm doing. Trust Me; you wouldn't want the view from My eyes. I will continue to care for you, watch over you, and meet your needs. You only have to trust Me. Although I have a much bigger task than you, it seems as if you have so much trouble just doing your simple part. How hard can trust be?

7. SHARE

You were taught to share when you were only two years old. When did you forget? That rule still applies. Share with those who are less fortunate than you. Share your joy with those who need encouragement. Share your laughter with those who haven't heard any in such a long time. Share your tears with those who have forgotten how to cry. Share your faith with those who have none.

8. BE PATIENT

I managed to fix it so in just one lifetime you could have so many diverse experiences. You grow from a child to an adult, have children, change jobs many times, learn many trades, travel to so many places, meet thousands of people, and experience so much. How can you be so impatient then when it takes Me a little longer than you expect to handle something on My to-do-list? Trust in My timing, for My timing is perfect. Just because I created the entire universe in only six days, everyone thinks I should always rush, rush, rush.

9. BE KIND

Be kind to others, for I love them just as much as I love you. They may not dress like you, or talk like you, or live the same way you do, but I still love you all. Please try to get along, for My sake. I created each of you different in some way. It would be too boring if you were all identical. Please, know I love each of your differences.

10. LOVE YOURSELF

As much as I love me for one reason of Love. Love Me. Heartache when I are very precious you, how can you not love yourself? You were only ... to be loved, and to love in return. Love your neighbors. But also love yourself. See you so angry with yourself when things go to me. Don't ever forget that!

Created by **I AM**, a God. It makes My wrong, **You**.

With all My heart I love **YOU** ...

God



**GOD CAN TURN AROUND
ANY SITUATION.**



In what way is patience a fruit of the Holy Spirit?

The Greek word for "patience" used in Galatians 5:22 is *makrothumia*, which means "forbearance" or "longsuffering." The Greek word is a compound of two words meaning "long" and "temper." *Makrothumia* is the equivalent of our English idiom "having a long fuse"; a patient person can take a lot of provocation before reacting. Patience is one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit. As the phrase "fruit of the Spirit" implies, we can only have patience when the Holy Spirit works through us.

Job is often put forward as the personification of patience, and rightly so. He endured the loss of his possessions, his children, his health, and his wife's support, but he took it patiently. When Job's wife told him to "Curse God and die," Job responded, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" (Job 2:9-10). Job knew God had control over his situation and his suffering. He had the

(Patience on page 15)

The Essence of Patience

Scripture for knowledge: PSALM 106:13
 "They soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his plan to unfold."

Reminder using a story: As a young man, Moses knew he was supposed to deliver the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. He had the promise from God, but he did not have the patience. He got in a hurry and killed a man who was mistreating a Hebrew slave. His heart was right, but because he was out of God's timing, he had to flee for his life and spent forty years waiting in the desert.

It is easy to have faith for your dreams, but faith without patience will get you into trouble, every time. What you are yearning for may be taking longer than you think. Do not try to force things to happen. You should be determined, but you do not want to have to promote yourself and manipulate people and convince them to like you. At the right time, things will fall into place. Now do your part and trust God—your times are in His hands. Wait

(Essence on page 16)

People of Patience

This month we are discussing the topic of patience.

This can be an area that for some may be difficult especially in these times we are living in .

God gives us a great reminder in His Word just how important it is to be a people of patience.

Now more than ever the unbelieving world is watching the conversation of our lives.

Will they see a people of patience?

While we see the pride of man bear down on us from day to day the scriptures tell us.

(People on page 18)

What does the Bible say about patience?

GALATIANS 5:22-23

"But the fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control" AMEN!

When everything is going our way, patience is easy to demonstrate. The true test of patience comes when our rights are violated—when another car cuts us off in traffic; when we are treated unfairly; when our coworker derides our faith, again. Some of us think we have a right to get upset in the face of irritations and trials. Impatience seems like a holy anger. The Bible, however, praises patience as a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness," ". If we read the AMP In all English translation states, "But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness,

(Bible on page 16)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Prayers	5	Sunday Church School	11	Daily Confession of Faith	23
Fruit of the Spirit	6	90 Devotions	13	Barbara Perry Speaks	24
Name of God	7	The Armor of God	14	The Beauty of Holland	25
Daily Bible Reading	7	How to Pray	19	Joyce Meyer	26
Christian Season	8	Our Daily Bread	20	Bible's Bird's Eye View	27
Liturgical Color	8	Words To Live By	21	Activities	29
Fasting	9	Spirit Lifters	22		

RETOOLING FOR CHURCH GROWTH 2021

- Renewing
- Reconnecting
- Reopening

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you. ~Matthew 6:33*

Growing the Church via Zoom & Virtual Church

Starting Stronger:

RENEWING

*Bible Study— Growing in Christ: Lessons on Assurance—Lessons on Christian Living
‘Living for Christ isn’t easy, but it is possible!’ Learn how with GROWING with CHRIST
Lessons will be emailed & available for you to pick up at the church.*

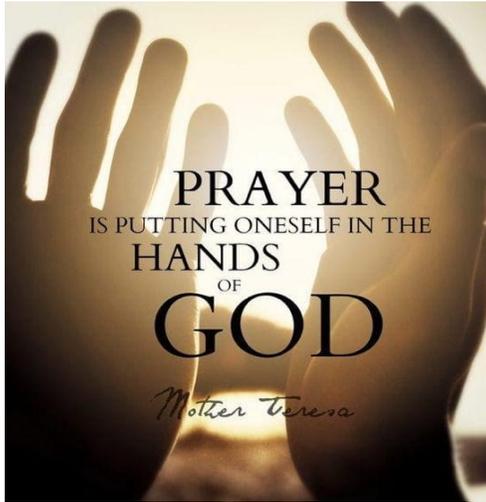
*We begin the year with Spiritual Renewal
-Prayer & Bible Study*

RECONNECTING

Growing the church by coming back together in love & fellowship

REOPENING

Returning with zeal for Christ and His Kingdom mission



When You Need Patience

Key Scripture: "That ye be not slothful, but followings of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises" Hebrews 6:12.

Key Thought: The path to God's

promises is paved with patience.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for giving me patience as a fruit of your Holy Spirit. 1 Continue to work your patience in me so that I may accomplish your will and inherit your promises, 2

Father, I will hear your Word and obey it, so that I will be able to bring forth fruit with patience. 3 Likewise, I will obey your command to possess my soul through patience, 4 Therefore, I will let patience have its perfect work in my life so that I will become perfect and entire, wanting nothing, 5

Through your grace, Father, I will run with patience the race you have set before me. I will keep my eyes on Jesus, who is the Author and Finisher of my faith. 6 I will wait on you, lord, and I know that as I wait, you will strengthen my heart to walk in

patience. 7 I believe all the promises of your Word, and I know that they will never fail. Thank you for each and every promise you've give to me, for I know that all of your promises in Christ Jesus are yes and amen. 8

As I wait upon you, Lord, you are renewing my strength. I am mounting up with wings like an eagle. When I run, I will not be weary, and when I walk, I will not faint. 9 Thank you for supplying my need for patience. I will walk in the patience you've imparted to me each day of my life.

References: (1) Galatians 5:22; (2) Hebrews 10:36; (3) Luke 8:15; (4) Luke 21:19; (5) James 1:4; (6) Hebrews 12:1-2; (7) Psalms 27:14; (8) 2 Corinthians 1:20; (9) Isaiah 40:31.

Bible Prayers for all your needs
Victory House Publishers

PRAYERS BY BARBARA PERRY

"Prayer to Remember Who We Are in Christ"

Psalm 5:12 "Surely, Lord, You bless the righteous; You surround them with Your favor as with a shield." Amen

Let us pray: Father, The world is ridiculously hard sometimes! There are days we feel attacked for no reason! We ask that You please give us Your perspective in those situations. Help us to see others through Your eyes, not through the sneaky lies of the enemy meant to stir us against each other and break us apart. Remind us, no human being is perfect, but You are. You are unchanging, ever-present and everywhere, and all-knowing, You are

love, mercy, justice, forgiveness, compassion and goodness. Father, You are glorious! This is who You are! You made us in Your image, and have given us a purpose and a calling that draws us to You, daily. When our character is attacked and we are tempted to be offended and unforgiving, open our eyes and soften our hearts to hear and embrace who You say we are. Filter our actions, words and thoughts through the truth of Your Word, through Your love, Father. May we be quick to forgive, sensitive to love others, and prayerfully lift up those who unjustly and unfairly attack us, its In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen, Amen, Amen.

"Prayer to Let the Lord Lead"

John 13:15 says, **"For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you."** Amen

Let's pray: Lord, Thank You for the gifts You knit within us We pray Lord, as we live for our Kingdom, that our heart would always find itself attentive to Your Holy Spirit. We

pray that our heart would seek to serve You from a place of humility and honor You by honoring Your truth. Help us see our pride clearly and reject it fully. Help us serve in humility and trust that You will open up opportunities for us to use our gifts and talents for Your kingdom, its In Jesus' name we pray. Amen, Amen, Amen.

"Prayer of Determination to Praise God"

Psalm 9:1-2 says, **"I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High,"** Amen

Let's pray: Dear Lord, Today we lift up a prayer of praise to You. You have been so good to us. Thank You for all that You have done in our heart and life. Bring to us

memory all the wonderful things that you have done in our life so that we can be filled with gladness and rejoice in Your goodness. We will sing praises to You. You are good. You are the Most High God. Thank You for saving us, for guiding us, for filling us with joy as we spend time thanking You for all You have done and all that are doing in our life today. In Your name, Jesus, we pray. Amen, Amen, Amen.

"Prayer When Battling Rejection"

Hebrews 13:5 says, **"... for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my Helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?"**" Amen.

Let's pray: Abba Father, we're hurting. We don't want to hold onto this pain of rejection. We want to heal from the wounds of those who have hurt us. We choose to forgive. So

we want You to bless those who hurt us, even if they don't want us in their life anymore because Your Son was rejected, even by you, for a moment when He took the punishment of sin, out of love for us. We Thank You, Jesus, for being the friend we need who sticks by us no matter what. We love You, Lord. Thank You for always loving us, and never leaving us, it in Jesus' name we ask and pray. Amen, Amen, Amen, Hallelujah.

Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy. Psalm 99:9



The fruit of the Spirit abides in us and it is up to us to cultivate it so that we may experience the blessing and the fullness of the Spirit. God is the husbandman..."He prunes, nurtures, waters and protects His own. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit will energize and control every faculty of our nature when our will joins the will of God. Then the "beauty of the Lord will be upon us" (Psalm 90:17) and "we shall bring forth fruit unto God" (Romans 7:4)."

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

"But the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, MEEKNESS, TEMPERANCE: against such there is no law." (Galatians 5:22, 23)

The fruit of the Spirit abides in us and it is up to us to cultivate it so that we may experience the blessing and the fullness of the Spirit. God is the husbandman..."He prunes, nurtures, waters and protects His own. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit will energize and control every faculty of our nature when our will joins the will of God. Then the "beauty of the Lord will be upon us" (Psalm 90:17) and "we shall bring forth fruit unto God" (Romans 7:4)."

The fruit of LOVE when properly motivated "is pure, far reaching, forgiving. There is no limit to the good that LOVE does. God is LOVE. (1 John 4:7)

JOY never fades, it is never destroyed by circumstances, it is unaffected by wealth or poverty, sickness or health. It is found in the presence of God (Psalm 16:11)

PEACE "is a tranquility of mind as a result of a right relationship with God". The PEACE of God in our hearts challenges sin at every turn and deals with it immediately in order to maintain that right relationship. (Ephesians 2:14)

LONG-SUFFERING means steadfastness of the soul under provocation. It means forbearance and patient endurance of ill-treatment, without anger or thought of revenge. (Colossians 3:12, 13)

GENTLENESS is sweet reasonableness, calmness and graciousness. It calms troubled waters, settles turmoil and heals strife. (James 3:17)

GOODNESS does good to others. It is kindness of heart and good deeds. It may not always be a gentle word, but a stern rebuke done for the good of someone else. (Psalm 33:5)

MEEKNESS disarms the stormy, tempestuous person. The qualities of mildness and gentleness in dealing with others. It is not weak. It is a high quality of spiritual strength. (1 Timothy 6:11)

FAITH means faithfulness to Christ and His cause. It manifests itself in being a trustworthy steward of God. It is trust and obedience, belief in God's word and promises. (Hebrews 11:1)

TEMPERANCE is power, it is strength, having self-control. It means discipline. It provides balance to the Christian's life. It enables him to praise Him whether in discipline or testing. (Proverbs 11:1) (Information taken in part from World-Wide Keswick publication and Holy Scriptures)

Satan tries to imitate the real thing with an artificial fruit. As you can see, the artificial fruit is very much like the real thing and if we are not careful, we can fall into the trap of expressing limited love, temporary joy, numbness, insensitivity, manipulation, hypocrisy, half-heartedness, false modesty and choosing lesser goals.

THE FRUIT, *The Artificial Fruit,* **The Weed**

LOVE, *limited love*, **hatred**; JOY, *temporary JOY*, **sorrow**; PEACE, *numbness, carelessness*, **anxiety strife**;
PATIENCE, *laziness, insensitivity*, **impatience**; KINDNESS, *manipulation by kindness*, **pride**;
GOODNESS, *hypocrisy*, **evil**; FAITHFULNESS, *half-heartedness*, **infidelity**;
MEEKNESS, *false modesty*, **self-seeking**; SELF-CONTROL, *choosing lesser goals*, **lack of control**
(The Fruit of the Spirit, John W. Sanderson)

READ THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

JULY

1. Psalms 112-114
2. Psalms 115-118
3. Psalms 119
4. Psalms 120-123
5. Psalms 124-128
6. Psalms 129-132
7. Psalms 133-136

8. Psalms 137-139
9. Psalms 140-144
10. Psalms 145-147
11. Psalms 148-150
12. Proverbs 1-3
13. Proverbs 4-7
14. Proverbs 8-11
15. Proverbs 12-14

16. Proverbs 15-18
17. Proverbs 19-21
18. Proverbs 22-24
19. Proverbs 25-28
20. Proverbs 29-31
21. Ecclesiastes 1-3
22. Ecclesiastes 4-6
23. Ecclesiastes 7-9

24. Ecclesiastes 10-12
25. Song 1-4
26. Song 5-8
27. Isaiah 1-3
28. Isaiah 4-6
29. Isaiah 7-9
30. Isaiah 10-12
31. Isaiah 13-15

AUGUST

1. Isaiah 16-18
2. Isaiah 19-21
3. Isaiah 22-24
4. Isaiah 25-27
5. Isaiah 28-30
6. Isaiah 31-33
7. Isaiah 34-36

8. Isaiah 37-39
9. Isaiah 40-42
10. Isaiah 43-45
11. Isaiah 46-48
12. Isaiah 49-51
13. Isaiah 52-54
14. Isaiah 55-57
15. Isaiah 58-60

16. Isaiah 61-63
17. Isaiah 64-66
18. Jeremiah 1-2
19. Jeremiah 3-5
20. Jeremiah 6-8
21. Jeremiah 9-12
22. Jeremiah 13-16
23. Jeremiah 17-20

24. Jeremiah 21-23
25. Jeremiah 24-26
26. Jeremiah 27-29
27. Jeremiah 30-32
28. Jeremiah 33-36
29. Jeremiah 37-39
30. Jeremiah 40-42
31. Jeremiah 43-46

SEPTEMBER

1. Jeremiah 47-49
2. Jeremiah 50-52
3. Lamentations 1-5
4. Ezekiel 1-3
5. Ezekiel 4-7
6. Ezekiel 8-11
7. Ezekiel 12-14

8. Ezekiel 15-18
9. Ezekiel 19-21
10. Ezekiel 22-24
11. Ezekiel 25-27
12. Ezekiel 28-30
13. Ezekiel 31-33
14. Ezekiel 34-36
15. Ezekiel 37-39

16. Ezekiel 40-42
17. Ezekiel 43-45
18. Ezekiel 46-48
19. Daniel 1-3
20. Daniel 4-6
21. Daniel 7-9
22. Daniel 10-12
23. Hosea 1-4

24. Hosea 5-7
25. Hosea 8-10
26. Hosea 11-14
27. Joel 1-3
28. Amos 1-3
29. Amos 4-6
30. Amos 7-9

Name of God	Meaning	Application
JEHOVAH	"I AM", The One Who Is The Self-existent One	God never changes. His promises never fail. When we are faithless, He is faithful. We need to obey Him.
JEHOVAH- JIREH	The Lord Will Provide	Just as God provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac, He provided His son Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice. God will meet all our needs.
JEHOVAH-MEKADDISHKEM	The Lord Who Sanctifies	God sets us apart as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, holy unto God, a people of His own. He cleanses our sin and helps us mature.
JEHOVAH-NISSI	The Lord is My Banner	God gives us victory against the flesh, the world and the devil. Our battles are His battles of light against darkness and good against evil.
JEHOVAH –RAPHA	The Lord Who Heals	God has provided the final cure for spiritual, physical, and emotional sickness in Jesus Christ. God can heal us.
JEHOVAH - ROHI	The Lord is My Shepherd	The Lord protects, provides, directs, leads, and cares for His people. God tenderly takes care of us as a strong and patient shepherd.
JEHOVAH – SABAOTH	The Lord of Hosts The Lord of Armies	The Lord of the hosts of heaven will always fulfill His purposes, even when the hosts of His earthly people fail.

There are various names of God, many of which enumerate the various qualities of a Supreme Being. The English word "god" (and its equivalent in other languages) is used by multiple religions as a noun or name to refer to different deities, or specifically to the Supreme Being, as denoted in English by the capitalized and uncapitalized terms "God" and "god". Ancient cognate equivalents for the biblical Hebrew Elohim, one of the most common names of God in the Bible, include proto-Semitic El, biblical Aramaic Elah, and Arabic 'ilah. The personal or proper name for God in many of these languages may either be distinguished from such attributes, or homonymic. For example, in Judaism the tetragrammaton is sometimes related to the ancient Hebrew ehyeh ("I will be"). In the Hebrew Bible (Exodus 3:14), Yahweh, the personal name of God, is revealed directly to Moses. Correlation between various theories and interpretation of the name of "the one God", used to signify a monotheistic or ultimate Supreme Being from which all other divine attributes derive, has been a subject of ecumenical discourse between Eastern and Western scholars for over two centuries. In Christian theology the word is considered a personal and a proper name of God. On the other hand, the names of God in a different tradition are sometimes referred to by symbols. The question whether divine names used by different religions are equivalent has been raised and analyzed.

CHRISTIAN SEASONS

The Season After Pentecost covers 10-14 Sundays. The liturgical color is red for the Season After Pentecost.

Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after the day of Pentecost. This Sunday emphasizes the three-fold manifestation of the Godhead (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit/Ghost): three and yet one. White is the appropriate color.

Color: Red is symbolic of loyalty, power, witness, Christian zeal, blood, fire, the work and ministry of the Church, and the Holy Spirit.

Kingdomtide begins on the last Sunday in August and continues until the beginning of Advent.

The emphasis includes evangelism, world missions, and the work for peace and justice in all relationships. During this period, special emphasis is placed on the Kingship of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The observance is wrapped up in the heightened awareness of one of the basic tenets of the Christian faith – the hope of the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven

Color: Green is symbolic of freshness of nature, hope, life and growth.

LITURGICAL COLORS

Liturgy or liturgical comes from the Greek word “leitourgia” that means public service. Thus, liturgical refers to the rites or forms prescribed for use in public worship. Colors add brightness, variety, and visual appeal for the worshiper and Christian believer. But beyond this is the wealth of meaning and theological interpretation wrapped up in the colors used during the various seasons. Below are the prevalent colors and their liturgical interpretations.

Purple (violet or lilac) is the color used to denote royalty, praying, fasting, and penitence. It represents a symbol of the majesty of Christ, and Jesus’ humanity, suffering, and fasting. Advent and Lent are seasons when this color is used.

Green is symbolic of the freshness of nature, hope, life, and growth. It is used during The Season After Epiphany and Kingdomtide. Some denominations use green during The Season after Pentecost.

White is symbolic of light, joy, purity, glory, and the bright light of truth. It is used during Christmas/Christmastide, Epiphany (January 6), Baptism of the Lord Sunday, Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday, Maundy Thursday (if Holy Communion is celebrated), Easter/Eastertide, Ascension Day/Sunday, Trinity Sunday, and Christ the King Sunday. It is appropriately used for Consecrations, Baptisms, Marriages, and Holy Communion.

Red is symbolic of loyalty, power, witness, Christian zeal, blood, fire, the work and ministry of the Church, and the Holy Spirit. It is used on Pentecost, for some The Season After Pentecost, and Church anniversaries, dedications, and ordinations. The color red is appropriate for year-round use if there is no other color available.

Black represents grief, sorrow, mourning, or death. It is used on Good Friday and sometimes for funerals. (Some prefer to use white for funerals to celebrate the homegoing of a loved one.)

Gold is the color denoting worth, virtue, glory to God, and Christian might. It was one of the gifts given to the Baby Jesus by the Magi (Wise Men). The Kingship of the Christ Child and the price Jesus paid on Calvary is also represented in this color.

Other Colors

Blue is an alternate liturgical color that is symbolic of hope. It is often used as an alternate color to purple during Advent by some denominations.

Kente Cloth is being used by many African-American congregations as a parament. It is also used on clergy and choir robes or liturgical stoles. Most of the kente cloth contains several of the liturgical colors. Kente Cloth is a strong woven fabric from the West African country of Ghana. Its name comes from the word “kenten” referring to that which cannot be torn under any circumstances. It is woven in narrow four inch strips and stitched together to make the desired width of the fabric. Traditionally, this cloth carried symbolic designs that indicated a proverb or special message. In addition to the meaning wrapped up in the colors, it also represents the commitment of believers not to allow anything to separate them from the love of God and a reminder to hold on to one’s heritage.

Fasting for Health, Healing and a Heart for God's Vision for the Church

1. The Daniel Fast involves a spiritual commitment to God. "Daniel proposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the Kings delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank." (Daniel 1: 8)

2. Faith is foundational to the Daniel Fast. "Then I set my face toward my God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting" (Daniel. 9:30 "However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting" (Matthew 17: 21)

3. Fast and yield yourself to God as a servant. Daniel said, "as you see fit, deal with your servants" (Daniel 1:13)

4. Schedule your prayer / And end with thanksgiving. Daniel "kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks" (Daniel 6: 10)

5. Begin with confession, (repentance), dedication, and prayer-"Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way of everlasting" (Psalm 39: 23-24)

Remember: The Daniel Fast will lead to spiritual insight. "... to these young men God gave knowledge" (Daniel 1: 17)

Guidelines for Daniel Fast

Foods We May Eat

After answering hundreds of questions about the Daniel Fast on the blog, I developed these food guidelines. My hope is that it will serve as a more complete list. The original list used by many people was issued in a book about fasting. I know the author tried to do the best he could, but that isn't the same as getting hundreds of questions seeking clarification.

Please make sure to READ THE LABEL when purchasing packaged, canned or bottled foods. They should be sugar-free and chemical-free. Keep this in mind as you review this list of acceptable foods. Look for the list of ingredients on the label (not the nutritional value) to make sure all the ingredients comply with the Daniel Fast Guidelines.

Foods to include in your eating plan during the Daniel Fast

All fruits. These can be fresh, frozen, dried, juiced or canned. Fruits include but are apples, apricots, bananas, blackberries, blueberries, boysenberries, cantaloupe, cherries, cranberries, figs, grapefruit, grapes, guava, honeydew melon, kiwi, lemons, limes, mangoes, nectarines, oranges, papayas, peaches, pears, pineapples, plums, prunes, raisins, raspberries, strawberries, tangelos, tangerines, watermelon

All vegetables. These can be fresh, frozen, dried, juiced or canned. Vegetables include but are artichokes,

asparagus, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chili peppers, collard greens, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, ginger root, kale, leeks, lettuce, mushrooms, mustard greens, okra, onions, parsley, potatoes, radishes, rutabagas, scallions, spinach, sprouts, squashes, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, turnips, watercress, yams, zucchini, veggie burgers are an option if you are not allergic to soy.

All whole grains, including whole wheat, brown rice, millet, quinoa, oats, barley, grits, whole wheat pasta, whole wheat tortillas, rice cakes and popcorn.

All nuts and seeds, including sunflower seeds, cashews, peanuts, sesame. Also nut butters including peanut butter.

All legumes. These can be canned or dried. Legumes include dried beans, pinto beans, split peas, lentils, black eyed peas, kidney beans, black beans, cannellini beans, white beans.

All quality oils including olive, canola, grape seed, peanut, and sesame.

Beverages: spring water, distilled water or other pure waters.

Other: tofu, soy products, vinegar, seasonings, salt, herbs and spices.

Note: Unsweetened plant-based milks and juices can be used in recipes or on cereal, but the only beverage on the Daniel Fast is water.

Foods to avoid on the Daniel Fast

All meat, animal, fish and seafood products including beef, lamb, pork, poultry, fish and shellfish.

All dairy products including milk, cheese, cream, butter, and eggs.

All sweeteners including sugar, raw sugar, date sugar, honey, syrups, molasses, cane juice, date honey, and stevia.

All leavened bread including Ezekiel Bread (it contains yeast and honey) and baked goods.

All leavening agents including yeast, baking soda and baking powder.

All refined and processed foods products including artificial flavorings, food additives, chemicals, white rice, white flour, and foods that contain artificial preservatives.

All deep-fried foods including potato chips, French fries, corn chips.

All solid fats including shortening, margarine, lard and foods high in fat.

Beverages including coffee, tea, herbal teas, carbonated beverages, energy drinks, and alcohol.

Remember, **READ THE LABELS** so you are aware of the ingredients in the package.!

Be blessed on your fast

Learn more about the Daniel Fast at <http://Daniel-Fast.com>

"Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5: 17)

10 Practical Guidelines on Fasting By Charles Ng of Singapore

1. Enter into fasting with a positive faith. If you are determined to seek God diligently by fasting, you have a Scriptural right to expect that God will reward you. In Matthew 6:18, Jesus promises to every believer who fasts correctly: “your father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”

2. Do not wait for an emergency to drive you to fast. It is better to begin fasting when you are spiritually up than down. The law of progress in God’s Kingdom is from “strength to strength” (Ps. 84:7), “from faith to faith” (Rom. 1:17), and from “glory to glory” (2Cor. 3:18).

3. Do not set for yourself too long a period of fasting. If you are fasting for the first time, begin by omitting one or two meals. Then, move on to longer periods such as a day or two. It is better to begin with a short period and achieving it than to do a long period of fasting and not achieving it.

4. During your period of fasting, feed on God’s Word, the Bible. Where possible, read a portion of Scripture before each period of prayer. The Psalms are especially helpful.

5. Avoid boastfulness—apart from special periods of prayer, your life should be as normal as possible.

6. Check on your motives each time you fast. Take time to read Isaiah 58.

7. If you are on regular medication or suffer from diabetes or TB, it is wise to obtain medical advice before entering into any fast.

8. As you enter fast, you might suffer discomfort, unpleasant physical symptoms such as dizziness or nausea. Do not be deterred. Go through with the fast as planned. After the first day or two, these unpleasant physical reactions usually subside.

9. Remember that hunger is purely a

matter of habit. If you hold out, the sensation of hunger will go away. Sometimes you can fool your stomach by drinking a glass of water instead of snacking.

10. Guard against constipation. Before and after fasting, choose meals that will help you in this respect such as fresh fruits, fruit juices, dried figs, prunes, apricots, or oatmeal.

Total Fast: Abstaining from solid foods for 24 hours. Taking only water.

Partial fast: Abstaining from solid foods for an extended part of the day, e.g. from 7:00 am until 7:00 PM. Taking only water.

1 Meal Fast: Sacrificing one full meal a day, e.g. Abstaining from lunch.

Daniel Fast: Abstaining from meals and other delicacies. Taking only small portions of fresh vegetables, fruit and juices.

+ PRAY

COVID-19 RESPONSE

► **PRAY FOR THE VULNERABLE:** Ask God to protect those most vulnerable to the effects of the virus, especially the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.

► **PRAY FOR GOVERNMENT LEADERS:** Ask God to give our local, state, and national leaders wisdom in how to deal with the virus.

► **PRAY FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS:** Ask that God would guide and protect them as they care for the sick.

► **PRAY FOR FAMILIES:** Ask God to comfort and provide for those whose businesses, job stability, and schooling have been affected.

► **PRAY FOR THE CHURCH:** Ask God to help His people have courage, find ways to serve those in need, and continue proclaiming the Gospel.



A Poem of Praise

Father God, I love You so;
You care for me even when I don't know.
I often question Your intent,
Despite those promises You've already kept.
I try to make sense of all around,
yet my eyes focus narrowly on my own.
You forgive my impatience,
and my self-righteous thoughts;
And secured my salvation through Your Son's
death on the cross.
He redeemed all my sins and gave me new life;
an act that cost a most precious price.
With Your help, dear Lord,
I will trust in the perfect plan
that is a gift from Your great hand.
Thank You for each day's new mercies,
and the grace that wipes away all my inequities.
To You, Adonai, is my praise for always;
may my last breath be a whisper
giving You all the glory.

juliesanne.com



Sunday School is a Family Affair

We have classes for all ages – 3 to 103
Virtual Classes (See page 29 for Details)
(For Transportation Needs Please call the Church 860-344-9527)

Come Grow with US!

The Creating Word Becomes Flesh / Reason for it All

Background Scripture: John 1:1-14

EXALT!

Declaration: John 1:1-14

The Word Became Flesh

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word, was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believe in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Affirmation: We will strive to live in relationship with Creator God because of the "light" (grace and truth) that Jesus gives.

ENGAGE

People are often curious about how things began. How do we understand the origins of life? John begins by explaining that Jesus, the Word, was God's creating and redeeming agent in the world.

Break into small groups and discuss the following questions: 1. Have you ever thought much about how and why human life came into existence, the why and how of all things? Can you answer the question: What came first the chicken or the egg, and why, of course, it all started in the first place? Have you reached any satisfactory answers concerning any of these question? Share your thoughts. 2. We are all much aware of the physical existence of things in our surrounding, of course, such as other people, plants, animals, the sky, the earth, the sea, the ocean, stars, sun, moon, etc. But, are we aware of the existence of spiritual realities, things we cannot see, the supernatural? What makes us think these exist or do not exist? 3. Turning to our human lives and their meanings, do you wonder about the significance of human life and how there may be some way for human life to have real significance? Share your thoughts on this.

EDUCATE

John 1:1-5: John most likely wrote his Gospel after the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) were written. Whereas the latter were written to record the deeds and sayings of Jesus (Acts 1:1), John wrote to give evidence of who Jesus really was—the divine Son of God and Messiah (John 20:31). John uses the common Greek word logos, literally meaning "word," "message," or "reason" in a deeper philosophical sense. As the essential Word of God, Jesus is described by John as the hypostatic (constituting a distinct, personal being) wisdom and power in union with God, God's minister in creation and salvation. Today, we recognize that a company's "logo" is more than a simple drawing, but rather synonymous with the identity of that company. In a similar way, Jesus the word was more than a man sent by God; he was one in identity with God. Influenced by Plato, Greek thought in the first century taught that matter was less real (and perhaps more corrupt) than spirit. Hon rejected this idea when asserting that Jesus, the pre-existing Word, became material flesh. See also 1 John 2:22; 4:2-3. The NRSV uses of "overcome" in verse 5 is translated "comprehend" in some English versions, such as the New American Standard Version (NASB). The Greek word (katalambano) has a

(Eternal Hope on page 12)

Pray for all of our children, teens, young adults in this school years that God's hands will be upon them keeping them from all hurt, harm and danger. Also pray for all of our families, friends, and all of God's children.

(Eternal Hope from page 11)

double meaning like the English word grasp: one can grasp an idea (i.e., “understand”) or grasp a person (i.e., “apprehend, overcome”). The double meaning may well be deliberate: Jesus’ enemies could not understand Him, so they tried, in vain, to overcome Him. Later in the Gospel, John made it clear that evil people did understand that Jesus was God’s light to the world, but preferred darkness over light (John 3:19-20). The problem was one of will, not of lack of understanding. Colossians 1:16 and Hebrews 1:2-3 support the idea that the Word (Jesus) was active in Creation (John 1:3, 10).

John 1:6-10: The Gospel of Luke tells of the physical conception and birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:5-24, 57-80), who was to become the forerunner or prophet to come before and prepare the way for the coming of the Christ into the world. John’s Gospel points to John’s “God-given commission: to bear witness and testify to Jesus Christ, the light of the world (see John 1:19-34). As John the Baptist spoke regarding the light of God, some people thought that he might be the promised Messiah (see Luke 3:15-18). However, the Gospel dispelled that misunderstanding. John the Baptist only gave witness to that eternal light (see John 3:28). Even though John the Baptist’s witness illuminated the hearts of his audiences, the Word of God is the light for humanity. Truth implies accuracy and veracity (see John 19:35). However, as the Gospel uses the word in this specific instance, true emphasizes the light’s authentic nature as being from God. The true light has come into the world and has been revealed to everyone. Those people who receive the gift of Jesus Christ will live in the light of his salvation (see John 12:46). John described the sad irony related to the coming of the true light. While that light made the world and dwelled in the world, not all people accepted him” (Standard Lesson Commentary, p. 381).

John 1:11-14: In his public ministry, Jesus was rejected by his own people, though not simply those, the Israelites. “Since the true light, the Word of God, created the world, the world and the people therein are considered His own. Therefore, when Jesus came to the world, it was its originator and possessor. However, the reception was less than welcoming, even from the people most intended to accept him” (Ibid.). “Fallen human beings are not children of God by nature; this is the privilege only of those who have faith, generated in them by the sovereign action of God (v. 13)” (ESV Reformation Study Bible). Many rejected him, but many others accepted him and believed in him, and to those God gave the power to become a new people in a new family of God. “The new identity that believers claim is that of sons and daughters—the children of God. No physical reality—a person descent, the human desires, or human will—can result in this new birth. Only through faith in the ‘word of truth’ can a person be born into the family of God (James 1:18)” (Standard Lesson Commentary, p. 382).

ELEVATE

Break into small groups and discuss the following questions and issues: 1. How clear is it to you that Jesus, our Savior, is eternal and shares deity with God? What does that mean to you? How does it come across? 2. How do you conceive of the notion that Jesus was with God and an active agent from the beginning of Creation? 3. Elaborate on the issue of Jesus as the union of grace and truth. 4. Elaborate on the certainty that Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s promise to redeem humanity and the affirmation that believing in Christ can change people’s lives and make them different people.

iTHINK

1. Create a quiz in which participants should match a fictional superhero with that hero’s backstory—how the hero gained superpowers. Lead into the Bible story explaining that John offers a true origin story of the world’s greatest hero.
2. On the board, write these three incomplete sentences: When I was 5 years old, I wanted to be like _____. When I was 15 years old, I wanted to be like _____. When I was 25 years old, I wanted to be like _____. Begin class by asking volunteers to complete one or more of these sentences. Lead into Bible study by explaining that these statements reflect what we thought would give us a life of significance. John’s Gospel begins by telling us who can give us a life of true significance.
3. Give the participants the following list of Scripture references: Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-13. Have the participants work in groups to compare the message of these passages with John 1:1-14. Discuss the significance of the common message to their faith.
4. Divide the class into groups, giving each group a pen and paper. Give groups five minutes to read the lesson text and find as many descriptions of Jesus that are stated or implied in these verses as they can. For example, Jesus is described as God, creator, Illuminator Rejected One, Adoption Agent, etc. After five minutes have groups share and explain their lists.
5. Have participants try to complete this sentence in as many ways as they can: “Without light, I ...” (For example, without light I cannot see clearly; without light I would get easily lost; without light I could get hurt; etc.). Then have them substitute “Jesus” for “light” to understand the significance of Jesus being described in that way by John

KEY VERSES: All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. John 1:3

From The Young People-Adult Quarterly
(Ages 18 and up) International Sunday School Lessons for Christian Teaching

WAITING...

Read: Psalm 130

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12

Day after day for years Harry shared with the Lord his concern for his son-in-law John, who had turned away from God. But then Harry died. A few months later, John turned back to God. When his mother-in-law Marsha told him that Harry had been praying for him every day, John replied, "I waited too long." But

Marsha joyfully shared: "The Lord is still answering the prayed during his earthly life"

Harry's story is an encouragement to us who pray and wait. He was "faithful in prayer" and waited patiently (Romans 12:12).

The author of Psalm 130 experienced waiting in prayer. He said, "I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits" (v. 5). He found hope in God because he knew that "with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption" (v. 7).

Author Samuel Enyia wrote about

God's timing: "God does not depend on our time. Our time is chronological and linear but God . . . is timeless. He will act at the fullness of His time. Our prayer . . . may not necessarily rush God into action, but . . . Places us before Him in fellowship."

What a privilege we have to fellowship with God in prayer and to wait for the answer in the fullness of His time. Anne Cetas

Prayer Tip: Write down little nudgings and promptings from the Holy Spirit. Ask for courage to carry through on those.

ALL DAY WITH GOD

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

Pray continually. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Brother Lawrence (1614-1691) felt intimately close to God as he humbly scrubbed pots and pans in the monastery kitchen. Certainly Brother Lawrence practiced specific times of devotional prayer. But what he found more life-transforming was prayer during the workday. In his devotional classic *Practicing the Presence of God*, he says, "It is a great delusion to think

our times of prayer ought to differ from other times. We are as strictly obliged to cleave to God by action in the time of action as by prayer in the season of prayer." In short, he advocated that we "pray continually" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

That's a helpful reminder because sometimes we tend to compartmentalize our lives. Perhaps we pray only during church worship, small-group Bible study, family devotions, and personal quiet times. But what about during our workday? To pray on the job does not mean we

have to fall to our knees with clasped hands and pray aloud. But it does mean that work decisions and relationships can be brought to God throughout the day.

Wherever we are and whatever we're doing, God wants to be a part of it. When prayer enters every aspect of our lives, who knows what God might do for His glory! Dennis Fisher

Prayer Tip: The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth" (Psalm 145:18)

HOW LONG?

Read: Psalm 13

How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? Psalm 13:1

My friends Bob and Delores understand what it means to wait for answers—answers that never seem to come. When their son Jason and future daughter-in-law Lindsay were murdered, a national manhunt was undertaken to find the killer and bring him to justice. After several years of prayer and pursuit, there were still no

tangible answers to the painful questions the two hurting families wrestled with. There was only silence.

In such times, we are vulnerable to wrong assumptions and conclusions about life, about God, and about prayer. In Psalm 13, David wrestled with the problem of unanswered prayer. He questioned why the world was so dangerous and pleaded for answers from God.

It's a hard psalm that David sang, with it seems to be one of frustration. Yet; in the end, his doubts and fears turned to trust. Why? Because the circumstances of our struggles cannot

diminish the character of God and his care for His children. In verse 5, David turned a corner. From his heart he prayed, "But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation."

In the pain and struggle of living without answers, we can always find comfort in our heavenly Father. Bill Crowder

Prayer Tip: "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41)

FIVE-FINGER PRAYER

Read: James 5:13-18

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other. James 5:16

Prayer is a conversation with God, not a formal. Yet sometimes we might need to use a "method" to freshen up our prayer time. We can pray the Psalms or other Scriptures (such as the Lord's Prayer), or use the ACTS method (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication). I recently came across this "Five-Finger Prayer" to use as a guide when praying for others:

- When you fold your hands, the thumb is the nearest you. So begin by praying for those closest to you—your loved ones (Philippians 1:3-5).
- The index finger is the pointer. Pray for those who teach—Bible teachers and preachers, and those who teach children (1 Thessalonians 5:25).
- The next finger is the tallest. It reminds you to pray for those in authority over you—national and local leaders and your supervisor at work (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

- The fourth finger is usually the weakest. Pray for those who are in trouble or who are suffering (James 5:13-16).

- Then comes your little finger. It reminds you of your smallness in relation to God's greatness. Ask Him to supply your needs (Philippians 4:6, 19) Anne Ceta

Prayer Tip: Always incorporate your church in your prayers—pray for and with the people.

THE ARMOR OF GOD

EPHESIANS 6:10-18

“... Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.” v. 10, 11

The Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16)

Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.



Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15)

The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being contented in troubled times. Jesus said peacemakers were blessed. →

The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17)

Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

The Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14)

Righteousness is being honest, good, humble, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

The Belt of Truth (Eph. 6:14)

Truth keeps us from giving in to the world's beliefs. Compare your beliefs and actions to the truth of the Word of God.

The Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17)

which is the Word of God. God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.

Ephesians 6:10-20 (New King James Version)

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, ¹³ against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— ¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

(Patience page 3)

patience to wait for the unfolding of God's plan, going so far as to say, "Though he slay me, I will hope in him" (Job 13:15).

Jeremiah is another great example of patience. He prophesied to the nation of Judah for forty years, and no one listened. Instead of giving up, he wept over the foolish people who refused to turn from their sin. God forbade Jeremiah to marry (Jeremiah 16:2), Jeremiah's friends abandoned him, and his message so riled the people that they threw him into a cistern (Jeremiah 38:1-13).

Then there's Moses. He had the job of gathering a few million slaves, teaching them a new religion, and forming them into a great nation. At every turn, the Israelites did their best to frustrate Moses, complaining about the food, threatening to return to Egypt, and challenging Moses' authority. It reached the point that God offered Moses a deal: He would destroy the rebellious Israelites and make Moses the father of a great nation. But Moses interceded for the unruly rebels. He replied, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people'" (Exodus 32:11-12). Talk about patience! Moses had it. Moses had his lapses, of course (Exodus 32:19; Numbers 20:8-11), but for forty years he led an obstinate people and delivered them safely to the border of the Promised Land. And he did it all for no earthly reward.

The greatest example of patience, however, is God Himself.

God's patience leads us to repentance: "Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?" (Romans 2:4).

God's patience saves us from judgment: "What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?" (Romans 9:22).

God's patience completely changes lives: "The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life" (1 Timothy 1:15-16).

God's patience gives us salvation: "And count the patience of our Lord as

salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him" (2 Peter 3:15).

Without God's patience, none of us would live long enough to come to a saving relationship with Jesus. His patience has a purpose; it is to delay judgment so that we can seek Him and escape judgment. The prophets reflected this patience, and we should, too. Judgment is coming, but even now "The Lord is . . . patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). Through the Spirit's power, we can display the same patience to others.

What does the Bible teach about patience?

Patience is not often easy to demonstrate. Looking for the perfect job, waiting for a life partner, hoping to conceive children, being the victim of an injustice, long lines at the checkout counter, and bumper-to-bumper traffic are just a few of the situations in which it is easy to be impatient. Often, we can even feel that our impatience is a righteous anger in the face of irritations and trials. It is human to feel this impatience, but we are called to trust in God's divine timing, sovereignty, and love. The Bible praises patience and lists it as part of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) that is built up in us when we follow Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:14).

Though patience is often associated with waiting, and waiting is often associated with passivity or a gentle tolerance, the biblical meaning of patience does not imply passivity. Most of the Greek words translated as "patience" in the New Testament are active and robust. Hebrews 12:1 provides an example of this (note that "patience" in this verse is translated to "endurance"). "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." Persevering in a race takes endurance, and followers of Christ are similarly expected to endure trials, be on the look out for promises to be fulfilled, and have self-discipline when reaching for a goal. This is a patient stance, but not a passive one.

Because our human nature is not inclined towards patience, we must make the choice to build patience into our character. As with everything else, however, we need God's strength and grace to develop this fruit in our lives (Colossians 1:11). The trials that we face are opportunities for us to perfect our patience through Christ's support (James 1:2-4). We are called to rest in God's perfect timing, which is beyond our

linear understanding, when we face unfairness and wicked schemes (Psalm 37:7). Our development of patience hinges on our hope that "the coming of the Lord is at hand" (James 5:7-8) and that "The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him" (Lamentations 3:25).

There are three steps that help us develop patience:

1) Thank God! We are called to first give thanks to God in all situations for his unwavering love and support (Philippians 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 1 Peter 1:6).

2) Seek His purpose. We may endure hardships for many reasons according to God's will. Sometimes we experience trials to be a witness to God's redeeming love, or sometimes we go through a painful event so we can learn greater dependence on God.

3) Remember God's promises. Romans 8:28 reminds us that God works for the good of those who love Him. We can rest in this promise when we feel stuck in the midst of pain and hardship.

The Bible contains numerous examples of people who were characterized by their patience in the face of trials. Job is one the greatest stories of a man acting in patience instead of disobedience to God. James mentions Job and also the prophets when he gives us examples of how we are to act when we are in difficult situations (James 5:10-11). Job was finally rewarded for his dependence on God. Abraham also "having patiently waited, obtained the promise" (Hebrews 6:15). Jesus exhibited patience as well when he was led to the cross. The writer of Hebrews gives Jesus as an example for our endurance: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

A human's natural response is impatience and frustration, but since we have been made new creations in Christ, we can practice developing patience (2 Corinthians 5:17). We have the strength of God and the hope in God's promise to always work in our favor to lean on while we develop this difficult characteristic. Romans 2:7 reassures us that, "to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life."

From Got Questions Ministries

(Essence from page 3)

for the God who created the universe to unfold His plan for your life.

Prayer For Hope, Resilience and Patience: "Father, thank You that You are not just a good Father but You are a great Father. Thank You that You are working behind the scenes and unfolding Your plan for my life at just the right time. Help me to be patient and know You are always on schedule in Jesus' name. Amen."

To the Akan people of Ghana, the essence of patience and the art of waiting are so much cultural ideals that they have numerous proverbs extolling their values.

It starts with "God's time is the best". What else can one add to that?

In every aspect of Akan life and culture, there is the absolute reliance on the belief that every move a person makes has been orchestrated by divine forces. In effect, nothing in life happens without the will of God. The reverse is that every activity, every thought, every desire and the resulting effect of any action is determined by the one who oversees all human endeavors. Therefore, you may wish for something, but you should rely on the final decision of God to make it happen.

What if nothing is happening in spite of one's efforts; prayers and all? You still have to rely on "God's time". There's so much patience built into the structure of Akan collective beliefs that one is warned that "if you hastily look to make time, you never find time." The practice of laid-back and restraint from hurrying to achieve anything is so alien and discouraged, that we actually have culturally

accepted the practice of "African punctuality", whereby appointments and calendar timings are of very little consequence.

We believe patience is a priceless virtue and continuously advise one another to practice it. "If you wait long enough for the toad to die, you get the perfect opportunity to find out how long it was".

Unfortunately, the hustle and bustle of the average day in any town or city is such that one has to match in step with the flow of the crowd or be prepared to be swept away with the "traffic of life".

That is even more significant when one considers the fact that most people are now yearning and aspiring to live and work and function in the city culture. The conflict of the cultural ideal of patience, with the practical, reality of the modern economic life creates an unhealthy atmosphere which manifests itself in anxious citizens, hurried lives and humans "living on edge" of the culture.

The attempt to go fast to wherever one is heading, leads almost everyone into a huge log jam on our streets, our highways and in our daily lives.

We need to slow down, we need to practice the old school patience and to look to the Lord to direct our lives for the glory and honor.

Take it from the Akan expression that "God's time is still the best".

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(Bible from page 3)

faithfulness,) which should be produced for all followers of Christ, Amen.

(1 Thessalonians 5:14) "And we urge you, brothers and sisters, admonish the undisciplined, comfort the discouraged, help the weak, be patient toward all. If we read the AMP In all English translations states, "We [earnestly] urge you, believers, admonish those who are out of line [the undisciplined, the unruly, the disorderly], encourage the timid [who lack spiritual courage], help the [spiritually] weak, be very patient with everyone [always controlling your temper], Amen.

Patience reveals our faith in God's timing, omnipotence, and love. Now, although most of us consider patience to be a passive waiting or gentle tolerance, most of the Greek words translated "patience" in the New Testament are active, robust words. Consider, for example, Hebrews 12:1: "Therefore since we also are surrounded with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily besets us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us". If we read the AMP In all English translation states, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who by faith have testified to the truth of God's absolute faithfulness], stripping off every unnecessary weight and the sin which so easily and cleverly entangles us, let us run with endurance and active persistence the race that is set before us, Amen.

So does one run a race by passively waiting for slow-

pokes or gently tolerating cheaters? Certainly not! The word translated "patience" in this verse means "endurance." A Christian runs the race patiently by persevering through difficulties. In the Bible, patience is persevering towards a goal, enduring trials, or expectantly waiting for a promise to be fulfilled. Patience does not develop overnight.

God's power and goodness are crucial to the development of patience. Colossians 1:11 tells us that we are strengthened by Him to "great endurance and patience," "": If we read the AMP In all English translation states, [we pray that you may be strengthened and invigorated with all power, according to His glorious might, to attain every kind of endurance and patience with joy; while James 1:3-4 encourages us to know that trials are His way of perfecting our patience. "Because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect effect, so that you will be perfect and complete, not deficient in anything, Amen". Our patience is further developed and strengthened by resting in God's perfect will and timing, even in the face of evil men who "succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes" (Psalms 37:7) Wait patiently for the LORD! Wait confidently for him! Do not fret over the apparent success of a sinner, a man who carries out wicked schemes, Amen". Our patience is rewarded in the end "because the Lord's coming is near" (James 5:7-8) "So be patient, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's return. Think of how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the ground and is patient for it until it receives the early and late rains. You also be patient and strengthen your hearts, for the Lord's return is

(Bible on page 17)

(Bible from page 16)
near, Amen”.

(Lamentations 3:25) “The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him”, Amen”. We also see in the Bible many examples of those whose patience characterized their walk with God. James points us to the prophets “as an example of patience in the face of suffering,” (James 5:10) “As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the Lord’s name, Amen”. He also refers to Job, whose perseverance was rewarded by what the “Lord finally brought about” (James 5:11) “Think of how we regard as blessed those who have endured. You have heard of Job’s endurance and you have seen the Lord’s purpose, that *the Lord is full of compassion and mercy*, Amen”.

Abraham, too, waited patiently and “received what was promised” (Hebrews 6:15) “And so by persevering, Abraham inherited the promise, Amen”. Jesus is our model in all things, and He demonstrated patient endurance: “Who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2) “Keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set out for him he endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and *has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God*,” Amen”.

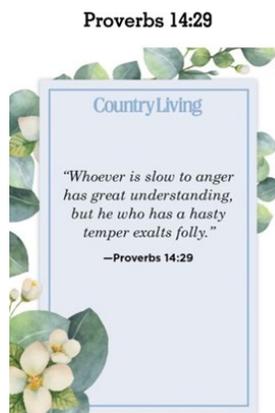
How do we display the patience that is characteristic of Christ? First, we thank God. A person’s first reaction is usually “Why me?”, but the Bible says in (Philippians 4:4, “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice! Second, 1 Peter 1:6 This brings you great joy, although you may have to suffer for a short time in various trials, Amen. We seek His purposes and sometimes God puts us in difficult situations so that we can be a witness. Other times, He might allow a trial for sanctification of character. Remembering that His purpose is for our growth and His glory will help us in the trial. Third, we remember His promises such as Romans 8:28, which tells us that “all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” The “all things” include the things that try our patience. The next time you are in a traffic jam, betrayed by a friend, or mocked for your testimony, how will you respond? The natural response is impatience which leads to stress, anger, and frustration. Praise God that, as Christians, we are no longer in bondage to a “natural response” because we are new creations in Christ Himself (2 Corinthians 5:17) “So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away—look, what is new has come, Amen!

Instead, we have the Lord’s strength to respond with patience and in complete trust in the Father’s power and purpose. (Romans 2:7) Eternal life to those who by perseverance in good works seek glory and honor and immortality, Amen! In AMP English translations it state, “To those who by persistence in doing good seek [unseen but certain heavenly] glory, honor, and immortality, [He will give the gift of] eternal life, Amen.

See God, in our view, has a wonderful sense of humor. Since most of us haven’t gotten the point about the value of patience, we are given plenty of opportunities to practice it in our daily lives. A recent study showed that the average person spends eleven or more days each year waiting in line. Add to that figure the time waiting for appointments, hours spent stuck in traffic, and all those moments when someone is late. Make the most of these minutes by using them to deepen our practice of calmness. While we are waiting, don’t focus on what we want to happen in the future, simply be grateful for what we are experiencing during that very moment. Don’t think about what else we could be doing with this time; notice what we are actually doing and who is around us.

While we are standing in line, say a prayer of peace for the impatient souls with us. In a traffic jam, repeat a favorite phrase, such as “Glory be to God,” as we survey our surroundings. If we feel a surge of irritability or anger arising in us, recite the words of “Glory be to God: “Let nothing upset you.” Patience involves not only the ability to tolerate delays but also the willingness to let events unfold in their own time. Practice patience in your relationships by not trying to force changes in others or demand immediate attention to your needs. Try this simple patience exercise. When you ask someone to do something, make it clear that this request is for “when you are ready.” Then don’t complain if it takes longer than you expected or wanted it to.

Finally, make patience part of your spiritual journey by accepting that you are not in control of the timetable. Accepting this truth is not easy. Especially if we or our loved ones are experiencing difficulties or suffering physically or emotionally, we long to have it over quickly. Let patience be a wall that protects you when waves of trouble crash over you, It is also helpful to look at spiritual leaders. We must often proceed slowly, step by step, little by little. There is no way to push the river or hasten the harvest. Instead, spiritual maturity comes through diligence, persistence, and patiently waiting on God’s grace, Amen. Barbara Perry



(People from page 3)

Psalm 40:1-4 says, I waited patiently for the Lord ; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.

Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

Walking in patience establishes our ways, puts a song in our hearts and is an example to others when we wait patiently for our Lord.

Ecclesiastes 7:8 says, Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

God always favors a patience spirit over a prideful spirit.

In Romans 12:12 Paul speaks of being patient even in tribulation.

And in Romans 5:3-4 Paul also says, And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope.

So we see that the fruit of tribulation in our lives is God working out patience in us which blossoms into experience and finally hope .

We are to be patient toward all men . This is a statement in scripture with much depth. Let's look at this for a moment.

1 Thessalonians 5:14-18 Says, Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man ; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

God is giving us the recipe for walking in patience here in scripture .

When we give thanks to God in everything (good and bad), pray without stopping, rejoice always , follow that which is good , when we turn our backs on the revenge of others, but rather seek their good and when we comfort the weak in body, mind and spirit and warn in love those that are unruly we will certainly be a people of patience . All of these fruits blended together make a man or woman of faith something the world needs to see.

We must also be reminded that as we walk in patience there will be times we genuinely suffer for it as well in this present world.

1 Peter 2:20-21 says, For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.

Following in Christs steps means being a people of patience even when it seems we've done everything right and we still suffer wrong doing for it . Even more so because this was the example Christ left us through His hard suffering on the cross.

He was perfect and sinless yet He suffered cruelty beyond anything you or I could ever imagine .

Finally , We will look at the book of James on this topic.

James 1:2-4 says, My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

This is the final result God is looking for in a people of patience.

That as temptations and trials of our faith build our patience we become a people who allow patience to perfect her work in us so that we are so complete in Christ there is nothing else we desire or want but Him!

Let's look finally at James 5:10-11. Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

We are reminded of the patience of Job. A man who lost everything in a day Yet was more blessed at the end of his life than the beginning.

It was difficult for me to keep this subject short this month simply because patience is such an important and broad subject in Gods Word.

Patience is so important because it helps to build our faith and without faith it is impossible to please God.

So patience is a must for any believer.

Lord, thank you for your mercy and grace. Help us to see how you work all things together for our good. Remove the scales from our eyes to see clearly your hand in all things (both good and bad) that we would truly be a people of patience. Amen .

All scripture quotes from the King James Version .

Greg Adamo

Question: "Is the ACTS formula for prayer a good way to pray?"

Answer: The ACTS formula for prayer has been taught to children and new believers for many years. *ACTS* is an acronym that gives a basic model on how to pray: with Adoration, with Confession, with Thanksgiving, and with Supplication. While prayer formulas can help us learn to pray, they do not necessarily make our prayers more effective or ensure that our prayers will be answered. This model for prayer is loosely based on the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), except for thanksgiving.

The ACTS model for prayer includes these elements:

Adoration – The *A* in the ACTS model stands for adoration, which means worship—glorying and exalting God. Through adoration, we show our loyalty and admiration of our Father. As we pray, we are called to worship God in adoration. This could be a song of praise to Him, praying a psalm of worship, declaring His attributes, or a myriad of other forms of worship.

Confession – The *C* in the ACTS model stands for confession. The word *confess* means “to agree with.” When we confess our sins, we agree with God that we are wrong and that we have sinned against Him by what we have said, thought, or done. God forgives us and restores our fellowship with Him (1 John 1:9).

Thanksgiving – The *T* represents thanksgiving. Philippians 4:6 says, “With thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (ESV). How is thanksgiving different from adoration? The difference is that worship focuses on who God is; thanksgiving focuses on what God has done. We can thank God for many things including His love, salvation, protection, and provision.

Supplication – The *S* stands for supplication, which refers to prayer for our and others’ needs. A supplication is a request or petition. We may pray for mercy (Psalm 4:1), leading (Psalm 5:8), wisdom (James 1:5), and much more. Paul encouraged us to make “supplication for all the saints” (Ephesians 6:18, ESV), which means to pray diligently for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Is the ACTS formula for prayer biblical? The acronym itself isn’t found in the Bible, but it can serve as a guide, especially when we are learning how to pray. Remember, prayer isn’t a formula, and each prayer doesn’t have to cover every type of prayer. God wants us to talk from our hearts and express ourselves to Him. As we grow in our love for Jesus Christ, we will naturally desire to talk to Him more.



Question: "What is the five-finger prayer?"

Answer: The five-finger prayer is a method to help people remember categories of people to pray for. It is a memory device used as an aid to prayer.

The little finger, or the pinkie, is the smallest finger, and it represents the individual who is praying. We need to pray for ourselves, but in humility we need to remember that we are the least important.

The ring finger this is usually the weakest of our fingers, and it reminds us to pray for the weak and the sick among us.

The middle finger is the tallest finger, and it reminds us to pray for our leaders.

The pointer finger, or the index finger, reminds us to pray for people who point the way—teachers and church leaders.

The thumb is the thickest and strongest digit, and when the hand is at rest, the thumb is the nearest to the rest of the body, reminding us to pray for family and friends—people who are closest to us.

The five-finger prayer has been popularized by Pope Francis. There is nothing specifically Roman Catholic about the five-finger prayer; it is simply one method to help people remember whom to pray for, similar to a prayer list. Since we all have our hands with us, the reminder of those in need of prayer is constant.

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FATHERLESS NO MORE

[God is] a father to the fatherless. Psalm 68:5

Guy Bryant, single and with no children of his own, worked in New York City's child welfare department. Daily, he encountered the intense need for foster parents and decided to do something about it. For more than a decade, Bryant fostered more than fifty children, once caring for nine at the same time. "Every time I turned around there was a kid who needed a place to stay," Bryant explained. "If you have the space in your home and heart, you just do it. You don't really think about it." the foster children who've grown and established their own lives still have keys to Bryant's apartment and often return on Sundays for lunch with "Pops." Bryant has shown the love of a father to many.

The Scripture tell us that God pursues all who are forgotten or cast aside. Although some believers will find themselves destitute and vulnerable in this life, He promises to be with them. God is "a father to the fatherless" (Psalm 68:5). If through neglect or tragedy, we're alone, God is still there—reaching out to us, drawing us near, and giving us hope. Indeed, "God sets the lonely in families" (V. 6). In Jesus, other believers comprise our spiritual family.

Whatever our challenging family stories, our isolation, our abandonment, or our relational dysfunction may be, we can know that we're loved. With God, we're fatherless no more. Winn Collier

What does it mean for you to have a heavenly Father who loves you and will never leave you? How does He meet your deepest needs?

Father God, I need a good father, a true father, one who will not leave me. I'm grateful You're this Father for me.

Today's Scripture: **Psalm 68:1-10**

¹ May God arise, may his enemies be scattered; may his foes flee before him. ² May you blow them away like smoke—as wax melts before the fire, may the wicked perish before God. ³ But the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful.

⁴ Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him—his name is the Lord. ⁵ A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. ⁶ God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoner with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

⁷ When you, God, went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, ⁸ the earth shook, the heavens poured down rain, before God, the One of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel. ⁹ You gave abundant showers, O God; you refreshed your weary inheritance. ¹⁰ Your people settled in it, and from your bounty, God, you provided for the poor.

INSIGHT

Nearly forty times in the Old Testament the Hebrew word *yathom* (the root word means "to be lonely") is translated "fatherless," as in Psalm 68:5. though forgotten by others, the fatherless and widows aren't overlooked by God. The social responsibility of God's people included sensitivity to care for them. The first place in Scripture that explicitly points this out is Exodus 22:22-23: "Do not take advantage of the widow or the fatherless. If you do and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry." the words of James in the New Testament also reveal God's heart for them: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress" (James 1:27). God's people of any era are to be His caregiving agents to those on the margins. Arthur Jackson

Ministries, Grand Rapids, Michigan
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NO GREATER LOVE

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.
John 15:13

Commemorations of the seventy-fifth anniversary of D-Day in 2019 honored the more than 156,000 troops who took part in the largest seaborne invasion in history to liberate Western Europe. In his prayer broadcast over the radio on June 6, 1944, President Roosevelt asked God's protection, praying, "They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate."

A willingness to put one's self in harm's way to restrain evil and liberate the oppressed brings to mind Jesus' words: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). These words come in the midst of Christ teaching His followers to love each other. But He wanted them to understand the cost and depth of this type of love: a love exemplified when one willingly sacrifices his or her life for another person. Jesus' call to sacrificially love others is the basis of His command to "love each other" (V. 17).

Perhaps we could show sacrificial love by giving time to care for the needs of an aging family member. We could put the needs of a sibling first by doing their chores during a stressful week at school. We

might even take extra shifts with a sick child to allow our spouse to sleep. As we sacrificially love others, we demonstrate the greatest expression of love.
Lisa M. Samra

What is one way you could demonstrate sacrificial love today? What holds you back from loving sacrificially?

Father, please help me to look for ways I can love others sacrificially each day

Today's Scripture: **John 15:9-17**

⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and

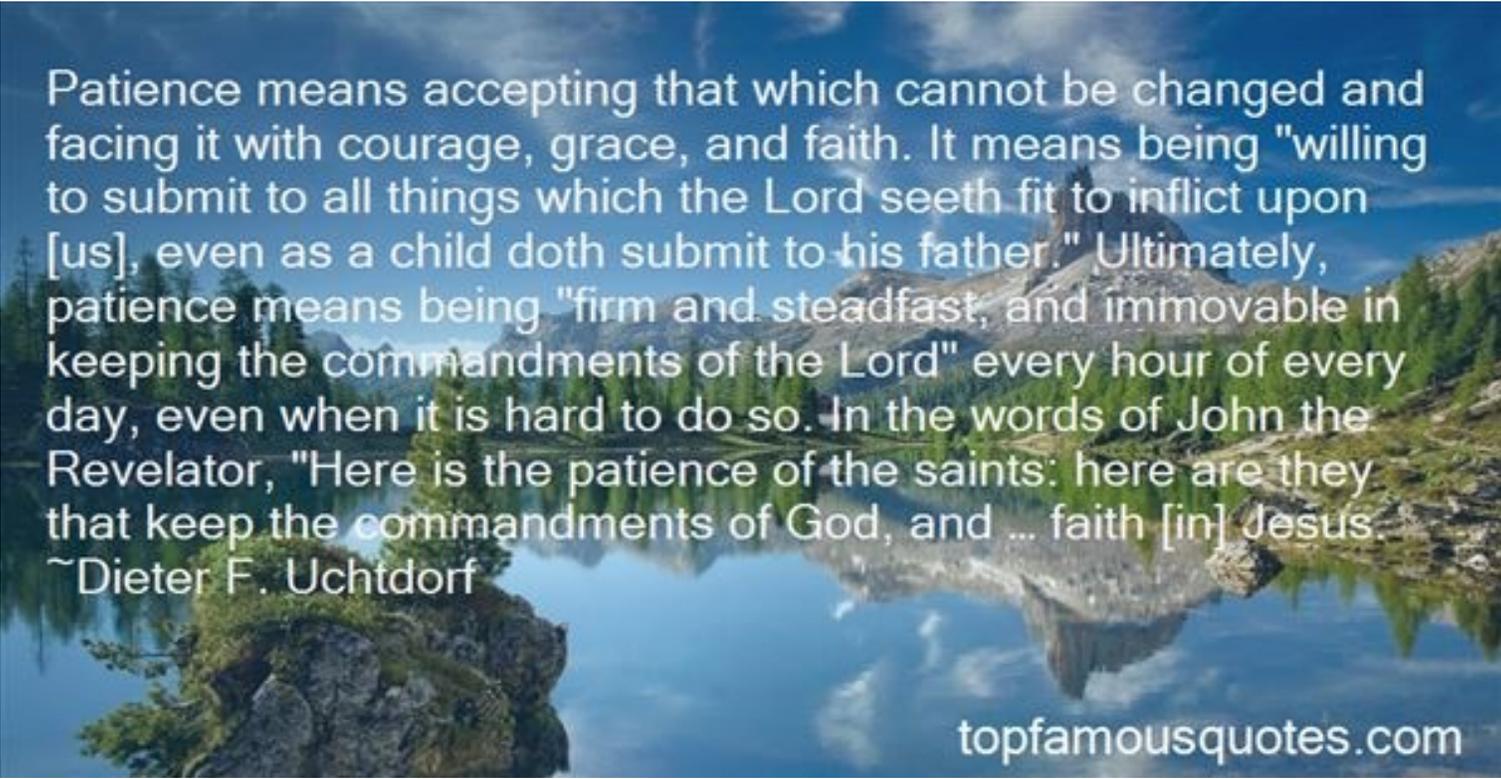
bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

INSIGHT

Jesus' teachings about life "[Him]" (John 15:4) flow from His teachings about the Spirit (14:15-21). Through the Spirit sent from God to live "with" and "in" believers in Jesus (V.17), they experience the intimate joy of the Father and Son's love for them (V. 21). Through the Spirit drawing us into the love, joy, and abundant life of the triune God, we're empowered to keep Christ's commands (V. 21)—namely, to love as Jesus has loved us (15:12). Biblical scholar Rodney Whitacre says it beautifully: "The obedience Jesus is talking about is an obedience not to societal rules, but to the Father who is all love. To obey him is to conform one's life to the very pattern of God's own life. . . Which is characterized by harmony, grace, goodness and beauty. We are in intimate union with him and swept up into his dance for which we were created."

Visit ODBU.org/SF130 to learn more about our union with Christ. Monica La Rose

Ministries, Grand Rapids, Michigan
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Patience means accepting that which cannot be changed and facing it with courage, grace, and faith. It means being "willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon [us], even as a child doth submit to his father." Ultimately, patience means being "firm and steadfast, and immovable in keeping the commandments of the Lord" every hour of every day, even when it is hard to do so. In the words of John the Revelator, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and ... faith [in] Jesus."
~Dieter F. Uchtdorf

topfamousquotes.com

God Wants Whatever You've Got

Rick Warren

"Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do." (John 6:5b-6 NIV)

Do you remember the story of Jesus feeding 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish? I think it's amazing that out of 5,000 people, only one person brought a lunch. I'm thinking a lot of people were hiding a picnic basket under their robes because they didn't want to share with anybody else. But one little boy offered the bread and fish that he packed for his lunch. He gave Jesus what little he had, and God used it not just to feed a lot of people but also to show them how much he cared and how powerful he is.

God always starts with what you have. You may not have much time. Your finances may not be worth much. You may not think you have much talent.

But you can give God everything in your life. Give him your heart. Give him your reputation. Give him your past, your present, and your future. It may not be much, but you can give him your five loaves and two fish.

In John 6:5-6 Jesus asks, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do" (NIV).

Jesus wasn't sweating how to feed 5,000 people. He already had in mind what he was going to do. He saw the need long before they did. And he had a plan.

You need to understand this truth today: God always has the answer before you even know the problem. God is not sweating your unsolvable problem. It's not too late in the day for Jesus. He saw your problem long before you did. He knew it was coming, and he already had a plan for it. God knows the solution to your problem before you even recognize it's a problem.

So why are you worrying? Just admit you have an unsolvable problem, and then give God everything you have.

Talk It Over

When you face an unsolvable problem, is your first reaction to look at your own resources or God's promises? Why?

What does it mean to give God something?

Why do you think God wants us to surrender what we have before he works a miracle?

You Are Never Alone

Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go... I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you. Genesis 28:15

Uncertainties can be frightening, but these reassuring words show that God will be with you wherever you go on in whatever situation you find yourself. You are never alone. He will always see you through.

Lose Your Tension

Tension is one of the worst of all depressants of the spirit. A prolonged, high-tempo pattern of thinking and living draws off energy, leaving the spirit exhausted and dull. Therefore, the mind needs to experience a depth of quietness in which tension will subside.

One of the most effective passages in producing such a state of mind is the statement that follows: **Be still, and know that I am God... Psalm 46:10**

In these words is a most effective technique of relaxation. "Be still", reduce your activity, stop your headlong rush, slow down. Do not walk or talk so fast; in fact, do not walk or talk at all! Sit still, be silent, let composure creep over you. You are agitated and therefore momentarily incapable of those creative and basic thoughts that can reorganize your activity.

Having attained an attitude of stillness, you will find the greatest of all thoughts will then come stealing into your mind. You are then ready to know that "I am God"—that is, you realize that you cannot do everything, that the world does not rest on your shoulders. The simple truth that you are to do your best and leave the rest to God comes back to your consciousness. Out of such self-treatment, your spirit will be lifted.

Receive God's Blessing

Our spirits rise when we learn how to receive the abundance of good things God wants to give to us. The secret is in two verses: **So, I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be open to you. For everyone who ask receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Luke 11:9-10**

Note that the word ask is immediately followed by the word will be given; that directly after the word seek are the words you will find; and that quickly after the word knock is assurance that it will be opened. It is to emphasize that everyone who seek finds, and to all who knock the storehouse is opened.

Therefore, confidently ask. Then visualize yourself as now receiving; seek, then affirm that you have found; knock, then believe that God's storehouse is opened.

Practice receiving. Believe that you have been given. Then feel your spirits lift as you realize that God's blessings are actually showered upon you.

Be Rested and be Happy

Low-spirit trouble is traceable to lack of rest. To keep spirits high, one must find renewal and refreshment of body, mind and soul. Fatigue siphons off exuberance. Learn to sleep, for sleep is the great restorer.

I lay down and slept; I woke, for the Lord sustained me. Psalm 3:5

At the end of the day, simply lie down and go to sleep. Like a child, fall into a natural, restful slumber. Then awake—wide awake, eager and ready to meet the day. Tonight when you go to bed, repeat this passage. You will find restful sleep and awaken with your spirit lifted.

Remove Anger and Lift Your Spirits

Anger is a depressant of the spirit. So much energy is expended in anger that you are, literally, exhausted. The aftereffect is one of despondency. Anger that simmers and simmers and seethes is even more depressing because it permits a constant leakage of energy. Fortunately, there is an effective method for correcting this condition. You will be amazed at the self-control it gives.

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Proverbs 15:1.

Next time you feel anger arising, repeat this verse several times and note the effect. It is one of the best Spirit Lifters.

The Renewed Soul

Staleness results from lack of spiritual inspiration. But there is a cure.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. Psalm 23:2

Anyone who has traveled through a desert area is refreshed when he comes finally to the green grass country. What makes the difference? Life-giving water. Similarly, the arid human personality becomes as green pastures when the water of life flows through mind and heart. The soul is restored. It becomes peaceful and develops new vitality. The spirit rises to new heights.

God Has His Eye on You

Let the following words sink deeply into your consciousness, and the experience of God's protection will be yours.

For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. Psalm 91:11.

How your spirit will rise as the amazing truth grips you that nothing in this world can hurt you! God is watching over you to keep you in all your ways. His amazing kindness surrounds you always. You go through life with a high-hearted spirit, know God watches over you.

“

In Christ I am anointed and a powerful person of God.

I am a joint-heir with Jesus and more than a conqueror.

I am a doer of the Word of God and a channel for His blessings.

If God be for me, who can be against me?

I am blessed coming in and I am blessed going out.

My enemies are fleeing before me.

God has commanded His blessing on my storehouses.

He has opened His Good treasures and I shall lend and not borrow.

I am the head and not the tail.

He has given me power to make wealth.

I dwell in the secret place.

I have His protection and provision.

God is my refuge, my fortress.

I am not afraid of the snare of the fowler.

No Evil shall befall me and no plague shall come nigh my dwelling.

God has given his angels charge over me and they are bearing me up in their hands

lest I dash my foot against a stone, as declared in Psalm 91.

1 Peter 2:9 establishes I am a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

I am a peculiar person called out of darkness into His marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:24 states, I have been healed by the stripes of Jesus.

*Cancer, sugar diabetes, heart disease, sickness, afflictions, infections,
or any other disease cannot enter my body.*

I am without spot or blemish, an intercessor,

the righteousness of God, saved, and washed in the Blood of Jesus.

“No weapon formed against me shall prosper, and every tongue which rise against me in judgment You shall condemn.

This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD,

and their righteousness is from Me,” Says the LORD.

I am saved from wrath by Him and justified by the blood of the Lamb.

*Lord I pray that those may prosper that love Jerusalem and that peace will be within them
and prosperity in their houses according to Psalms 122:6-9.*

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

“Humanly Speaking”

Mark 10:27 says, “Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.” Amen.

Let us pray, Father, thank You for being on Your throne, for reigning as sovereign over our health, our

finances, our family, and our circumstances. There are things in our life that we want to see changed that seem unchangeable, but we trust You to override them. The throne of our life is reserved for you. It In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen, Amen, Amen.

Are you spending more time thinking about problems or God’s promises? Are you talking more about how big the challenge is or how big

your God’s is? Don’t dwell on what seems impossible. God overrides whatever is trying to stop you. Now stay in faith. When we get in agreement with God, He’ll make things happen that we could never make happen. God has the final says. Hallelujah. Thank You Jesus.

“As Strong as Ever

“And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.” Deuteronomy 34:7

Let us pray, “Father, thank You that You have come into our life as our Savior, as our provider, and as our healer. Thank You for making it so

clear that You are Jehovah Rapha, and that it is Your will to heal and restore. We will trust You to keep us strong and healthy, always taking new ground. Its In Jesus’ Name we ask and pray. Amen, Amen, Amen.” Hallelujah. Thank You Jesus.

One of the names of God in the Scripture is Jehovah Rapha, which means “the Lord your healer.” You may know Him as a Savior, which is

great, but He wants you to know Him as a healer as well. Get rid of the notion that as we age, we’re going to get frail, be overcome by sickness, and unable to move. Say “No, thanks” to that. Trust God to keep you strong and healthy, still climbing mountains, still taking new ground, still making the world a better place, Amen. Yes Lord, Hallelujah.

“Ignore Distractions”

“But the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace 1 Samuel 10:27

Let us pray, “Father, thank You that You are the Most High God, and You hold our destiny in Your hands. Thank You that You are our great defender when we come under personal criticism and attack. Help us to ignore

insignificant distractions that try to keep us from Your best, its In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen, Amen, Amen. Hallelujah, Thank You Jesus.

Saul was chosen to be the first of Israel. When Saul went back home, some people despised him. But Saul refused to waste his time with these small-minded people who didn’t value who he was or respect the talent and favor on his life. He simply chose to ignore them.

See if we’re going to reach our destiny, we have to get good at

ignoring negative comments, criticism, insults, and naysayers because they don’t control our destiny. They are distractions to try to keep us from God’s best. Instead of being upset over who’s not for us and frustrated over who’s trying to make us look bad, ignore them. Jealous people can’t keep us from our destiny. Small-minded people can’t stop our purpose. That’s not a battle we have to fight. Let God vindicate you, Amen.

“True Humility”

Make no friendship with an angry man; And with a furious man thou shalt not go: Proverbs 22:24

Let us pray, “Father, thank You for the blessings that always follow when we walk in humility and put You first in all our ways. Show us if there is anything that is holding us back from the honor and wealth and long life You

have promised. Today we believe that Your favor will be poured out on our life and we thank You for favor , Amen.” Hallelujah, Thank You Jesus.

When we walk in humility, we reverence God, we ask Him for guidance, we trust Him with our dreams, we honor Him by putting Him first in all our ways. When we do that, God promises us honor, wealth, and long life. One way we reverence God is by bringing the tithe, the first ten

percent of our income to the house of the Lord. And when we do this, it says that “God will open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings that we cannot contain.” so make sure you’re doing your part; make sure you’re keeping God first place, and He promises a blessing on your life that causes you to prosper. His favor will cause us to increase, to rise higher, and to accomplish things beyond our own ability, Amen

“A work in Progress”

“being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ;” Philippians 1:6

Let us pray, “Father, thank You for the good work You’re doing in our life, and we know that You will keep developing and bringing it to full completion. Thank You that we are a

work in progress as one of Your masterpiece creations. We declare that we are happy with who we are and who You’re making us into. Its In Jesu’ Name we ask and pray. Amen, Amen, Amen.

Everyone has something they’re dealing with. We are a work in progress. But God has His own timetable. So while He’s changing us we’re going to live in victory, we have to put our foot down and say, “That’s it.

I’m done being against myself. I’m done focusing on my weaknesses. I know I’m a child of the Most High God. I am redeemed, restored, and forgiven. God is taking me from glory to glory, so I’m going to look away from all that distracts. I’m going to enjoy the glory I’m in right now.” to God Be The Glory. Amen, Hallelujah, Thank You Jesus



THE BEAUTY OF HOLLAND

I AM OFTEN ASKED TO DESCRIBE THE EXPERIENCE OF RAISING A CHILD WITH DISABILITY - TO TRY TO HELP PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT SHARED THAT UNIQUE EXPERIENCE TO UNDERSTAND IT, TO IMAGINE HOW IT WOULD FEEL. IT'S LIKE THIS...

WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A BABY, IT'S LIKE PLANNING A FABULOUS TRIP TO ITALY. YOU BUY A BUNCH OF GUIDEBOOKS AND MAKE YOUR WONDERFUL PLANS. THE COLISEUM, THE MICHEL-ANGELO DAVID. THE GONDOLAS IN VENICE. YOU LEARN SOME HANDY PHRASES IN ITALIAN. IT'S ALL VERY, VERY EXCITING!

AFTER MONTHS OF EAGER ANTICIPATION, THE DAY FINALLY ARRIVES. YOU PACK YOUR BAGS AND OFF YOU GO. SEVERAL HOURS LATER THE PLANE LANDS. THE FLIGHT ATTENDANT COMES IN AND SAYS, "WELCOME TO HOLLAND."

"HOLLAND!!!" YOU SAY, "WHAT DO YOU MEAN HOLLAND! I SIGNED UP FOR ITALY. I'M SUPPOSED TO BE IN ITALY! ALL MY LIFE I'VE DREAMED OF GOING TO ITALY."

BUT THERE'S A CHANGE IN THE FLIGHT PLAN. THEY LANDED IN HOLLAND AND YOU MUST STAY. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THEY HAVEN'T TAKEN YOU TO A HORRIBLE, DISGUSTING, FILTHY PLACE, FULL OF PESTILENCE, FAMINE AND DISEASE. IT'S JUST A DIFFERENT PLACE.

SO YOU MUST GO OUT AND BUY NEW GUIDEBOOKS. AND YOU MUST LEARN A WHOLE NEW LANGUAGE. AND YOU WILL MEET A WHOLE NEW GROUP OF PEOPLE YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE MET.

IT'S JUST A DIFFERENT PLACE. IT'S SLOWER-PACED THAN ITALY, LESS FLASHY THAN ITALY. BUT AFTER YOU'RE BEEN THERE AWHILE AND CATCH YOUR BREATH, YOU BEGIN TO LOOK AROUND, AND YOU BEGIN TO NOTICE THAT HOLLAND HAS WINDMILLS, HOLLAND HAS TULIPS. HOLLAND EVEN HAS REMBRANDTS.

BUT EVERYONE YOU KNOW IS BUSY COMING AND GOING FROM ITALY, AND THEY'RE BRAGGING ABOUT WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME THEY HAD THERE. AND FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE YOU WILL SAY, "YES, THAT'S WHERE I WAS SUPPOSED TO GO. THAT'S WHAT I HAD PLANNED."

AND THE PAIN WILL NEVER, EVER GO AWAY, BECAUSE THE LOSS OF THAT DREAM IS A VERY SIGNIFICANT LOSS.

BUT IF YOU SPEND YOUR LIFE MOURNING THE FACT YOU DIDN'T GO TO ITALY, YOU MAY NEVER BE FREE TO ENJOY THE VERY SPECIAL, THE VERY LOVELY THINGS ABOUT HOLLAND.

SOURCE UNKNOWN

“Accept God’s Timing”

“When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, “If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.” So God led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness toward the Red Sea. Thus the Israelites left Egypt like an army ready for battle.” Exodus 13:17-18

God gives us hopes and dreams

for certain things to happen in our lives, but He doesn’t always allow us to see the exact timing of His plan. Although frustrating, not knowing the exact timing is often what keeps us in the program. When we accept God’s timing, we can learn to live in hope and enjoy our lives while God is working on our problems.

Exodus 13:17-18 tells us that God led the Israelites the longer, harder way on their journey to the Promised Land because He knew they were not yet ready to go in. There had to be time for their training, and they had to go through some very trying situations. And in the process, God never failed to take care of them and

show them what He wanted them to do.

The same is true in our lives, God’s training period simply requires us to do what He tells us to do when He tells us to do it, without questioning or trying to figure everything out. No matter how long things take, we can always confidently know that it will be better when we accept God’s timing.

Prayer starter: God, I accept Your timing. I may not always understand, but I know Your ways are perfect and I completely trust in You.

“Perseverance Pays”

“And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life.” Matthew 19 29

In the early years when we were building our ministry, Dave and I went through a lot of difficult tests. I needed to work on my attitude. We needed to work on our marriage and how we handled money.

For six years I brought my socks and underwear at garage sales. We were totally broke, and I was teaching prosperity!

Not only that, it just wasn’t popular for women to preach back then. We lost friends and had family members who didn’t want anything to do with us.

It was just hard and sometimes I wanted to quit. But today I am so glad that I stuck with God because there are people all over the world who have been helped because of our ministry.

Scripture tells us in Matthew 19 that we will have to leave ‘important’ things behind for the sake of following

Him. We didn’t have everything we thought we needed back then, but the trade-off ended up being more than worth it.

Persevere in your walk with God, even when it’s hard. Stay focused on Him, and it will all pay off when you enter the victory He has for you.

Prayer Starter: God, sometimes it’s hard to persevere in the Christian life, but I know that the perseverance will pay off. I will follow You alone, because You are all that matters.

“God Can Use Cracked Pots”

“And yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand.” Isaiah 64:8

God doesn’t require us to be perfect, He made us, and He knows we’re human and will make mistakes. Our job is to get up every day and do our best to use the keys He has provided for us. And when we fail, we must get right with God, receive His forgiveness and go on.

Many people feel that God can’t use them because they’re not perfect, but this is a lie. God (the Potter) uses cracked pots (that’s us) to do His work. As Christians, we are containers that God wants to fill with His goodness and light. Then we’re to carry that goodness and light to a dark world, sharing it with people everywhere we go.

Don’t be afraid of your flaws; acknowledge them and allow God to use you anyway. Quit worrying about what you’re not and give God what you are.

As a cracked pot, you can accomplish wonderful things. You can make somebody happy. You can encourage, edify and exhort those around you. You can use your gifts and talents to serve God.

Prayer Starter: god, I may be a ‘cracked pot,’ but You are the Potter and You can use me for Your purposes despite my flaws. Fill me with Your goodness and light so that I can carry it into the world around me.

“Putting on the Gift of God’s Righteousness”

“For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:21

Here are two very important questions that you need to ask yourself: ‘Do I know who I am in Christ?’ ‘Am I walking in righteousness?’

Too many people can’t properly

answer these questions and it keeps them from living in the freedom and peace that God designed for them to walk in.

The moment we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior, the Bible says God takes away our sin and gives us His righteousness. It’s a gift, and we don’t need to earn it. But we do need to put it on, and every time we do, we receive His peace.

When you know who you are in Christ, worldly obstacles won’t matter anymore. When you know that He loves you and He died for you, you’ll just get up

every day and do your best to love God.

When that happens, when you know who you are in Christ, you can put on and walk in the righteousness that He purchased for you. As you experience His love for you, your natural response will be to live for Him with all that you have.

Prayer Starter: Lord, I want to be constantly aware of who I am in You. Help me to remember all that You’ve done for me so that I can daily put on Your righteousness.

Old Testament

There are 39 books in the Old Testament library. There are four types of writing in the Old Testament: Law, History, Poetry, Prophecy.

It is helpful to know which kind of literature you are reading before you start: is it poetry, or is it history?

LAW

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

The first five books of the Bible are sometimes called the Law of Moses. They give many of God's laws about how to live.

HISTORY

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.

These 12 historical books cover the occupation of the Promised Land, the time of the Judges, Israel's kings, the fall of the two kingdoms and a return to Jerusalem.

POETRY

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs.

Nearly one third of the Old Testament is written in poetry. These five poetical books ask profound questions about evil, pain, love, wisdom and God.

PROPHECY

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

The 17 prophetic books account for almost a quarter of the Bible. They are divided into "Major Prophets" (the first five books) and, "Minor

New Testament

There are 27 books in the New Testament library. There are three types of writing in the New Testament: History, Letters, Prophecy.

Before you study a New Testament book it helps to consider what kind of literature you are reading: is it a letter or is it history?

HISTORY

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts

The first four books, called gospels, are not like our modern biographies. But they do give four portraits of Jesus. Acts is part two of Luke, about the early church.

LETTERS

PAUL'S LETTERS

Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon.

We have 13 of Paul's letters. Except for one personal one, Philemon, they were all written to groups of Christians.

OTHER LETTERS

Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude.

We don't know who wrote Hebrews. Tradition states that all the writers of the New Testament, except for John, were martyred.

PHOPHECY

Revelation

Written by the apostle John, this book has seven letters to churches and numerous visions about God.



HURRY UP AND WAIT

***Be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.
Psalm 27:14***

"What will we do with all our spare time? That thought was at the heart of an essay published in 1930 by the economist John Maynard Keynes. In it, Keynes proposed that within a hundred years, technological and economic advances would bring humans to a point where we would work only three hours a day and fifteen hours a week.

It's been more than ninety years since Keynes published his famous essay. But technology, instead of creating more leisure, has made us busier than ever. Our days are full, and while everyday tasks like travel and meal preparation take less time, we're still in a hurry.

One striking incident from David's life shows us how to stay steady in life's rush. When he was fleeing King Saul (who was trying to kill him), he asked the king of Moab, "Would you let my father and mother come and stay with you until I learn what God will do for me?" (1 Samuel 22:3, **ITALICS ADDED**). David had his hand full. He was trying to escape Saul's murderous pursuits and also provide for his family. But even in his hurry, he took the time to wait on God.

When life's frenetic pace sweeps us along, us along, we can trust the One who can keep us in His peace (Isaiah 26:3). David's words sum up the matter well: "Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord" (Psalm 27:14). James Banks

In what ways can you wait on God even when life's busy? Where do you need His help to trust Him today?

You are my calm in every rush, Father. Thank You for giving me Your peace as I continue to trust You.

Today Scripture: **1 Samuel 22:1-5**

¹ David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and father's household heard about it, they went down to him there. ² All those who were in distress or in debit or discontented gathered around him, and he became their commander. About four hundred men were with him.

³ From there David went to Mizpah in Moab and said to the king of Moab, "Would you let my father and mother come and stay with you until I learn what God will do for me?" ⁴ So he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him as long as David was in the stronghold.

⁵ But the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold. go into the land of Judah." so David left and went to the forest of Hereth.

INSIGHT

In 1 Samuel 22, David had fled from King Saul to a cave after unsuccessfully hiding out in Gath. In his commentary, David Guzik notes: "He couldn't go to his house, he couldn't go to the palace, he couldn't go to Samuel, he couldn't go to Jonathan, he couldn't go to the house of the Lord, and he couldn't go to the ungodly. But he could go to a humble cave and find refuge . . . The name Adullam means refuse, but the cave wasn't to be David's refuse." as the opening to Psalm 57 tells us, this psalm was written while David hid in that cave. There he sought and found refuge in "the shadow of [God's] wings" (V. 1) so that he could declare, "I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; . . . For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies" (VV. 9-10). Alyson Kieda

Ministries, Grand Rapids, Michigan,
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Crises/Emergency: Cell phone 860-754-4606

Cross Street Recovery Ministry the "Hope Line" is in operation 24 hours per day.
Please call 860-754-4606

if you, a friend and/or a family member are in need of counseling and/or are in crisis,

PLEASE dial the "Hope Line". All information will be confidential.

CROSS STREET MINISTRY OF RECOVERY

We can't but through God, all things are possible. How might we pull on God's strength to help each other recover?

Let the spirit of God work for you in a Mighty, Mighty Way

For more information contact:
Church office 860-344-9527.or
Rev. Gregory B. Winborne: Days: 860-616-3834

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday

8:00 a.m. **Church School** (see Zoom Meeting)
10:00 p.m. **Worship Service**
<https://zoom.us/j/959628798>
Meeting ID: 959 628 798
(929) 205-6099, Code: 959628798#

Tell your family and friends from across the Country.
We can be watched worldwide.

Tuesday

Bible Study

Time: 6:00 P.M.
Join Zoom Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/562367770>
(929)205-6099, Code: 562367770#

Wednesday

Day Of Prayer

Prayer Times: 6:00 A.M. 12:00 P.M. & 6:00 P.M.
Free Conference Call: 1 (727) 731-4561

Sunday School ZOOM Meetings

8:00 a.m.- Contemporary Sunday School: Adults

Voice Only Call: (929) 205-6099;
Code: 140827210#
Web-link for Video Call: <https://zoom.us/j/140827210>

8:30 a.m.- Dr. Long's Sunday School Class

Voice Only Call: (929) 205-6099;
Code: 734629713#
Web-link for Video Call: <https://zoom.us/j/734629713>

9:30 a.m.- Beginners Sunday School: Ms. Carolyn Smith

Voice Only Call: (929) 205-6099;
Code: 233007146#

Web-link for Video Call: <https://zoom.us/j/233007146>

11:00 a.m.- Primary Sunday School: Rev. Earlene Grant

Voice Only Call: (929) 205-6099;
Code: 614890401#
Web-link for Video Call: <https://zoom.us/j/614890401>

11:30 a.m.- Juniors Sunday School: Rev. Greg Winborne

Voice Only Call: (929) 205-6099;
Code: 856361645#
Web-link for Video Call: <https://zoom.us/j/856361645>

We thank you for your generous giving. Ways you can give:

- Online: crosstreetamezion.org
1. Realm, (Realm: <https://onrealm.org/TheCross/-/give/TJXKDEVIXE>)
2. Text 73256 (Thecross)
3. PayPal,
4. CASHAPP: \$TheCross440
5. Mail: P.O. Box 223 Middletown, Ct

- 06457,
6. Drop off on Sunday 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
7. Call the office for someone to pick up
8. Church outside Lockbox

(Note: you can find links on the website: <http://www.crosstreetamezion.org/Give>)

Sanctuary Guidelines

There will be one service at 10:00 A.M. The doors will open at 9:45 A.M. to begin temperature check-in. As you enter the building, we request you to sanitize your hands.

If you choose to worship in the Sanctuary, there will be one entrance open, the main doors in the front of the building. The committee and I ask that you follow the guidelines for seating. The pews and floor will be marked to help you do this.

We also kindly request all persons attending to wear a mask over their mouth and nose to prevent the possible spread of illness to the most vulnerable among us. Masks are not required for those under the age of two or for persons unable to remove their masks.

I understand that there has been considerable discussion about masks. Since the scriptures are, of course, silent on the matter, I do not think we need to agree on the substance of the question. It is a matter of personal conscience. However, since some of our more vulnerable brothers and sisters would experience a great deal

of anxiety worshipping with a group of people who are not wearing masks, I ask that you consent to wear a mask for their sake (see 1 Corinthians 8-9 for the principle).

Worship Outside: If you prefer to worship outdoors, there will be designated parking and an outside speaker, and you can listen on radio frequency 89.3 F.M. and watch on your phone via zoom, Facebook, or YouTube. During Communion, someone will bring the sacrament to you.

Livestream Worship: Finally, we will continue to live-stream the 10:00 A.M. service so that you can watch from your home. If you are experiencing any signs or symptoms of a new illness, including fatigue, fever, chills, difficulty breathing, cough, or nausea, please make use of the live stream and consider contacting your healthcare provider.

Other Precautions: Since studies seem inconclusive on whether singing increases the risk for viral spread, and since we want to

exercise an abundance of caution at this point in re-opening, if you choose to join the worship and praise team in singing, please keep on your mask.

Please refrain from shaking hands and embracing one another at this time.

I understand that some of these precautions may feel burdensome. They are temporary, and, even so, I hope you will join me in giving thanks to God for bringing us back together again and ask him to provide us with patience and kindness for each other.

Much Love to All. Faithfully Yours,
Pastor Harvill

Special Note: For now, we will have service in the Sanctuary every other Sunday (First and 3rd) and 2nd and fourth in the parking lot only, along with Live streaming.

Please let us know by phone call, letter, or email what else we can do to help you become comfortable returning to in-person worship.

The Cross Street Journal is published Bi-monthly. It can be found on our website: crosstreetamezion.org & in the front lobby. If you would like a PDF copy sent to you, Email your request to: ken46@snet.net. If you have an article or information (word count 1000 - 1500 or less) for current and future publications the deadline for this information is the Monday after the 2nd Sunday of each Month. **You may submit your information in the following ways:** place the information on a CD (Window format) and leave it in the Cross Street office, E-mail Ken Simmons (Ken46@snet.net), or give it to him. **Praise God!!!**



CROSS STREET A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Organized in 1823

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Phone: 860-344-9527 Fax: 860-344-1740

crossstreetchurch@snet.net
www.crossstreetamezion.org

Sunday School — 8:45 a.m.
Worship Service — 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Moses L. Harvill, M. Div.,
Pastor
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- Rev. William D. Wilson
- Rev. Ella Frances Perry
- Rev. Karen Nesmith
- Rev. James Battle
- Rev. Myrtle Turner
- Rev. Gregory Winborne
- Rev. Joyce Johnson
- Rev. Earlene Grants
- Sister Felicia Freeman



Pursuing New Possibilities in the Pandemic

But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them,

With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Matthew 19:26 KJV

"I am a Christian"

By Maya Angelou

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting "I'm clean livin'."
I'm whispering "I was lost,
Now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
And need Christ to be my guide.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
And need God to clean my mess.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches
So I call upon His name.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not holier than thou.
I'm just a simple sinner
Who received God's good grace,
somehow!

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come, Thy will be done in earth, as it
is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread. And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors. And lead
us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil: For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, for
ever. Amen.



Then the Lord answered me and said:
Write the vision and make it plain on
tablets, that he may run who reads it.
Habakkuk 2:2

The Jabez Prayer

And Jabez called on the God of Israel
saying, "Oh, that You would bless me
indeed, and enlarge my territory,
that Your hand would keep me from
evil, that I may nor cause pain!" So
God granted him what he requested.
1 Chronicles 4:10 (NKJV)

"God's Word

*For the word of God is quick, and power-
ful, and sharper than any two-edged
sword, piercing even to the dividing
asunder of soul and spirit, and of the
joints and marrow, and is a discerner of
the thoughts and intents of the heart"*
Hebrews 4:12

Prayer: Forever, O Lord, your Word is
settled in heaven. I bless you because
you have given me rest according to
all that you have promised to me. Not
one word of all your good promises
has ever failed. In light of this truth, I
will walk in your Word at all times.
I love your Word, Father, it is a lamp
unto my feet, and a light unto my
path. All of your words are pure, O
God, and you are a shield to me. Lord

God, your way is perfect, and your
Word is tried. You are a shield and a
mighty buckler to me as I trust in you.
With your Word you made the heav-
ens, O Lord. all of your promises are
yes in Christ, unto your glory, O God.
You have spoken through your Word
since ancient times, in order to give
light to those who sit in darkness, and
you guide my feet in the way of peace.
Your Word is quick, alive, and power-
ful, and sharper than any two-edged
sword. It pierces even to the dividing
asunder of my soul and spirit, and of
my joints and marrow, and is a dis-
cerner of the thoughts and intents of
my heart.
Father, I am thankful for your Word,
and I will endeavor to walk in the light
of your Word all the days of my life.

If you were to die today, do you know where you will spend eternity ???

Doxology

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.
Jude 24-25