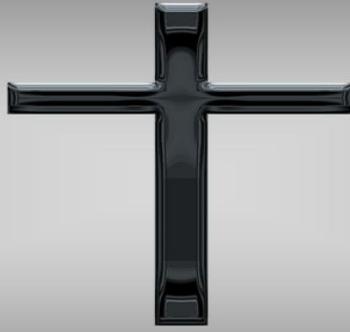
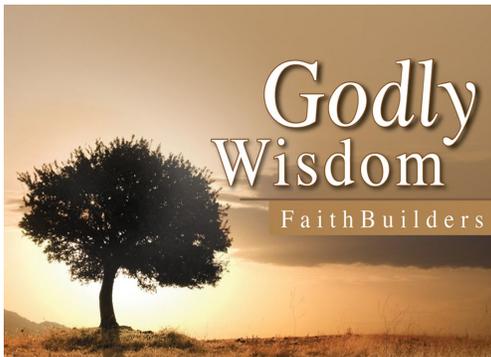


THE CROSS



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



Godly
Wisdom
FaithBuilders

JULY / AUGUST 2020
Volume 24 Issue 4

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Visit our
Facebook page

Onate "Lizzie Lawrence

Onate "Lizzie" Lawrence, daughter of Christie Shinoda and Duane Lawrence is a high honor student at Middletown High School and is going to be in the 10th grade in the fall. Meanwhile, in her community, she is a part of the NAACP Middlesex County Youth Chapter, a Jr. Member of the local Harry Ruffin Jr. American Legion Auxiliary Unit #206. Lizzie is also a member of Cross St. AME Zion church and participated in the youth choir, Sunday school, youth bible study, back to school book bag drive, and the United Cancer Society Presentation. She has also volunteered in the Middletown Mayoral election in

(Lizzie on page 10)



Proverbs

Selected Sayings of the Wise

Top Ten

1. The Bible's wisdom literature consists of these five books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs.
2. While eight hundred of Solomon's wise sayings are recorded in the book of Proverbs, the writer of 1 Kings wrote that Solomon wrote three thousand proverbs and more than a thousand songs (see 1 Kings 4:32).
3. Solomon had much to say about wisdom because he requested

(Proverbs on page 13)

Carl's Garden

Carl was a quiet man. He didn't talk much. He would always greet you with a big smile and a firm handshake. Even after living in our neighborhood for over 50 years, no one could really say they knew him very well.

Before his retirement, he took the bus to work each morning. The lone sight of him walking down the street often worried us. He had a slight limp from a bullet wound received in W.W.II. Watching him, we worried that although he had survived W.W.II, he may not make it through our changing uptown neighborhood with its ever-increasing

(Garden page 14)

Oh What A Privilege

Long after everyone alive today, in the year of our Lord, Two thousand and twenty, has passed away and the only memories of our existence on this earth are the references about us in history, our major landmark and footprint would be what could be called 'The Age of True Emancipation'. Until then, and while we are still in the midst of an unprecedented and unparalleled prospect, I have to remind all of us, that we have this singular privilege and

opportunity to make this history a reality.

Three major earth-shattering events have encapsulated themselves into a single cocoon that is ever so, eagerly waiting to morph into some concrete reality. First, was an election of a particular individual as president nearly four years earlier. The constant rhetoric from the presidency had created a charged and volatile cultural and social

(Privilege on page 12)



From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Church Family,

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

We miss meeting together as a church family for worship and weekly events during this Pandemic time of COVID 19. There is such a strange feeling walking through the various empty rooms in the Church, especially the Sanctuary, where we enjoyed people worshipping God and hearing the Word, but it's all tranquil now.

Many of the Psalms are quite encouraging, and my mind goes to a few verses in Psalm 27:13-14: (NIV) 13 I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. 14 Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

While all of us might honestly say that our patience is wearing a bit thin, I would encourage you to keep your confidence in the Lord as you navigate these uncertain times. Use these days to draw close to the Lord, and I know He is clear in the Word that He will draw near to us!

Psalm 65:4 – "How blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near to You To dwell in Your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple."

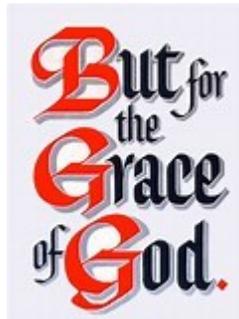
I suppose one of the reasons the Psalms are so powerful is that there is such a desire to "enter His gates with thanksgiving and praise" – So often, the Psalmist expresses his Love for the place of meeting with God. We will get together as soon as possible. We have formed a reopening committee that will begin to look at when and how we can open safely. The primary concern is your safety and security.

Let us continue to connect via Drive-in Church, Zoom, Facebook, YouTube, and Conference Call. We will meet again soon! We love you and miss you! Much Love from the pastor and first lady. *Thanks to everyone for your cards, gifts, Love, and much more as I celebrated my 66 plus 1 BIRTHDAY!*

If there is anything, we can do to minister to you, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Harvill & Officers and Leaders of the Cross.



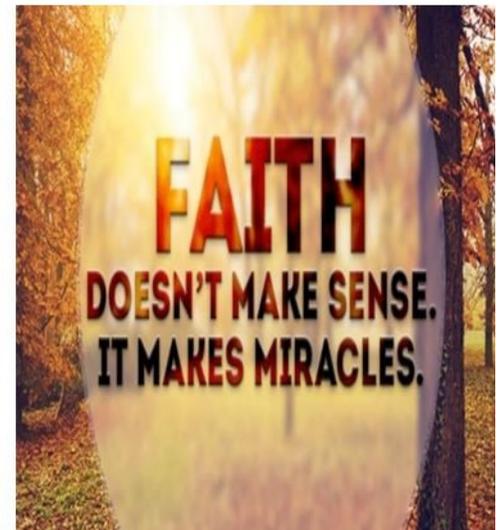
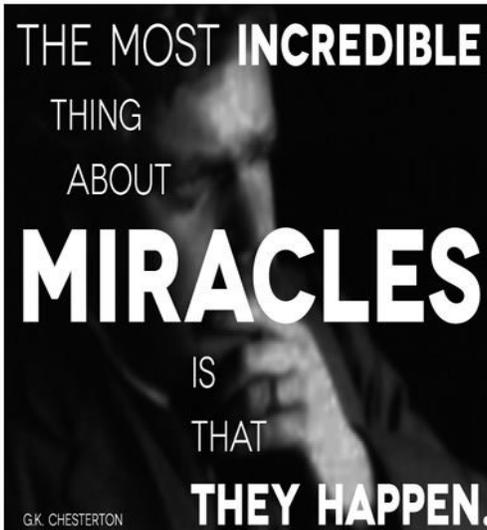
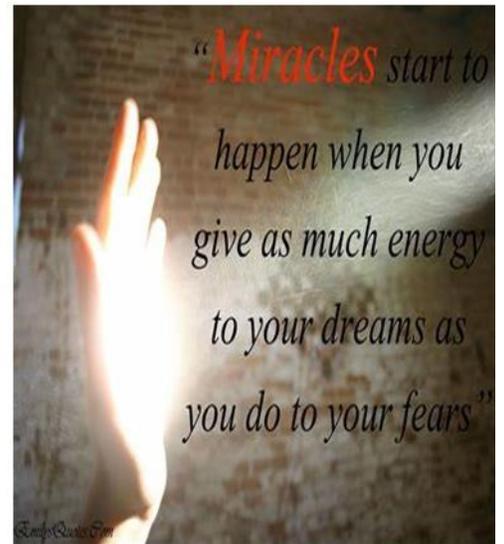
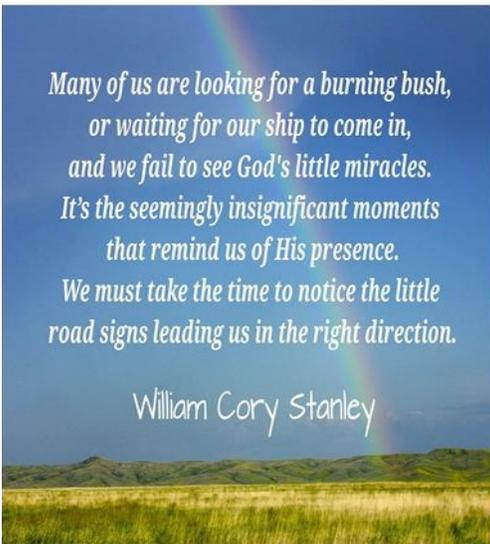
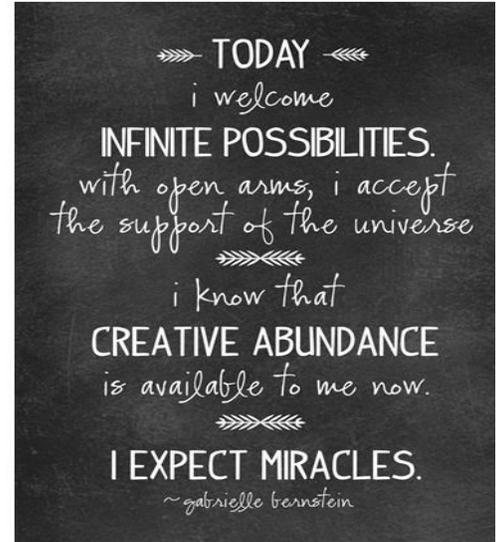
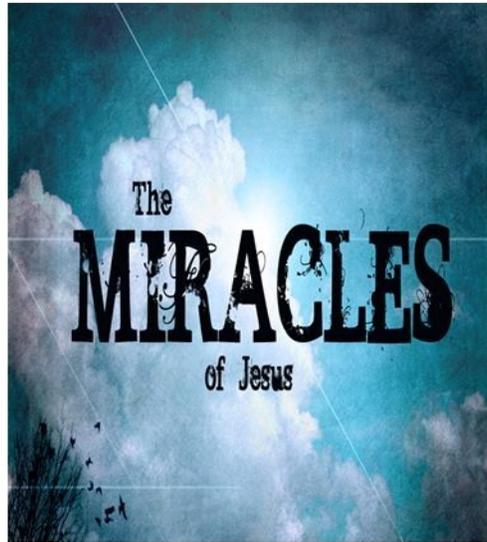
Celebrating Women's Ministry – Women's Day – Month of July

Note: The month of July officially begins our summer months. These months usually are our most challenging time financially. We would generally have special giving days, Men's Day and Church Anniversary, to help in the low-income months. With the Pandemic, it didn't happen as usual. We have planned Women's Day for July. We will not have the Women's Day Celebration as designed, but we do need the members to give the generous gift of \$100.00.

We are praying for 100% of members giving tithes and offerings that will keep the Church Going without hardship.

2020 Vision

The Year of Expected "Miracles"



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. (I 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. (I 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;* F A I T H F U L N E S S, *half-heartedness, infidelity;*
MEEKNESS, *false modesty, self-seeking;* SELF-CONTROL, *choosing lesser goals, lack of control*
(The Fruit of the Spirit, John W. Sanderson)

Lord Hear Our Prayers

When You Need Parental Wisdom

Key Scripture: *“For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding”*
(Proverbs 2:6)

Key Thought: Wisdom has God’s thoughts on any matter.

Prayer: Dear Lord, my loving Father, I ask you now for the wisdom I need to be the most effective parent possible. Thank you for giving your wisdom to me.¹ Help me at all times to raise my child in your nurture and admonition.²

I thank you for your Word which imparts wisdom unto me. I enter your presence with trust, Father, knowing that you are giving me your wisdom.³ Let your wisdom so work in me that I will always reflect its qualities of purity, peace, gentleness, and mercy in my relationships with my child and others.⁴

With you, Lord, I have strength and wisdom.⁵ Let my mouth speak your wisdom, Lord, because of the righteousness you have imparted unto me.⁶ In the hidden parts of my life, make me to know wisdom.⁷ Lord, help me to apply my heart

unto your wisdom at all times.⁸

Give my child an understanding heart that openly responds to the wisdom and direction he/she receives,⁹ and is responsive and obedient to all your will.¹⁰

As a parent under your authority, Father, I will walk in your Word. As I do so, I receive your knowledge, instruction, wisdom, and understanding.¹¹ Fill both me and my child with the knowledge of your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. I desire to walk worthy of you, Lord. God, unto all pleasing, and to be fruitful in every good work, increasing in the knowledge of your ways at all times.¹²

Thank you for fulfilling your promise of wisdom to me Lord God.

References: (1) James 1:5-7; (2) Ephesians 6:4; (3) 2 Chronicles 1:10; (4) James 3:15-17; (5) Job 12:13; (6) Psalms 37:30; (7) Psalms 51:6; (8) Psalms 90:12; (9) 1 Kings 3:9; (10) Proverbs 3:1; (11) 2 Chronicles 1:10; (12) Colossians 1:9-11.

Taken from Bible Prayers for all your needs by Victory House

Prayer For Guidance Through Today

Heavenly Father, we bow our knee before You in prayer and praise. We ask that You lead and guide us today in all we say and do. May we walk in spirit and truth today and be sensitive to Your gentle guidance. Help us to pray, fix our eyes on the Lord Jesus, knowing that without Him we will quickly stray from the path that is best for us. Lord, we believe that You have scheduled every day of our life and we do not want to stray from the path that You would have us take. Help us to be faithful to You and to willingly go along the path of your choosing, knowing that it may conflict with our own desires and wishes. Develop in us a heart that delights to do Your will, so that the longings of our heart are brought into line with Your plans and purposes and Your will for our life. We ask that You let our eyes always be looking to You and keep us from looking at the storms and difficulties of life, knowing that You are with us to lead and guide and to uphold to Your praise and glory. We Thank You that Jesus is the Way and the Truth and the Life and we desire to be only guided by Him. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Prayer for Today

Lord God, our souls long for You and for Your glory, for the day when it shall be said, “All is accomplished! Now Your kingdom comes. Now Your day appears. When we look back on all that has happened to us, everything becomes clear.” We thank You that we can live without fear, again and again refreshed and renewed, waiting for the good You give on earth. Show us the way we have to go. Grant Your blessing in our hearts so that in need and death, in fear and distress, we may always have light and strength. You are our salvation, Lord our God. From You comes the salvation of our souls. We trust You today and every day. We praise Your name, and in You we hope for the day You hold in readiness for the whole world, the day when light will dawn in every heart, it’s in Jesus name, Amen, Amen, Amen.

Prayer for Strength

Father in Heaven, we stand before You today in Your omnipotent presence to ask that You grant us strength. We want You to give us the strength to power through all of the tasks today whether little or big. It is by Your will that we live oh Lord. And we know it is also by Your will we will not go weak today. We will not go lazy nor will we fail to do all things set before us because You strengthen us. Thank You for Your everlasting presence Lord and in Jesus’ name, we pray, Amen.

Prayer for Today

Dear God, we pray that today we may be quick to praise You in all we say and do, and slow to criticize. We pray that we may be quick to encourage others rather than complain. We pray that we may be slow to get angry or discouraged, and may we have a heart that is quick to forgive and not criticize or condemn. And God, we pray that we may also be generous in our giving and not selfish with the things that are our. Grant us today to be a real encouragement to all we meet, and help us to keep our tongue from any foolish words which might hurt or discourage. Thank You for the life that You have given us today. So we pray that we bring honor to Your name today, it’s in Jesus’ name we ask and pray, Amen, Amen, Amen.

Prayers from Barbara Perry

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.

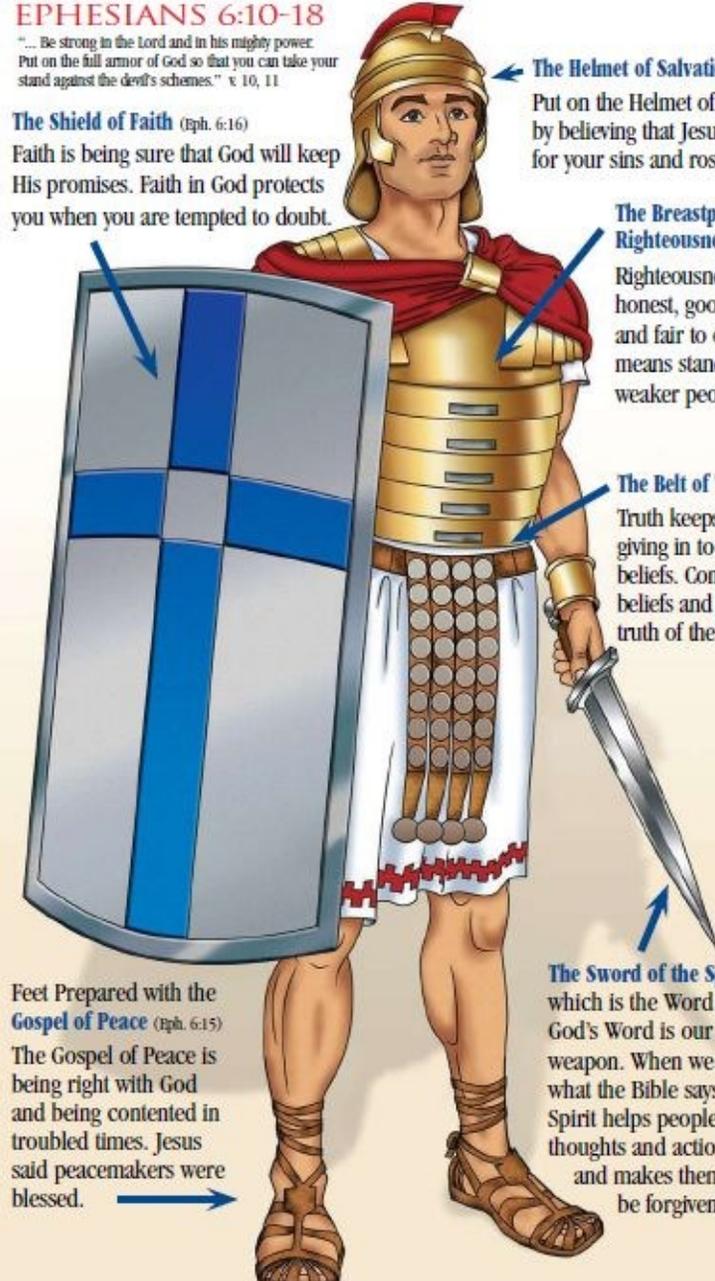
The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17)
Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

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.

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.



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,^[a] 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

Read the BIBLE in ONE Year

July

1. Psalms 112-114	8. Psalms 137-139	16. Proverbs 15-18	24. Ecclesiastes 10-12
2. Psalms 115-118	9. Psalms 140-144	17. Proverbs 19-21	25. Song 1-4
3. Psalms 119	10. Psalms 145-147	18. Proverbs 22-24	26. Song 5-8
4. Psalms 120-123	11. Psalms 148-150	19. Proverbs 25-28	27. Isaiah 1-3
5. Psalms 124-128	12. Proverbs 1-3	20. Proverbs 29-31	28. Isaiah 4-6
6. Psalms 129-132	13. Proverbs 4-7	21. Ecclesiastes 1-3	29. Isaiah 7-9
7. Psalms 133-136	14. Proverbs 8-11	22. Ecclesiastes 4-6	30. Isaiah 10-12
	15. Proverbs 12-14	23. Ecclesiastes 7-9	31. Isaiah 13-15

August

1. Isaiah 16-18	8. Isaiah 37-39	16. Isaiah 61-63	24. Jeremiah 21-23
2. Isaiah 19-21	9. Isaiah 40-42	17. Isaiah 64-66	25. Jeremiah 24-26
3. Isaiah 22-24	10. Isaiah 43-45	18. Jeremiah 1-2	26. Jeremiah 27-29
4. Isaiah 25-27	11. Isaiah 46-48	19. Jeremiah 3-5	27. Jeremiah 30-32
5. Isaiah 28-30	12. Isaiah 49-51	20. Jeremiah 6-8	28. Jeremiah 33-36
6. Isaiah 31-33	13. Isaiah 52-54	21. Jeremiah 9-12	29. Jeremiah 37-39
7. Isaiah 34-36	14. Isaiah 55-57	22. Jeremiah 13-16	30. Jeremiah 40-42
	15. Isaiah 58-60	23. Jeremiah 17-20	31. Jeremiah 43-46

September

1. Jeremiah 47-49	8. Ezekiel 15-18	16. Ezekiel 40-42	24. Hosea 5-7
2. Jeremiah 50-52	9. Ezekiel 19-21	17. Ezekiel 43-45	25. Hosea 8-10
3. Lamentations 1-5	10. Ezekiel 22-24	18. Ezekiel 46-48	26. Hosea 11-14
4. Ezekiel 1-3	11. Ezekiel 25-27	19. Daniel 1-3	27. Joel 1-3
5. Ezekiel 4-7	12. Ezekiel 28-30	20. Daniel 4-6	28. Amos 1-3
6. Ezekiel 8-11	13. Ezekiel 31-33	21. Daniel 7-9	29. Amos 4-6
7. Ezekiel 12-14	14. Ezekiel 34-36	22. Daniel 10-12	30. Amos 7-9
	15. Ezekiel 37-39	23. Hosea 1-4	

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.

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.



Sunday School is a Family Affair

8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. We have classes for all ages – 3 to 103
 New Members Class meets at the same time.
 (For Transportation Needs Please call the Church 860-344-9527)

Come Grow with US!

The Gifts of Wisdom

Devotional Reading:
 Job 28:12-28

Scripture:
 Proverbs 8:8-14, 17-21

DECLARATION:
 Proverbs 8:8-14, 17-21

⁸ all the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. ⁹ They are all straight to one who understands and right to those who find knowledge. ¹⁰ Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; ¹¹ for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her. ¹² I, wisdom, live with prudence, and I attain knowledge and discretion. ¹³ The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. ¹⁴ I have good advice and sound wisdom; I have insight, I have strength.

¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. ¹⁸ Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and prosperity. ¹⁹ My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver. ²⁰ I walk in the way of righteousness, along the path of justice, ²¹ endowing with wealth those who love me, and filling their treasuries.

Affirmation: “You can buy education, but wisdom is a gift from God.”

ENGAGE

Hakam is the Hebrews word

translated as “wisdom,” and hakam means to be wise or skilled. “Hakam deals with an individual’s approach to life itself. It is practical in nature, and yet is spiritual. For, biblically speaking, ‘wisdom’ provides the insight to master life’s challenges through a responsive personal relationship with God. In essence, wisdom has to do with choosing what is right and good as we live our daily lives.”¹⁰

For the next five minutes watch the video, “The Book of Proverbs” (https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Gab04dPs_uA); then briefly discuss ways in which godly wisdom is a gift that informs and impacts a believer’s daily life.

EDUCATE

Proverbs 8 records the Bible’s most detailed personification of wisdom. Wisdom is depicted as having the attributes of a real person and is never stated to be God. Also, the personal pronouns associated with wisdom are consistently feminine, never neutral or masculine.¹¹ This chapter also provides background for a Christian to understand Christ as the Wisdom and Word of God. A study of the prologue to the Gospel of John (John 1:1-14) reveals how Jesus’ identity is informed by Proverbs 8. Wisdom is great, yet she graciously stoops down to reach out to be the innocent, ignorant and inferior (Proverbs 8:5). Jesus, who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, graciously stoops down and freely offers himself to all of humanity: “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink (John 7:37-38a).”

One gift wisdom extends is her trustworthy word. Whatever she says is both “right” (Proverbs 8:6) and

“righteous” (v. 8). The one who follows her words will not be led to a “twisted” morality or taken off course down a “crooked” path. What she speaks is clear and without confusion. Wisdom will point a person away from the path of self-destruction. “People with insight (v.()) know that what wisdom offers is **right** (i.e., straightforward or honest), and people in the know’ find wisdom’s words **faultless** (lit., ‘upright or straight’).¹² In other words, the one who willingly receives wisdom’s trusted instruction is rewarded with a life marked by enlightened upstanding and discretion.

Instruction and knowledge are among wisdom’s treasures that far exceed the values of “choice silver” and “fine gold” (v. 10, 19). In fact, there are no jewels or precious metals on earth that can compare to that which wisdom offers to those who will accept her truths (v. 11). Wisdom’s gifts of “enduring wealth and prosperity” (v. 18) include her “prudence” (i.e., sound judgment), “knowledge” and “discernment” (v. 12; see also 1:4). In fact, these godly attributes are essential for a person to appropriately procure, value and make effective use of material wealth. “Also, wisdom contributes to a person’s integrity and peace, something silver, gold, and rubies cannot do. And in Proverbs those qualities are of greater value than anything one can buy.”¹³

Finally, Solomon reminds his child that the very first step toward becoming a recipient of the gifts of wisdom is the fear of the Lord—that is, having reverence for, respect of and submission to God (v. 13). For the believer this also means diligently seeking to embody the character of Christ, “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3). This is

(Wisdom on page 9)

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.

(Wisdom from page 8)

the only way to spiritually fortify an individual against the pitfall of "pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech" (Proverbs 8:13b). The one committed to following God rejects evil (v. 13a) and is therefore afforded yet another of wisdom's priceless gifts: "walking in the way of righteousness, along the path of justice" (v. 20).

ELEVATE

"Some Israelites during the Old Testament era had the idea that wealth was a sign of God's blessing while poverty and trouble were evidences that you were out of His favor...But Wisdom has better gifts to offer than perishable riches-blessings like prudence, knowledge, discretion ('witty inventions,' Proverbs 8:12), the fear of the Lord, humility, godly speech, wise counsel,

understanding, guidance on life's path, strength for the journey, and durable riches. A life that's enriched by God may be poor in this world's goods, but it is rich in the things that matter most." 14

List various pursuits in life (education, career, family, etc.). Create a list of questions that can help analyze whether these pursuits are guided by godly wisdom.

I THINK:

1. List and discuss the ways that the road to justice is paved by wisdom.
2. Explain the connection between wisdom and the fear of the Lord.

VERSE OF THE WEEK:

"Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than

jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her." Proverbs 8:10-11.

10. Lawrence O. Richards, The Teacher's Commentary, Victor Books, Wheaton, 1987, p. 339
11. Robert Jamieson, Anthony Robert & David Brown, Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible, Oak Habor, Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997, Vol. 1, p. 393.
12. Sid S. Buzzell, Proverbs, in J.F. Walvoord & R.B. Zuck (Eds.), The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, Victor Books, Wheaton, 1985, Vol. 1, p. 921.
13. Ibid.
14. Wiersbe, W.W. (1996). Be Skillful (p. 29). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

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

Wisdom is the principal thing;
Therefore get wisdom.
And in all your getting, get understanding
- Proverbs 4:7 -

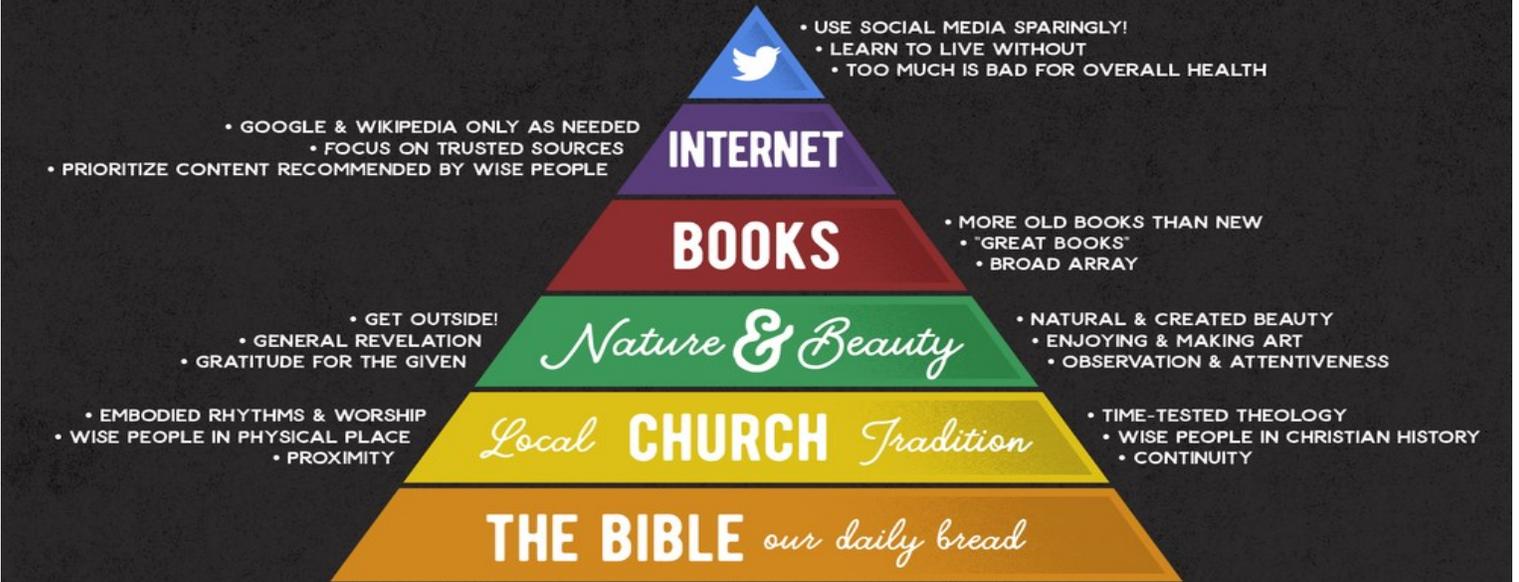
And unto man he said,
Behold, the fear of the LORD, that is wisdom,
and to depart from evil is understanding.

Joh 28:28
fbireestatus.blogspot.com
Funny Quotes

KNOWLEDGE
SPEAKS
BUT
WISDOM
listens.

- Jimi Hendrix -
www.mographicdesign.com

Wisdom Pyramid



(Lizzie page 1)

the fall of 2019. The mayoral election is what sparked her interest in the civic engagement scholarship essay. In the essay, she wrote about what civic engagement means to her and what her future goals are in having a voice/ leadership role in her community. In the essay she was also asked to interview someone that inspires her, she chose to interview Mr. Vincent Loffredo (Deputy Mayor of Middletown). Mr. Loffredo is

also a retired science teacher, and former Board of Education and Common Council member in Middletown. We are very proud of her accomplishments and maintaining her high honor status amid the global health crisis. She is a blessed and highly favored young lady.

The CHET Advance Scholarship is funded by The State of Connecticut. In addition

to the \$1250 award it is a savings plan that has potential to grow upwards of \$2000 in value with additional monetary contributions up until the student graduates. For more information “Check Chet Out” at <http://www.aboutchet.com/advance/> (CT Treasurer Shawn Wooden)

because the youth is the future. I also believe it is important for youth to get involved, speak up and be apart of the decision-making process in their communities. For one day in the future it may make a difference.

“What does civic engagement mean to you? What are your future goals to have a voice or leadership role in your own community?”

Civic engagement is very important to me. I am so inspired to make a change that I began to donate my time at local campaigns events. I also had a few forums to meet the candidates in our local Mayoral campaign. I am a Jr. Member of the local Harry Ruffin Jr. American Legion Auxiliary Unit #206, and have recently joined the local NAACP Youth Chapter, while maintaining high honor roll status for the 2nd term with my academics. I have attended and actively participated in meetings where we talked about how we can make the community better. I can also add that I am a member of the Middlesex County Community Foundation anti-bullying campaign were. I have attended coping skills up-stander awareness and prevention workshops. I will continue to be active to make the community I love better.

Civic Engagement Assignment

To qualify for a merit award you must conduct an interview with a community, civic, or government leader, then respond to the questions below.

You can download the [Civic Engagement Assignment Overview](#) for more information, tips for setting up your interview, and suggested interview questions.

Merit award candidates will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Demonstration of critical thinking & reflection on the subject of civic engagement.
- Organization & overall presentation of responses.
- Spelling & grammar.

Please provide the following information about your interview subject.

Full Name: Vincent J. Loffredo

Title/Role: Deputy Mayor

Organization: Democratic Party for the City of Middletown

Email Address: vloffredo@comcast.net

Date you conducted the interview: 3/6/2020

Next, please respond to the following questions.

Feel free to refer to your interview notes and use direct quotes from your interview subject if appropriate.

“How did / does the person you interview inspire you?”

Mr. Loffredo inspires me because he loves to support the community. He shows the importance to serve. He encourages all people to work together to improve and make the community better. I have witnessed him in action during our 2019 local municipal election. Mr. Loffredo was a candidate for the Democratic Common Council along with other candidates, including our new mayor, Ben Florsheim, the youngest mayor in Connecticut history. During the election, I began to help with small things like phone banking at the democratic headquarters and mailing letters. I’ve also had the opportunity knocking on doors with other party candidates, which was really fun. Mr. Loffredo’s hard work won him the common council seat and was later appointed to deputy mayor. This entire experience has sparked my interest in local politics and global government.

“What was the most valuable insight you gained through your conversation?”

The most valuable insight from my conversation is the youth should try to be more involved with the community even if it is just the little things. Mr. Loffredo stated that he always would like input from youth

Shimoda, Christie
re: Onyae Lawrence
7 Longworth Av
Middletown, CT 06457

Attendance: Totals Year To Date - Daily Absences: 1 Daily Tardies: 0

Subject	Teacher	Q1	Q2	S1	Q3	Q4	S2	Y1	COMMENT
Spanish II	Mazanilla, Lea	94	99	97	98	100	99	98	Thanks for a great year! I'm so proud of all of your hard work!
Study Hall S1	Blanchini, Krista								
Food I	Bazano, Jeanine				99	100	100	100	Pleasure to Have in Class
World History (H)	Kodish, Daniel	90	75	83	83	100	92	88	Outstanding Effort
Photography I	Iovanne, Nicole	96	100	98				98	
Study Hall S2	KeFogg, Jillian								
PSIDE 9	Cohen, Matthew								
Science 9 (CP)	Tucker, John	88	84	85	99	100	99	92	Onyae remains an exceptional student. Her work is always extremely thoughtful, and she clearly works hard.
Global Literature	Longhitano, Dina	95	91	93	90	100	95	94	You were an absolute delight to have in class, and you rose to the occasion during distance learning! Have a safe and healthy summer and good luck to you next year.
Wellness	Price, Jennifer	93	100	97				97	
Wellness	Price, Jennifer				92	100	96	96	Effort Above Average Participation Above Average
Algebra I (CP)	Martins, Lisa	94	91	89	100	95	94		Excellent effort during distant learning. Have a safe, healthy and enjoyable summer.

Mark Interpretation 1-100 Performance Range | X-Excused | I-Incomplete | P-Pass | F-Fail |
High Honors
100.00
7.00 Credit Hours

CHET (Connecticut Higher Education Trust) 529 College Saving Program

Fast Facts About CHET

Want to know all the great reasons why you should choose the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET)? This quick list will give you the key benefits at a glance.

The cost of higher education is only going up. But that shouldn't get you down. Saving for college doesn't need to be a burden. With the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET), there's no big upfront investment and getting started takes about as long as grabbing a cup of coffee.

1. Easy, Convenient and Affordable

With CHET you can easily open an account in just 15 minutes and easily manage it online or by mail. Open an account with as little as \$25 per investment option, or \$15 dollars per pay period using automatic payroll deduction.

2. The Only Plan with a CT State Income Tax Deduction

Connecticut taxpayers are eligible to receive a Connecticut income tax deduction of up to \$10,000 on contributions made to CHET. And your earnings, if any, are free from federal and state income tax when used for qualified expenses.

3. Use at Schools Anywhere

Funds can be used at any accredited university, College or Vocational School nationwide – and many abroad. Basically, any Institution eligible to participate in a federal student aid program qualifies. In addition, up to \$10,000 annually per student, in aggregate from all 529 plans, can be withdrawn free from federal tax if used for tuition expenses at a public, private or religious elementary, middle, or high school.

Please see the state tax treatment of withdrawals used toward K-12 school tuition.

4. Use for More Than Just Tuition

CHET can be used to pay for tuition, certain room and board costs, computers and related technology expenses as well as fees, books, supplies, and other equipment. In addition, up to \$10,000 annually per student, in aggregate from all 529 plans, can be withdrawn free from federal tax if used for tuition expenses at a public, private or religious elementary, middle, or high school.

Please see the state tax treatment of withdrawals used toward K-12 school tuition.

5. Lower Impact on Financial Aid than Other Savings Options

Many parents worry that a 529 Savings Account can adversely affect eligibility for financial aid. So long as the parent is the account owner, funds are typically treated as belonging to the parent, not the child, minimizing the impact on financial aid. *

6. You Control the Account

You own the account and control how the money is invested and how it gets spent. And you don't need to be a parent – anyone can start an account for anyone else.

7. Everyone Can Help

You don't have to do it all on your own! Grandparents as well as other family and friends can make gifts to your account for maximum growth potential.

8. Investment Flexibility

CHET provides a variety of professionally managed investment options to choose from including age-based options – an all-in-one portfolio series intended for those saving for college. The allocation automatically shifts from aggressive to conservative investments as your child approaches college age. Alternatively you can tailor your investment with multi-fund, single-fund and guaranteed options to match your risk tolerance, timeline, and investment preferences.

9. Unused Funds Can be Used for Other Eligible Members of Your Family

If it turns out your child or grandchild doesn't need all the money or their education goals change, you can designate a new beneficiary penalty-free so long as they're an eligible member of the family.

10. Estate Tax Planning Benefits

When you or anyone else makes a contribution, it may qualify for an annual gift tax exclusion of \$15,000 per year for single filers and \$30,000 a year for couples. And CHET is the only investment that allows you to give up to 5 years' worth of gifts at one time – for a maximum of \$75,000 for a single filer and \$150,000 for couples.

*The treatment of investment in a 529 savings plan varies by school. Assets are typically treated as the account holder's and not the student's. (Student assets are generally assessed at 20% whereas parental assets are generally assessed at 5.6%.) any investments, including those in 529 accounts, may affect the student's eligibility to get financial aid based on need. You should check with the schools you are considering regarding this issue.

(*Privilege from page 1*)

atmosphere unparalleled in recent American history. The second was the emergence of a novel, global pandemic that had sheltered families in place at home for weeks in universal, social isolation the likes of which have only previously happened during times of colossal health emergencies. The third element was an event almost, fated and seemingly, orchestrated beyond any human comprehension, bordering on predestination for a purpose. That was the recorded murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota on Memorial Day, this year.

Considered the final straw that proverbially broke the camel's back, the universal outburst, and explosion from the callous, inhumane manner in which a white policeman pinned his knee on the neck of a subdued, black man for eight minutes and forty six seconds till he passed away, appear unquenchable. The colossal demand for justice for this particular event, has not only resulted in the major acceptance and universal acquiescence to the perpetual injustices meted out to African Americans, in what had always been coordinated and systematic racist oppression and maltreatment by the armed American police.

The level and intensity of the upheaval resulting from the murder, coupled by a string of other, similar police mistreatment of African Americans have no parallel in American history. The uncontrolled, unchallenged and unconditional demands for the removal of various racist structures include statutes of confederate figures, slave owners, and Confederate sympathizers. The depth of outrage and the extent of instant remedy are reminiscent of a major cultural revolt in any country in recent global history. And still the end is nowhere in sight.

Several instances include the removal and/or the destruction of major monumental statutes of historical figures considered racists and slave holders and national union opponents and objectors. Prominent among these include the removal of references to confederate memorabilia and flags and statutes and monuments. The ultimate and more conspicuous include the removal of the confederate flag out of Mississippi's State Flag. Numerous, revolutionary changes are occurring across the nation and globally, too. To the extent that a

family of white American descendants has publicly and voluntarily decided to remove part of the family name referencing a confederate and slave-owning ancestor. There are open, plausible and potential prospects to rename several Military Forts and Institutions across the country, which bear names and references to losing Confederate Militants and Union opponents.

As difficult as it appears to fathom the events of the past few weeks, there are even more, major elements of the current upheaval to mull over.

That is where the privilege of the moment is so paramount. On the eve of Ghana's independence from British rule and domination, the imminent national leader and the founding father of the new nation, Kwame Nkrumah declared that; '*our independence is meaningless unless it is linked up with the total liberation of the African continent*'. That thought has never been lost on the successive leaders of the various countries of Africa. Even though it has never been achieved, it is the ultimate aspiration of many Africans. The corresponding declaration here and now, is that; 'no amount of emancipation of enslaved people is complete until it is linked with a total liberation and absolute separation of all vestiges of ownership including personal names'.

What's in a name, you might want to know. Well, as and when necessary, name changes have been part of scriptures forever. Abram became Abraham for a reason. Jehovah renamed Jacob to Israel for a purpose. Jesus publicly renamed Simon, the son of Jonah as Cephas – which by interpretation meant Peter. The most famous of all was the switch from Saul to Paul, who then proceeded to champion the work of Jesus for all time. This is the day, this is the moment, it is now or never again. Enough is enough. The legalized and institutionalized dominance of the African in America is gradually coming to an end. If not now, then when? This singular privilege we all have at this time is that, for the first time, we are part of and witnesses to the total and complete emancipation of the former enslaved. It may have taken more than four hundred years, but as the saying goes – "God's time is the best".

If Princeton University has the fortitude enough to drop Woodrow

Wilson's name from the school's public policy building due to his "racist thinking", it behooves every African American to do the same. Drop every reference to a racist owner who considered your forebear as his personal property.

If a dozen military generals have the moral fiber to consider renaming every Military Fort that bears the names of fallen confederate military general, it behooves every African American to do the same. Drop every reference to a racist owner who considered your forebear as his personal property.

If all public statutes and memorials to Christopher Columbus are removed and stored within historical and museum walls, it behooves every African American to remove any reference to that name on your person.

If the walls of the U.S. House of Representatives can be cleared of paintings of Robert Hunter, Howell Cobb, James Orr, and Charles Crisp all of whom (former speakers of the house), 'embodied the violent bigotry and grotesque racism of the Confederacy', it behooves every African American to do the same. Change your name from any of these names that clearly embodied extreme, evil racist tendencies and espoused racial superiority over you, your forebears and your descendants.

It may seem like a daunting, insurmountable and overwhelming undertaking. Well, the statues continue to come down. And nothing is more daunting, more intimidating than a policy to re-decorate the walls of American Congress. But the vigor of the moment makes it most imperative, not quite optional any longer, to effect this monumental change that will signal, for all time, the total liberation of the African American on the land that his and her ancestors helped to build with free labor.

How do you change a name? Talk to me, I did it and so did, Kirk Douglas, Tony Curtis, Marilyn Monroe, Stevie Wonder, Mohammed Ali, Malcolm X, Kwesi Mfume, Kwame Ture, John Legend, Alicia Keys, Elton John, Jamie Foxx, Vin Diesel, Nicki Minaj, Brad Pitt, Tina Fey and Jahiel Beaman.

By Kwame Ocansey

(Proverbs from page 1)

4. The New Testament quotes from Proverbs just eight times.
5. Most cultures have pithy, wise sayings with which people pass on information to others. We can learn from such short aphorisms as “A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush” because they are easy to remember and helpful in their advice. In a small sense, that is what the biblical proverbs are. They are godly, wise sayings that are applicable to life.
6. A biblical proverb is based on underlying theological truths: 1. God is the arranger of our world and our society, and He has revealed His desires for us through the Bible; and 2. If our hearts are right, we will want to live according to God’s standards and will follow God’s wisdom. Proverbs 1:2-4 explains: “for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction to prudent behavior; doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young.”
7. One way to understand the book of Proverbs is to realize that the sayings presented are accurate and true under usual circumstances, but they are not universally true. It’s the difference between “You shall have no other gods before me,” (Exodus 20:3), which is a universal, incontrovertible truth, and “a generous person will prosper” (Proverbs 11:25), which is a general truth that reminds us the importance of generosity but does not guarantee that every generous person will get rich.
8. Solomon probably borrowed some of his proverbs from surrounding cultures (see Ecclesiastes 12:9), for they were known to have existed in places like Egypt and Mesopotamia. Plus, he penned many of his own. When it was time to compile the book of Proverbs, the Holy Spirit would have guided whoever put it together to include only the ones that reflected God’s wisdom.
9. The book of Proverbs tells about knowing wisdom, but it also informs us about foolishness: the simple fool (1:22), the hard fool (1:7), the arrogant fool (14:3). There are several “checklists for fools” in the book
10. This book gives us Spirit-inspired advice on a variety of subjects,

including sexual immorality, fools vs. wise people, parenting, the tongue, friends, and families.

**Who
Who Wrote It?**

The main writer of the book of Proverbs is King Solomon. Others who contributed to the book were Hezekiah, who compiled proverbs he discovered (Proverbs 25:1); Agur, who is credited for writing Proverbs 30; and Lemuel, who is given credit for Proverbs 31.

What

The book of proverbs is a compilation of pithy saying that tell us how to be wise and how to avoid being a fool, a scoffer, or a simple person. This collection of profound adages, compiled from a wide variety of sources, reflects practical information about how to live under God’s rule and by His standards. While it is important to consider context when reading the Bible, Proverbs is a bit different because the wisdom is often doled out one or two verses at a time- and one wise saying may not be related to the next. For instance, in Proverbs 20 is warning about alcoholic beverages in verse 1, followed immediately in verse 2 with advice about handling a king’s wrath. The two ideas seem disconnected, but both are valuable. The key to understanding the book may be Proverbs 1:7, which says, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

When

Solomon lived in the tenth century BC, and Hezekiah reigned from 715 to 686 BC, so clearly the Proverbs were collected over a long period of time. We do not know when these sayings were finally compiled into one document.

Where

While the bulk of the Proverbs were compiled in and around Jerusalem, they also came from a wide variety of sources -even from as far away as Egypt.

Why

Clearly, the purpose of the book of Proverbs is to promote wisdom and godly character in its readers. One who intends to please God can use these sayings as guides for making right choices. While there is a certain randomness to the presentation in the book, there is always the theme of learning to practice wisdom in the pursuit of godly living.

Wow!

- The title and lyrics of Canadian rapper k-os’ song “Steel Sharpens Steel” are a paraphrase of Proverbs 27:17: “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”
- British writer T.E Lawrence took the title for his book The Seven Pillars of Wisdom from Proverbs 9:1.

Worth Remembering

- The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction (Proverbs 1:7).
- For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding (Proverbs 2:6).
- Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight (Proverbs 3:5-6).
- Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold (Proverbs 3:13-14).
- A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man (Proverbs 6:10-11).
- There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death (Proverbs 14:12).
- The name of the LORD is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe (Proverbs 18:10).
- Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor (Proverbs 21:21).
- Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it (Proverbs 22:6).
- Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth; an outsider, and not your own lips (Proverbs 27:2).
- “Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him” (Proverbs 30:5).
- A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies (Proverbs 31:10).

From Our Daily Bread, BIBLE SOURCE BOOK, The Who, What, Where, Wow. Guide to the Bible by Dave Branon

(Garden on page 1)

random violence, gangs, and drug activity.

When he saw the flyer at our local church asking for volunteers for caring for the gardens behind the minister's residence, he responded in his characteristically unassuming manner. Without fanfare, he just signed up. He was well into his 87th year when the very thing we had always feared finally happened.

He was just finishing his watering for the day when three gang members approached him. Ignoring their attempt to intimidate him, he simply asked, "Would you like a drink from the hose?" The tallest and toughest-looking of the three said, "Yeah, sure," with a malevolent little smile. As Carl offered the hose to him, the other two grabbed Carl's arm, throwing him down. As the hose snaked crazily over the ground, dousing everything in its way, Carl's assailants stole his retirement watch and his wallet, and then fled.

Carl tried to get himself up, but he had been thrown down on his bad leg. He lay there trying to gather himself as the minister came running to help him. Although the minister had witnessed the attack from his window, he couldn't get there fast enough to stop it. "Carl, are you okay? Are you hurt?" The minister kept asking as he helped Carl to his feet.

Carl just passed a hand over his brow and sighed, shaking his head. Just some punk kids. I hope they'll wise-up someday. His wet clothes clung to his slight frame as he bent to pick up the hose. He adjusted the nozzle again and started to water. Confused and a little concerned, the minister asked, "Carl, what are you doing? I've got to finish my watering. It's been very dry lately, came the calm reply. Satisfying himself that Carl really was all right, the minister could only marvel. Carl was a man from a different time and place.

A few weeks later the three returned. Just as before their threat was unchallenged. Carl again offered them a drink from his hose. This time they didn't rob him. They wrenched the hose from his hand and drenched him head to foot in the icy water. When they had finished their humiliation of him, they sauntered off down the street, throwing catcalls and curses, falling over one another laughing at the hilarity of what they had just done.

Carl just watched them. Then he turned toward the warmth giving sun, picked up his hose, and went on with his watering.

The summer was quickly fading into fall. Carl was doing some tilling when he was startled by the sudden approach of someone behind him. He stumbled and fell into some evergreen branches. As he struggled to regain his footing, he turned to see the tall leader of his summer tormentors reaching down for him. He braced himself for the expected attack.

"Don't worry old man, I'm not gonna hurt you this time. The young man spoke softly, still offering the tattooed and scarred hand to Carl. As he helped Carl get up, the man pulled a crumpled bag from his pocket and handed it to Carl. "What's this?" Carl asked. "It's your stuff, the man explained. "It's your stuff back. Even the money in your wallet. I don't understand," Carl said. "Why would you help me now?" The man shifted his feet, seeming embarrassed and ill at ease. "I learned something from you," he said. "I ran with that gang and hurt people like you. We picked you because you were old and we knew we could do it. But every time we came and did something to you, instead of yelling and fighting back, you tried to give us a drink. You didn't hate us for hating you. You kept showing love against our hate. He stopped for a moment. "I couldn't sleep after we stole your stuff, so here it is back. He paused for another awkward moment, not knowing what more there was to say. "That bag's my way of saying thanks for straightening me out, I guess. And with that, he walked off down the street. Carl looked down at the sack in his hands and gingerly opened it. He took out his retirement watch and put it back on his wrist. Opening his wallet, he checked for his wedding photo. He gazed for a moment at the young bride that still smiled back at him from all those years ago.

He died one cold day after Christmas that winter. Many people attended his funeral in spite of the weather. In particular the minister noticed a tall young man that he didn't know sitting quietly in a distant corner of the church. The minister spoke of Carl's garden as a lesson in life. In a voice made thick with unshed tears, he said, "Do your best and make your garden as beautiful as you can. We will never forget Carl and his garden.

The following spring another flyer went up. It read: Person needed to care

for Carl's garden. The flyer went unnoticed by the busy parishioners until one day when a knock was heard at the minister's office door. Opening the door, the minister saw a pair of scarred and tattooed hands holding the flyer. "I believe this is my job, if you'll have me," the young man said.

The minister recognized him as the same young man who had returned the stolen watch and wallet to Carl. He knew that Carl's kindness had turned this man's life around. As the minister handed him the keys to the garden shed, he said, "Yes, go take care of Carl's garden and honor him. The man went to work and, over the next several years, he tended the flowers and vegetables just as Carl had done. In that time, he went to college, got married, and became a prominent member of the community. But he never forgot his promise to Carl's memory and kept the garden as beautiful as he thought Carl would have kept it. One day he approached the new minister and told him that he couldn't care for the garden any longer. He explained with a shy and happy smile, "My wife just had a baby boy last night, and she's bringing him home on Saturday.

"Well, congratulations!" said the minister, as he was handed the garden shed keys. "That's wonderful! What's the baby's name?" Carl, he replied.

The Best Mathematical Equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

That's the whole gospel message simply stated. Take 60 seconds give this a shot! Let's just see if Satan stops this one.

All you do is: 1. Simply say a small prayer for the person who sent you this, (Father God bless this person in whatever it is that You know he or she may be needing this day!) 2. Then send it on to five other people. Within hours five people have prayed for you, and you caused a multitude of people to pray to God for other people. Then sit back and watch the power of God work in your life for doing the thing that you know He loves.



Words To Live By

A Flourishing Tree

Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

Proverbs 11:28

I've always had a collector's heart. As a kid, I collected stamps. Baseball cards. Comics. Now, as a parent, I see the same impulse in my kids. Sometimes I wonder, Do you really need another teddy bear?

Of course, it's not about need. It's about the allure of something new. Or sometimes the tantalizing draw of something old, something rare. Whatever captivates our imagination, we're tempted to believe that if we only had "X" our lives would be better. We'd be happy. Content.

Except those things never deliver the goods. Why? Because God created us to be filled by Him, not by the things that the world around us often insists will satisfy our longing hearts.

This tension is hardly new. Proverbs contrasts two ways of life: a life spent pursuing riches versus a life grounded in loving God and giving generously. In *The Message*, Eugene Peterson paraphrases Proverbs 11:28 like this: "A life devoted to things is a dead life, a stump; a God-shaped life is a flourishing tree."

What a picture! Two ways of life: one flourishing and fruitful, one hollow and barren. The world insists that material abundance equals "the good life." in contrast, God invites us to be rooted in Him, to experience His goodness, and to flourish fruitfully. And as we're shaped by our relationship with Him, God reshapes our hearts and desires, transforming us from the inside out.

Adam R. Holz

**When has an undue focus on material things become a major spiritual struggle for you?
What helps you keep your desires in proper perspective?**

Father, thank You for the good gifts You give.
Help me to keep putting my trust in You rather than the stuff of this world.

Today's Scripture: Proverbs 11:24-30

24 One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.

25 A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

26 People curse the one who hoards grain, but they pray God's blessing on the one who is willing to sell.

27 Whoever seeks good finds favor, but evil comes to one who searches for it.

28 Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

29 Whoever brings ruin on their family will inherit only wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise.

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives.

INSIGHT

The word Thrive in Proverbs 11:28 is a translation of the Hebrew verb *parach*. It can mean "to break forth" as with a bud or blossom; or grow, spread, and spring up. "Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf." this positive growth dynamic characterizes those who are rightly related to God ("the righteous"). We also see this word in Psalm 92: "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God" (VV. 12-13). Arthur Jackson

Ministries, Grand Rapids, Michigan,
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“Daily Confession of Faith”

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 judgement 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!

Spirit Lifters

By Norman Vincent Peale

Victory in the Battle of Life

Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesian 6:16, 17.

The shield was used to protect the heart; the helmet was to protect the head. So must we protect our hearts and minds against negativism, pessimism, evil thoughts, hate. The mind must be kept clean. Take the sword of God's word and put to flight those enemies of the good life: wrong thinking and wrongdoing. Thus armed, you can win the battle of life.

Healing of Sorrow

Sorrow over the death of a loved one is a heavy weight upon the spirit. It often causes the one who mourns to feel that life will never again be filled with high and joyful attitudes.

But life goes on---and one must live it. The passage the follows has probably brought more healing to the human soul and given more lift to the spirit in sorrow than any other passage in all the literature of the world.

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. John 11:25

What a glorious message! Jesus Christ is alive, and those who believe in Him live, also. So our loved one whom we though dead isn't dead at all, but lives and shall forever touch our lives with the same love and tenderness.

This gives a lift to the spirit that one wants to shout from the housetops the glorious fact that through faith in Jesus Christ, we live. So when sorrow comes, repeat over and over this wonderful passage. And presently the shadows will flee away, and the light of a new day will dawn for you.

Joy of Spiritual Fellowship

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.
Matthew 18:20

One effective way to get your spirits lifted is to arrange for periodic times of spiritual fellowship-to think and talk and pray

with a few people who, like yourself, are seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. This practice will bring you one of the most glorious experiences in life. You will be aware that Jesus Christ is in the midst of such a group, and the warmth and uplift this knowledge will bring to your heart is impossible to describe.

Nothing Can Defeat You

Spirit goes out of you when you feel overwhelmed and defeated. Get firmly rooted in spiritual understanding; fill your life with faith and goodness. Then nothing can defeat you.

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the

rock. Matthew 7:24

Live by the saying of Jesus Christ and become like that wise man who built his house upon rock-an unshakable house against which the storms beat in vain. You can have an inner serenity, strength and courage that defy all the storms of life. Christ makes you strong. You can be undefeatable!

Faith, Hope and Love

The best three-point formula for living is in this immortal statement:

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

Here are three powerful Spirit Lifters: Faith, the greatest power in this world; Hope, the attitude of expectancy---the best is yet to be; and Love, one of the greatest qualities of all---a heart full of compassion and understanding. Christian love gives deep joy. Let these three shine like stars in your life, and your spirit will be uplifted always.

Depression Lifted

Many are sick because they are basically unhappy. For this condition a medicine is offered in these words:

A merry heart does good, like medicine...
Proverbs 17:22

Joy has healing value, but gloom is sickening. This is why Jesus so emphatically tells us to rejoice. Learn to live joyfully. Take a hopeful and optimistic attitude. Think happy thoughts, say happy things and put joy into people's lives. The more you do this, the more surely you will keep your own spirits high.

Barbara Perry Speaks

"What God Marvels At"

When Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them that followed, "Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel." Matthew 8:10 KJV

Let us pray, "Father, thank You for being the God of miracles and that You're still on the throne no matter what the doubters say. Help us to believe big, dream big, pray big, and think big. We want to be one of the ones

who always believes that You can do the impossible, it's In Jesus' Name we pray and ask, Amen, Amen, Amen."

The Roman officer came to Jesus and said, "One of my employees is very sick, but you don't have to come to my house. Just speak the word, and I know he'll be healed," Jesus marveled at his faith. In Mark 6, it say that Jesus also marveled at the unbelief He was met with in His hometown. What's interesting is that the people who doubted

were the religious people. They were in the synagogue every week.

See when God looks at us, what does He marvel at? Why don't we come over into faith? We may think that we're not religious enough, that God would never help us, but God is not looking for religion. He's looking for people who simply believe in Him, for people who know that He can do the impossible, Amen.

"A Miracle Put in Motion"

Psalms 56:9 says "...The very day I call for help, the tide of battle turns. My enemies flee! This one thing I know: God is for me!..." Amen.

Let us pray, "Father, thank You that You never take vacations, that You hear every prayer and see us standing in faith. Thank You that in the unseen realm You have put a

miracle in motion for us. We believe and declare the answer is on the way. In Jesus' Name, we pray, Amen, Amen, Amen.

In today's Scripture, the psalmist says it happens the very day we call for help. In the unseen realm, God begins to change things in our favor. We've been praying for a long time, but we don't see anything happening. It seems like God is on vacation. But what we can't see is that God is at work behind the

scenes. Don't believe the lies that say our praying, believing, and standing in faith is a waste of time. Not only He heard our prayer, but He put the miracle in motion, Amen.

Remember: The people who see breakthroughs and promises fulfilled are people who keep praying, keep believing, and keep standing in faith, Amen.

"Faith to Overcome the World"

1 John 5:4 says, "For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith." Amen.

Let us pray, "God, we are Your child and that means we are destined to live a life of victory when the world gets to be too much for us to bear. We ask You to remind us to take comfort in Your Word. Help us to store

up Scripture verses in our head and our heart to help us overcome the trials we will face in this world, its In Jesus' name we ask and pray, Amen, Amen, Amen.

As a child of God, you have the power of faith within us to overcome the world. That includes everything in the world, and everything the world brings our way! When the enemy tries to attack us through sickness, fear, worry, or financial mishaps, just use your faith by declaring the Word of God. Find

scriptures to speak over your problems or whatever you are facing, like Romans 10:17. then declare that perfect love casts out all fear! Declare that God shall supply all your needs! Declare that because you are born of God, you have faith to overcome the world, Amen.

Remember: As we hear the Word of God and store it in our heart, our faith in God grows stronger, Amen.

"Thanks For Being With Us Today"

How we love You Lord Jesus, and just want to lift up our voice of thanks and gratitude for all that You are to us and for Your many precious promises that are 'yes' and 'amen' in You.

Lord, You have graciously watched over us every day of our life and every moment of each day. From the day we was conceived, Your hand of blessing has been upon us.

You protected us in the womb and were there when we drew our first breath, and You are with us every step of the way. You have gone before us and yet You there behind us, You are above us and You are below us as well, holding us up by Your righteous right hand. You are with us and You indwell us and we thank You that You chose us before the foundation of the world to be Your child. When we was afraid You were there to reassure us and when we fell You picked us up and set our feet on the right path. When

the way was dark and gloomy, You lighted our path and when sadness hit our life You were there to comfort and succor us. Oh, and Lord, on those days when we proved faithless, You in Your grace remained faithful and true, for You cannot deny Your holy name. So we want You to know Lord we love You for there is no one like You. Thank You for being our Lord and our God. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen, Amen, Amen.

"From Worst To Best"

Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, "Peace be unto you." John 20:19

Let us pray, "Father, thank You that You see the big picture for our life and that You use difficulties for our good. Help us to be

patient and trusting when things happen that we don't understand. We believe that You will bring it all together for our good and its In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen, Amen, Amen.

We celebrate Good Friday each year, but when Jesus was crucified that day it was the disciples worst days of their lives. The disciples called it, "Tragic Friday". But when Jesus rose from the dead He had defeated the enemy and brought salvation to mankind. What they'd thought was the worst day of their lives became the best day of their life.

We all face times when a dream dies, a relationship ends, a illness comes-nothing about our situation seems good. But God knows how to bring it all together.

See we may think it is going to stop us, set us back, and cause us heartache. But if we will stay in faith, one day we'll look back and say it was good. Remember Jesus did for us on the Cross and His disciples thought was the worst day of their lives because the best day of our life, Amen.

THE BEAUTY OF HOLLAND

I AM OFTEN ASKED TO DESCRIBE THE EXPERIENCE OF RASING 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 HSEVE A BABY, IT'S LIKE PLANNING A FABULOUS TRIP TO ITALY. YOU BUY A BUNCH OF GUIDEBOOKS AND MAKE YOUR WONDERFUL PLANS. THE COLISEMUM, THE MICHELANGELO DAVID. THE GONDOLAS IN VENICE. YOU LEARN SOME HANDY PHRASES IN ITALLAN. IT'S ALL VERY, VERY EXCITING!

AFTER MONTHS OF EAGER ANTICIPATION, THE DAY FINALLY ARRIVES. YOU PACK YOUR BAGS AND OFF YOU GO. SERVAL 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 SUPPORT TO BE IN ITALY! ALL MY LIFE I'VE DREAMED OF GOING TO ITALY."

BUT THERE'S A CHANCE 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 PLANE.

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 ILALY, 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 REM-BRANDTS.

BUT EVERYONE YOU KNOW IS BUSY COMING AND GOING FROM ILTALY, 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 SIGNIFI-CANT LOSS.

BUT IF YOU SPEND YOUR LIFE MOURING 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

Joyce Meyer: Promises for your Everyday Life - a Daily Devotional

Four Steps for Studying the Word

My son, attend to my words, incline thine ear unto my sayings. Proverbs 4:20 KJV

Many people have asked me how to study God's Word. Here are four helpful tips:

1. Purposely set aside time. I make an appointment with God in the mornings, but if that doesn't work for you, find a time that does, even if it's not every day. Just start somewhere and you'll

see the positive fruit that this time brings to your life!

2. Make preparation for your Bible study. Choose a place that you enjoy being, a room in your house where you can be alone.
3. Have all your materials available. You'll want your Bible, of course, but also get a good Bible dictionary, concordance, pen and paper. That way, you don't have to stop every few minutes to reference something or write something down.
4. Prepare your heart. Talk to God about things you may need to confess, and

enter your study time peacefully and without anything that may block you from receiving revelation during your study.

Take the time to study the Word because there is power in it to change your life and become the person God wants you to be.

Prayer Starter: Lord, I purpose in my heart to set aside time to really study Your Word. Teach me how to understand, consent and submit to your truth in my life every day.

Your life Won't Change Until Your Thinking Changes

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4:8 KJV

I spent a lot of years unhappy because the minutes I woke up in the morning, I started thinking negative, sad, depressing things. Now I can truly say I am fully satisfied since the Holy Spirit has helped me operate with the mind if Christ that is

within me.

Maybe you're spent years thinking wrong thoughts, but that can change today.

If you struggle with negative thinking, it's important for you to come to grips with the fact that your life won't change until your thinking does. Renewed, God-like thinking is vital for change.

The Bible presents a lot of detailed instruction on what kinds of things we should think about. Philippians 4:8 alone tells us to think about things that build us up, not tear us down.

I want to issue you a challenge. Instead of waking up in the morning and immediately thinking negative thoughts, I want you to pick a positive truth from scripture and focus on it everyday when you wake up. Let God's Word grow in you and transform your mind. Fix your mind on good things and enjoy the godly changes it brings.

Prayer Starter: God, I'm ready to change and live with the mind of Christ. Help me to only think about what is true, honorable, pure, lovely, kind, gracious, virtuous—whatever is of you.

You Have a Relationship with Yourself

I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. Isaiah 43:25 KJV

Did it ever occur to you that you have a relationship with yourself? You may have never given it much thought, but you spend more time with yourself than anyone else, and it's vital that you get along well with you because you are the one person you never get away from.

We should love ourselves, not in a selfish, self-centered way that produces a lifestyle of self-indulgence, but in a balanced, godly way that affirms God's creation as essentially good and right. We may be flawed by unfortunate experiences we've gone through, but that doesn't mean we're worthless and good-for-nothing.

We must have the kind of love for ourselves that says, "I know God loves me, so I can love what God chooses to

love. I don't love everything I do, but I accept myself because God accepts me. "We must develop the kind of mature love that says, "I believe God is changing me daily, but during this process, I will not reject what God accepts. I'll accept myself as I am right now, knowing that I will not always remain this way."

Prayer Starter: God, like Isaiah 43:25 says, You blot out my sins and accept me, which means that I don't have to reject myself. I am free to love myself in a healthy way because You love me!

God Causes Things to Happen at the Right Time

For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Habakkuk 2:3 KJV

Are you waiting for the desires of your heart to begin to manifest? Are you praying for bondages to fall off of you so you can see your dreams come to pass? Are you waiting and praying for the salvation of friends and family? Are you trusting God for prosperity, favor,

promotion, honor, and all the blessings found in His Word?

Are you tired of waiting for harvest time in your life? Are you frustrated, crying out, "When, God, When?" Then you need to understand that God's timing is often a mystery. He doesn't do things on our timetable. Yet His Word promises that He will not be late, not one single day.

God causes things to happen at exactly the right time! Your job is not to figure out when, but to make up your mind that you won't give up until you

cross the finish line and are living in the radical, outrageous blessings of God! The more you trust Jesus and keep your eyes focused on Him, the more life you'll have. Trusting God brings life. Believing brings rest. So stop trying to figure everything out, and let God be God in your life.

Prayer Starter: God, I know that Your timing is perfect, even when I grow tired of waiting. Help me to trust in You and rest in Your plan for me.

A Bird's Eye View Of The Bible

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 Prophets" (the last 12). The "Minor" ones are shorter, not less important.

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.

PROPHECY

Revelation

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



A Prayer for Our World

God, You alone are worthy of honor, glory, and praise. With You, we can overcome every storm—including the global impact COVID-19 is having on our world.

Right now, we are asking You to:

- Heal those who are sick and protect those who are not.
- Give our leaders extra wisdom as they navigate this pandemic and economic uncertainty.
- Strengthen Your global Church. Reveal to us how we can partner together to reach the needs of those around us.
- Calm our fears. Fill us with Your hope, joy, and peace as we continue to trust in You.
- Use this pandemic to pave the way for spiritual renewal. We want Your glory, power, and healing to be on display.

Come Lord Jesus, come.
In Jesus' Name, Amen.

YouVersion

THE KINDNESS MAN

When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her. Luke 7:13

Disillusioned and wanting a more meaningful life, Leon quit his job in finance. Then one day he saw a homeless man holding up this sign at a street corner: KINDNESS IS THE BEST MEDICINE. Leon says, "Those words rammed straight into me. It was an epiphany."

Leon decided to begin his new life by creating an international organization to promote kindness. He travels around the world, relying on strangers to provide him with food, gas, and a place to stay. Then he rewards them, through his organization, with good deeds such as feeding orphans or building on to a school for underprivileged children. He says, "It's sometimes seen as being soft. But kindness is a profound strength."

Christ's very essence as God is goodness, so kindness, naturally flowed from Him. I love the story of what Jesus did when He came upon the funeral procession of a widow's only son (Luke 7:11-17). The grieving woman most likely was dependent on her son for financial support. We don't read in the story that anyone asked Jesus to intervene. Purely from the goodness of His nature (v. 13), He was concerned and brought her son back to life. The people" (v. 16). Anne Cetas

What kindnesses does Jesus pour out on you? List them and thank Him.

You, God, are always showing me with your gifts of love. I praise You for caring for me.

God, please give me a generous spirit as I renew my hope in you.

Today's Scripture—Luke 7:11-17

¹¹ Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and

his disciples and large crowd went along with him. ¹² As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry." ¹⁴ Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" ¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

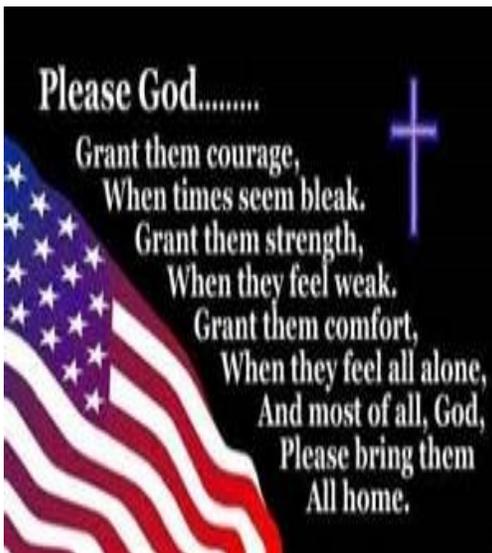
¹⁶ They were all filled with awe and praised God. "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people." ¹⁷ This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

Insight

In the Bible, the town of Nain is only mentioned here in Luke 7. It was located more than twenty miles southwest of Capernaum (Jesus' northern ministry headquarters on the Sea of Galilee) and about seven miles south of Nazareth (Jesus' boyhood home). As such, it's right in the middle of Christ's home territory. As the site of a miracle of life out of death, however, Nain has even more significance. It was close to the ancient site of Shunem, a city that no longer existed except in the memory of the people. Why was it remembered? At Shunem, Elisha the prophet raised a woman's son from the dead (2 Kings 4:8-36). No wonder, then, that when Jesus raised the widow of Nain's son from the dead, the people responded by declaring, "A great prophet has appeared among us" (Luke 7:16). They still remembered what Elisha had done!

Bill Crowder

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

BLACK LIVES MATTER



When you have a scale that is out of balance, to even things up, you can either add more to one side or take away from the other. The **Black Lives Matter** movement suggests that the scales of justice are out of balance.

To get into balance, this movement is asking us to add more attention to the civil rights and treatment of black individuals and ensure that the weight put upon the value of protecting black lives is equal to the weight put upon that of all Americans' lives. This movement is not about taking away from the value of other lives, but, simply, balancing the scales.

To counter with "All Lives Matter" is to suggest that you think the scale is already balanced – I assure you, it is not. The Black Lives Matter movement does not suggest any lives should matter less, just that they all should matter equally as much.

YES, ALL LIVES MATTER

BUT WE'RE FOCUSED ON THE BLACK ONES RIGHT NOW, OK?

— BECAUSE IT IS VERY

APPARENT THAT OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM DOESN'T KNOW THAT.

PLUS, IF YOU CAN'T SEE WHY WE'RE EXCLAIMING **#BLACKLIVESMATTER** YOU ARE PART OF THE PROBLEM.

Lets Be Clear, We Said:
BLACKLIVESMATTER

We NEVER Said
ONLYBLACKLIVESMATTER
That Was The Media, Not Us

In Truth, We Know That
ALLLIVESMATTER

We've Supported Your Lives
Throughout History

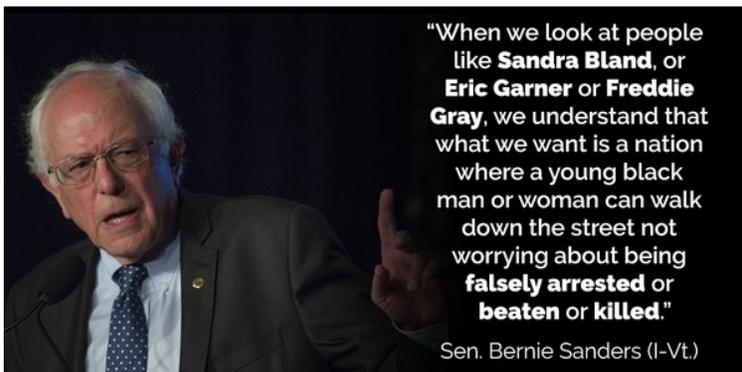
Now We Need Your Help w/
BLACKLIVESMATTER
For Blacks Lives Are In Danger

**FREEDOM IS NEVER
VOLUNTARILY GIVEN
BY THE OPPRESSOR;
IT MUST BE DEMANDED
BY THE OPPRESSED.**

-MLKJ

Law and order exist for the purpose of establishing justice and when they fail in this purpose they become the dangerously structured dams that block the flow of social progress.

– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



"When we look at people like **Sandra Bland**, or **Eric Garner** or **Freddie Gray**, we understand that what we want is a nation where a young black man or woman can walk down the street not worrying about being **falsely arrested** or **beaten** or **killed**."

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.)

Until justice is blind to color, until education is unaware of race, until opportunity is unconcerned with the color of men's skins, emancipation will be a proclamation but not a fact.

– Lyndon B. Johnson

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

<p>Sunday 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 2nd Sunday Senior Usher Board Meeting (following service) Youth Meeting 1st & 4th Sunday's (following service)</p> <p>Monday 6:00 p.m. Zumba 7:00-9:00 p.m. Bible Study, Eddy Shelter 7:00 Media Ministry (1st and 3rd of month)</p> <p>Tuesday Special Prayer for Pastor Harvill 6:00—7:00 p.m. Prayer meeting and</p>	<p>bible study.</p> <p>Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Zumba 6:00 p.m. Ministerial Staff (1st of month)</p> <p>Thursday 6:00 p.m. Steward Board 7:00 p.m. Trustee Board (2nd of month)</p> <p>Friday Day of Fasting 6:00 p.m. Vision Choir (3rd & 4th of month) 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Cross Street Recovery Ministry (room 2)</p>	<p>Saturday 10:00 a.m. Pastors Aide (2nd) 11:00 a.m. Security Ministry Meeting (2nd Saturday of month) 12:00 noon Missionaries (2nd Saturday of month)</p> <p>Choir Rehearsals Men - 7 p.m. Monday Women - Tuesday & Friday before 5th Sunday Children - 7 p.m. Friday before 1st Sunday Unity - 7 p.m. Thursday Praise & Worship Choir 7:00 pm Wednesday</p>
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MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

<p>Sunday Morning Worship Time: EVERY SUNDAY @ 10:00 AM Join Zoom Meeting Link: (Just type into your browser) https://zoom.us/j/959628798 Dial-In Phone#: (929) 205-6099 Code: 959628798#</p>	<p>BIBLE STUDY INFO: Time: EVERY TUESDAY @ 6:00 PM Join Zoom Meeting Link: (Just type into your browser) https://zoom.us/j/562367770 Dial-In Phone#: (929)205-6099 Code: 562367770#</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday School ZOOM Meetings</p> <p>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</p> <p>9:00 a.m.- Contemporary Sunday School: Adults Voice Only Call: (929) 205-6099; Code: 140827210# Web-link for Video Call: https://zoom.us/j/140827210</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>
<p>12Noon PRAYER MEETING: Time: EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 12:00 PM Join Zoom Meeting Link: (Just type into your browser) https://zoom.us/j/528449909 Dial-In Phone#: (929) 205-6099 Code: 528449909#</p>	<p>6pm PRAYER MEETING: Time: EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 6:00 PM Join Zoom Meeting Link: (Just type into your browser) https://zoom.us/j/695948020 Dial-In Phone#: (929) 205-6099 Code: 695948020#</p>	

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

- Online: crossstreetamezion.org
- 1. Realm, (Realm: <https://onrealm.org/TheCross/-/give/> TJXKDEVIXE)
- 2. Text 73256 (Thecross)
- 3. PayPal,
- 4. Mail: P.O. Box 223 Middletown, Ct 06457,
- 5. Drop off on Sunday 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
- 6. Call the office for someone to pick up
- 7. Church outside Lockbox

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

The Cross Street Journal is published Bi-monthly. It can be found on our website: crossstreetamezion.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!!!**



2020 VISON

The Year of Expected “Miracles”

CROSS STREET A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Organized in 1823

440 West Street P.O. Box 223
Middletown, CT 06457

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

Email: mharvill@snet.net

The Rev. Dr. Terry L. Jones
Presiding Elder

Mrs. D. Diane Proctor
Missionary Supervisor

The Right Reverend Dennis Proctor
Presiding Prelate

Ministerial Staff

Rev. Robyn Anderson-Turner
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



“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 heavens,
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 powerful,
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 discerner 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