

THE CROSS



"A CHURCH WHERE EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY AND CHRIST IS LORD OF ALL"



September-October 2023 – Volume 27 Issue 5

200th Year Church Anniversary Celebration

See Page 17 for more Events



Pastor's Prayer

Rev Robyn M Anderson

Dear Lord, bless our Pastor as she delivers and preaches Your Holy Word;

Lift her spirit as she embraces Your divine call on her life;

Guide her as she ministers to Your flock and walks in Your wisdom;

Teach her the inner meanings of Holy Scripture through divine revelation;

Reward her works as she daily serves You and fulfills the purpose for which she was created.

Lovingly Presented,
The Cross Street Church Family



BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 200 YEARS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Welcoming for our First Woman Pastor



PASTOR ROBYN ANDERSON



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023
7:00 PM
VIRTUAL WELCOME PROGRAM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023
WELCOME BRUNCH
11:00 AM
GUEST SPEAKER: REV. PATRICIA WASHINGTON - RICE
PASTOR, BEULAH A.M.E ZION CHURCH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00 AM
GUEST SPEAKER - DR. LATICIA HILL GODETTE, PRESIDING ELDER OF THE CAMDEN DISTRICT - NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE

Facebook live



YouTube



Cross Street A.M.E Zion Church
440 West Street. Middletown Ct, 06457

Please RSVP for the brunch by calling
(860)344-9527 or via email crossstreetchurch@snet.net



Visit our
Facebook page

Visit Our Website:
WWW.crossstreetamezion.org

Memo from GOD

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

1. QUIT WORRYING

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

2. PUT IT ON THE LIST

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

3. TRUST ME

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

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

4. LEAVE IT ALONE

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

5. TALK TO ME

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

6. HAVE FAITH

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

7. SHARE

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

8. BE PATIENT

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

9. BE KIND

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

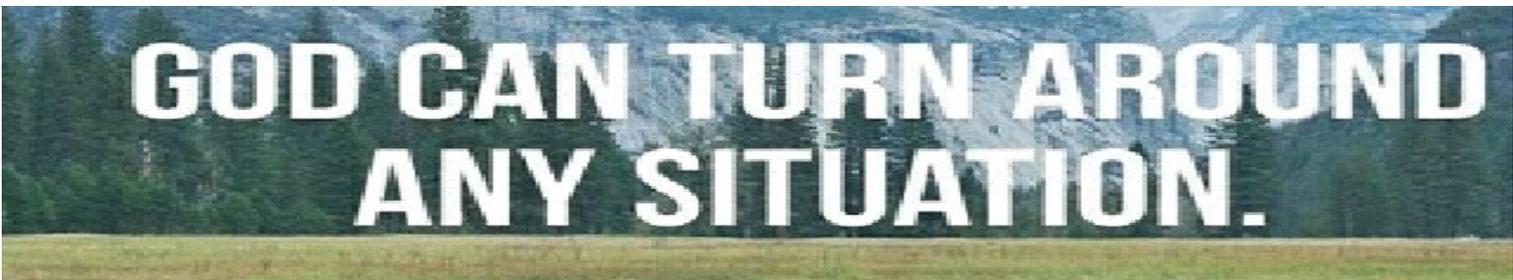
10. LOVE YOURSELF

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

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

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

God



**GOD CAN TURN AROUND
ANY SITUATION.**

What does the Bible say about perseverance?

The Bible has a lot to say about perseverance in several different contexts. Clearly, the Scriptures teach that those who “overcome” and persevere in the faith will inherit eternal life (Revelation 2:7). This truth is also expressed in Colossians 1:23 where we see that people will be holy, blameless, and above reproach “if they continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel.” So all Christians should be in agreement that those who are ultimately saved are those who do persevere and continue to believe the gospel.

There are two very distinct views on the issue of perseverance of the saints among Christians. The first is the Arminian view that it is possible for true Christians to turn away from God and not persevere. This is consistent with the concept of salvation which has man’s “free will” at the center of it. It is logically consistent that, if man’s “free will” choice is the determining factor of his salvation, then it would also be possible for that man to later choose to reject God and thereby lose his salvation.

However, the Bible clearly teaches that we are “born again” by the Holy Spirit, which results in our coming to faith in Christ. All who have been “born again” do have eternal security and will persevere. The doctrine of the

(Perseverance on page 16)

How does the “testing of your faith” produce perseverance (James 1:3)?

Throughout the New Testament, believers are urged to view problems and trials from a heavenly perspective. James says we ought to consider our troubles “an opportunity for great joy” (James 1:2) because they produce in us a character quality that is key to staying the course and finishing well: “The testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything” (James 1:3-4).

The word translated as “perseverance” here (*hypomonēn* in the original Greek) means “the power to withstand hardship or stress, especially the inward fortitude necessary to endure.” Other translations render this noun “steadfastness” (ESV), “endurance” (NLT, CSB), and “patience” (KJV, NKJV). The testing of our faith produces the power and inner stamina necessary to patiently endure hardship and persecution and grow into spiritual maturity.

In a parallel teaching, the apostle Paul asserts, “We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance” (Romans 5:3, NLT). The apostle Peter echoes the sentiment: “Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ

(Testing of your faith on page 16)

What does the Bible say about justice?

“Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” (Amos 5:24).

Justice is a major theme in Scripture, which contains many calls for justice and commands to worship God for His justice. Justice has to do with conduct in relation to others. Just behavior accords with what is morally right and fair. Justice is the quality of doing what is right.

The Justice of God

God is just (Deuteronomy 32:4). The justice of God can be defined as “that essential and infinite attribute which makes his nature and his ways the perfect embodiment of equity, and constitutes him the model and the guardian of equity throughout the universe” (*ATS Bible Dictionary*, 1859).

God’s rule over the universe is grounded in justice and righteousness (Psalm 89:14). There is never a time when God has been unjust; it is against His unchanging nature to be anything but perfectly just. “The King is mighty, he loves justice—you have established equity; in Jacob you have done what is just and right” (Psalm 99:4).

“The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous

(Justice on page 12)

What Would You Do?

In my last essay, I had promised that I was going to start a series of “If I Were You” discussions. I was enthused about passing on a number of lifelong experiences, and doing so from the point of view of making suggestions to anyone who cared to read what I write. Ken and I have been at this business of writing and publishing the Cross Street Journal, for a long time, and we had promised each other, that we would continue to contribute short essays and articles that interested our readers, for as long as the Lord allowed us the ability to do so.

In the period of years that we’ve been doing this, I have written several essays on the unique cultural practices of the African people. I recall significantly and specifically writing most about the Akan people of modern day Ghana, than any other African ethnic group. A major reason is the fact that I am a product of that culture.

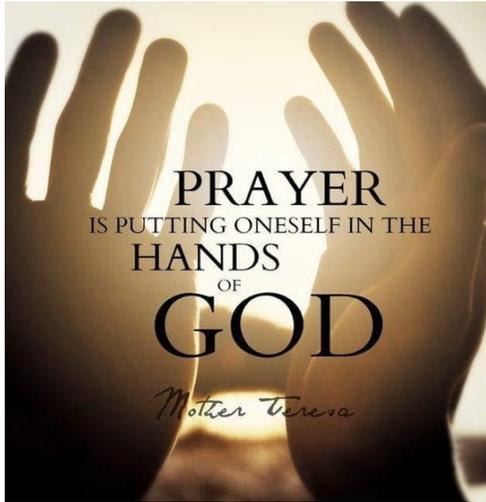
From the practices of naming children by the gender and day of birth, I also wrote extensively about the rituals of rites of passages through mentoring and grooming and nurturing. I remember writing about the most elaborate preparations that were made during the death and the subsequent funeral rites for a senior sister of mine. Little did I know that most of the elements of the celebrations that I wrote about, would one day, happen to fall right at my own personal door-steps.

It started one day, with a simple, uneventful WhatsApp

(What would You do? on page 18)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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



God's Protective Armor

Key Scripture: *“Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil” Ephesians 6:10-11*

Key Thought: God's armor is impenetrable.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I thank you for the armor you have provided for me to wear for protection from all

assaults. Help me to remember to put on each piece of your armor carefully every day, and to never forget to dress myself in your protective gear. I will gird up my loins with your truth and put on the breastplate of righteousness. I will wear the shoes of the preparation of your gospel of peace, and I will buckle the shield of faith to my forearm. On my head, I will place the helmet of salvation as I take up the sword of your Spirit (your most precious Word). I will pray with all supplication in your Spirit, and I will faithfully watch thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. 1

Give me insight into the cunning craftiness of the enemy, Lord, 2 and prepare me to stand against him in your faith and power. Thank you for showing me that there is indeed a warfare taking place, and that I am not wrestling against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places. 3

Through your power, I will be sober and vigilant, Father, while I wear your armor because I realize that my

adversary, the devil, walks about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 4 With your help, I will resist him and he will flee from me, according to your Word. 5

Your protection keeps me safe, Lord. How grateful I am that I do not have to engage in spiritual warfare in my flesh, because the weapons you've given to me are not carnal; instead, they are mighty through you, Father, to the tearing down of every stronghold. It is your power that enables me to cast down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against knowing you. Through your grace and power, I will bring every thought into captivity to obedience to you. 6

Thank you for the spiritual power you are imparting to me, Father, and for the protection your armor gives to me.

References: (1) Ephesians 6:10-18; (2) Ephesians 4:14; (3) Ephesians 6:12; (4) 1 Peter 5:8; (5) James 4:7; (6) 2 Corinthians 10:4-5.

Bible Prayers for all your needs
Victory House Publishers

A Prayer to Trust God

Heavenly Father,

I am so thankful that I can bow my heart in prayer, knowing that you hear me even if I am not speaking aloud. God, I ask that you search me and forgive me for anything I may have said or done that was not right in your eyes. God, I know that I make mistakes.

I am thankful that you lovingly forgive me when I ask. I am asking now that you, please forgive me and help me to do better.

God, I want to grow my faith, and I want to strengthen my relationship with You. I know

that first, I must learn to trust. Please continue to show me how to submit to your will, your way, and your truth. Father, for so long, I lived my life my way, and I did not have a good outcome. I want to live my life by trusting in You. I believe that you love me and that you have a better plan. I trust

your wisdom even when I do not understand. Please, God, increase my faith and help me to look to you for everything. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen

www.KrystalRSimpson.com

Prayer For Strength And Faith

Dear Lord

I pray for strengthened faith today. Help me know more of your word and face all adversities with the confidence of victory. Let me move mountains with my faith and command things to fall in line in my life.

Let me conquer all the evil in my life. Let my words cause healing and life.

Let my faith build all the broken pieces in my life.

Help me remain strong and not be moved by any adversities in Jesus'

name,

Amen

THE GRACEFUL CHAPTER

**PRAYER –
STANDING STRONG
AS I PERSEVERE**

I will not grow weary because I know my victory is coming and I will be triumphant in due season.

Father God, as I walk in the counsel of the righteous and mediate on Your Word throughout the day, I trust and remain confident that I will have all that You have prepared for me.

I declare that Your Word, Lord, will not return to You void, but will accomplish all that You said It will do. Amen!

Read the full prayer @ christianstt.com

Faithful God, I count it a blessing when I go through trials and temptations because I know my faith is being tested to produce perseverance. Therefore, let my heart rejoice and put its full trust in you. I am not alone in these tough times; you are with me. I will endure till the end through your grace and your wisdom. Amen

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



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

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

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

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

The fruit of LOVE when properly motivated "is pure, far reaching, forgiving. There is no limit to the good that LOVE does. God is LOVE. (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**; FAITHFULNESS, *half-heartedness*, **infidelity**;
MEEKNESS, *false modesty*, **self-seeking**; SELF-CONTROL, *choosing lesser goals*, **lack of control**
(The Fruit of the Spirit, John W. Sanderson)

READ THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

SEPTEMBER

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

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

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

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

OCTOBER

1 Obadiah, Jonah
2 Micah 1-4
3 Micah 5-7
4 Nahum 1-3
5 Habakkuk 1-3
6 Zephaniah 1-3
7 Haggai 1-2

8 Zechariah 1-2
9 Zechariah 3-6
10 Zechariah 7-10
11 Zechariah 11-14
12 Malachi 1-4
13 Matthew 1-4
14 Matthew 5-7
15 Matthew 8-11

16 Matthew 12-15
17 Matthew 16-19
18 Matthew 20-22
19 Matthew 23-25
20 Matthew 26-28
21 Mark 1-3
22 Mark 4-6
23 Mark 7-10

24 Mark 11-13
25 Mark 14-16
26 Luke 1-3
27 Luke 4-6
28 Luke 7-9
29 Luke 10-13
30 Luke 14-17
31 Luke 18-21

NOVEMBER

1 Luke 22-24
2 John 1-3
3 John 4-6
4 John 7-10
5 John 11-13
6 John 14-17
7 John 18-21

8 Acts 1-2
9 Acts 3-5
10 Acts 6-9
11 Acts 10-12
12 Acts 13-14
13 Acts 15-16
14 Acts 17-18
15 Acts 19-21

16 Acts 22-24
17 Acts 25-26
18 Acts 27-28
19 Romans 1-4
20 Romans 5-8
21 Romans 9-11
22 Romans 12-16
23 1 Corinthians 1-4

24 1 Corinthians 5-8
25 1 Corinthians 9-12
26 1 Corinthians 13-16
27 2 Corinthians 1-3
28 2 Corinthians 4-6
29 2 Corinthians 7-9
30 2 Corinthians 10-13

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

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

SEASON OF KINGDOMTIDE

Kingdomtide

Kingdomtide was initiated in 1937 by the Federal Council of Churches (now the National Council of Churches). The emphasis includes evangelism, world missions, and the work for peace and justice in all relationships. Kingdomtide Begins on the last Sunday in August and continues until the beginning of Advent.

Color: Green is the liturgical color for Kingdomtide. Green is symbolic of the freshness of nature, hope, life, and growth. It is used during The Season After Epiphany and Kingdomtide.

LITURGICAL COLORS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other Colors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Guidelines for Daniel Fast

Foods We May Eat

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

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

Foods to include in your eating plan during the Daniel Fast

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Foods to avoid on the Daniel Fast

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Be blessed on your fast

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

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

10 Practical Guidelines on Fasting By Charles Ng of Singapore

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9. Remember that hunger is purely a

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

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

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

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

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

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

+ PRAY

COVID-19 RESPONSE

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

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

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

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

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



A Poem of Praise

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

juliesanne.com



Sunday School is a Family Affair

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

Come Grow with US!

Jesus Eats with a Pharisee/Attitudes and Actions

Background Scripture: Luke 11:37-44

EXALT!

Declaration: Luke 11:37-44

Jesus Denounces Pharisees and Experts in the Law

³⁷ While he was speaking, a Pharisee invited him to dine with him, so he went in and took his place at the table. ³⁸ The Pharisee was amazed to see that he did not first wash before dinner. ³⁹ Then the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. ⁴⁰ You fools! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? ⁴¹ So give as alms those things that are within and then everything will be clean for you.

⁴² "But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and herbs of all kinds and neglect justice and the love of God; it is these you ought to have practiced, without neglecting the others. ⁴³ Woe to you Pharisees! For you have the seat of honor in the synagogues and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces. ⁴⁴ Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves on which people unknowingly walk."

Affirmation: We empathize with persons who have experienced injustice and inequality.

ENGAGE

The Fall quarter considers the role of God's law as it relates to faith in Christ. The lessons focus on New Testament texts that radically reinterpret the significance of the Mosaic law for those who love Christ and respond in faith. As one who fulfilled the whole law, Jesus was able to show us how compassion is more important than rigid interpretation of the law. Later New Testament writings reinforce the gospel teaching that faith in Christ brings justification, while the law, which we are unable to observe satisfactorily, does not. As followers of Christ, we are still bound to fulfill the law by keeping the commandment to love and to acknowledge that freedom from the law does not equate to a permissive attitude toward sin.

Unit 1, "Love Completes, Law Falls Short," draws on the Gospels of Luke and John. In Lesson 1, Jesus contrasts the practice of empty acts of piety with performing the justice and love of God. Lesson 2 asks the question of what sort of activities truly honor the Sabbath and keep it holy. Turning to the Gospel of John, Lesson 3 examines Jesus' teaching that the Sabbath ought to be a day of healing. And Lesson 4 raises the question of who is qualified to pass judgment on those who stumble in their attempts to keep the commandments.

Rules and ceremony provide necessary parameters for everyone. How do we avoid the hollow legalism that sometimes results? Jesus demands heartfelt commitment to justice and love as demonstrations of true faith rather than mere outward adherence to the law.

Break into small groups, think about and discuss the following question:

1. Is it detrimental to us to conceal our inner motives with acceptable outward behavior? What motivates us to act in this manner? How can we overcome this practice?
2. How prone are we to accept community social standards as our guide to conduct? When is this a good thing, and when might it be harmful? What guides your behavior?
3. Do we sometimes denounce people who try to measure up to traditional practices? If so, why and under what circumstances? Why might they go wrong in certain cases? Do we always measure up to our own ideals and belief? Why or why not?
4. Discuss how true love should involve both inward and outward blending of thoughts, words, and deeds? Why would one say, "Love is something you do?"

(Attitudes on page 11)

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.

EDUCATE

Luke 11:37-41: In attending a meal hosted by a Pharisee, Jesus would have been expected to adhere to the table practices set by His host. Instead, Jesus visibly forgoes the hand-washing that is expected and takes His seat, thus provoking the ensuing legal argument. The hand-washing to which this text refers has nothing to do with hygiene and everything to do with ritual purity. As the ESV Reformation Study Bible points out, “The hands made contact with all sorts of things, some of which may have been ritually defiling. Scrupulous Jews purified themselves by washing their hands before eating so that defiled hands would not contaminate their food. In the Pharisees’ eyes, this boundary-marking rite symbolized who is ‘inside’ and who is ‘outside’ the covenant”, Jesus cleverly develops this “inside/outside” theme by contrasting the outward cleanliness of the Pharisees’ cups and platters with their internal corruption, implying that external ritual practice is no internal moral righteousness. As commentator Joel Green remarks, “Jesus directs attention toward a purity that overcomes socio—religious barriers, in direct contrast to one that separates people from one another and keeps them separated” (Gospel of Luke, 471). The church, today, should strive for a purity that is inclusive and breaks down walls of separation.

Luke 11:42-44: “Tithing was intended as a joyful and thankful offering expressing love for God, but the Pharisees, by counting up stalks of mint and the like, had turned it into a burdensome duty” (ESV Reformation Study Bible). Jesus’ concern is with giving to those in need (v. 41) and practicing “the justice of God” (v. 42). Possibly, echoing Micah 6:8, this teaching defines true holiness; for rather than highlighting social boundaries, these sorts of activities break down the divisions between groups, particularly between social classes in the case of almsgiving. Jesus adds an ironic twist to His critique. In comparing the Pharisees to unmarked graves that people walk over without recognizing it, he accuses the Pharisees of spreading impurity. Because corpses were ritually impure, Jewish law required that graves be marked clearly; otherwise, one might accidentally, and unknowingly, become impure. The hypocrisy of the Pharisees has become a threat to those with whom they come into contact.

ELEVATE:

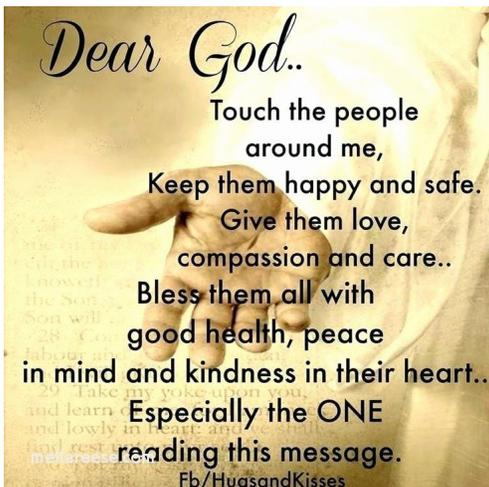
Discuss the truth or falsity of the following statements and elaborate on the significance of each:

1. We grow in our self-awareness of pharisaical behavior in our own lives.
2. We practice outward behavior that reflects our deepening Christian commitment.
3. We gain an ability to choose Christlike actions instead of what is popular and expected.
4. We grow in our desire to follow Jesus in turning away from actions that are hurtful to others.
5. We become aware of hypocritical attitudes in the church and community and seek to change and avoid them.
6. We practice showing God’s love and justice in our daily living.

iThink:

1. Plan a dramatic reading of the Scripture selection.
2. Provide discussion questions that help participants contrast their inner ideals with their social actions.
3. Identify pharisaical behavior in community life, with emphasis on the personal conduct of participants.
4. Offer several “what if” scenarios and urge class members to write an ending to one or more scenarios to reflect God’s justice and love enacted in life.
5. List the various behaviors Jesus observed in the Pharisees and suggest how they may be seen in human lives today.
6. Reflect on actions that display God’s love toward others both inwardly and outwardly.

KEY VERSE: The Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.” Luke 11:39



(Justice from page 3)

altogether" (Psalm 19:9, NKJV). Adam and Eve saw the justice of God when they were punished for their sin in the Garden. Even in that judgment, however, they experienced mercy, as "The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them" (Genesis 3:21). God's justice requires Him to deal with sin. Scripture records many instances of God's justice meted out for mankind's rebellion: the flood of Noah's day, the plagues in Egypt, the destruction of Ahab and Jezebel's house, and the Babylonian Captivity, just to name a few.

The justice of God is also demonstrated at the cross. As Jesus was crucified, the sins of the world were laid on Him (Isaiah 53:4-5), and Jesus' death became the propitiation, or the satisfaction, of God's justice: "God put [Christ] forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness" (Romans 3:25). God could not just ignore sin; justice requires a penalty. To our eternal benefit, that penalty for sin fell on Jesus Christ: "It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (Romans 3:26).

Of course, it was also at the cross where God's mercy and love were on full display. "God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners" (Romans 5:8, NLT). The cross is the intersection of God's justice and mercy; God's justice was meted out in full (upon Christ), and God's mercy was extended in full (to all who believe). He is truly "a just God and a Savior" (Isaiah 45:21, NKJV).

The Mandate for Justice

Because God is just, He demands that mankind, created in His image, also display justice (Micah 6:8). Before Israel had a king, God ensured that His people had justice, as the whole book of Judges attests. Deborah the prophetess set up court beneath a palm tree (Judges 4:5), and Samuel presided over a circuit court, traveling from place to place to hear cases and administer justice (1 Samuel 7:16). Later, the king became the nation's chief justice.

Scripture is full of commands that humans act justly. This includes acting on behalf of those whose rights are being denied and those who are powerless to defend themselves:

- "Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause" (Isaiah 1:17, ESV).
- "Thus says the Lord: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place" (Jeremiah 22:3, ESV).
- "Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked" (Psalm 82:3-4).

God's desire for justice extends to crime prevention and the punishment of evildoers:

- "For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong" (Isaiah 61:8, ESV).
- "When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers" (Proverbs 21:15, ESV).

- "Whoever says to the wicked, 'You are in the right,' will be cursed by peoples, abhorred by nations, but those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them" (Proverbs 24:24-25, ESV).

The Mosaic Law specifically forbade unjust weights and measures (Leviticus 19:35-36) and condemned the taking of bribes (Exodus 23:8). God places a special responsibility on judges and other authorities to provide justice, warning them in Psalm 82 that they will themselves face judgment. Every human tribunal is under God's order to do what is right:

- "You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor" (Leviticus 19:15, ESV).
- "Thus says the Lord of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another" (Zechariah 7:9, ESV).
- "Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of anyone, for judgment belongs to God" (Deuteronomy 1:17).
- "In a lawsuit, you must not deny justice to the poor" (Exodus 23:6, NLT).
- "Justice, and only justice, you shall follow" (Deuteronomy 16:20).

Justice is linked to a right relationship with God, and those who know God will act justly:

- "The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern" (Proverbs 29:7).
- "Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the Lord understand it completely" (Proverbs 28:5, ESV).
- "The wicked accept bribes in secret to pervert the course of justice" (Proverbs 17:23).
- "Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times!" (Psalm 106:3, ESV).

Man's Injustice

We live in a world of injustice. Because of the fall of mankind and the sinful nature we inherited from Adam, we all have a bent away from what is morally right toward what is morally wrong. The result is that we live amid partiality and unfairness, and, even as we honor the concept of justice, we see many examples of the corruption of justice.

Isaiah the prophet decried the state of Jerusalem in his day, as the city "once was full of justice; righteousness used to dwell in her— but now murderers! Your silver has become dross, your choice wine is diluted with water. Your rulers are rebels, partners with thieves; they all love bribes and chase after gifts. They do not defend the cause of the fatherless; the widow's case does not come before them" (Isaiah 1:21-23).

(Justice on page 13)

(Justice from page 12)

And Isaiah continues, "Justice is far from us. . . . We look for justice, but find none. . . . Justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance. . . . The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice" (Isaiah 59:9, 11, 14-15).

As the world drifts further from God, justice becomes a rarer commodity. When sin is redefined as a virtue, and righteousness becomes offensive, then justice is twisted, the wicked go unpunished, and innocent people are victimized.

God Will Bring Justice

Believers look forward to the day when the Lord returns and establishes true justice on the earth. Whatever the injustice in this world, God has promised, "I will repay" (Romans 12:19). A world pining for justice will finally see it administered when the King of Righteousness comes:

- "The Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done" (Matthew 16:27; cf. Psalm 62:12).
- "With righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked" (Isaiah 11:4).
- "Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness" (Psalm 96:13).
- "I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war" (Revelation 19:11).
- "Your eyes are open to the ways of all mankind; you reward each person according to their conduct and as their deeds deserve" (Jeremiah 32:19).

The Lord has promised to return and set things right. Truth will win in the end. In the meantime, we wait, and we do not lose hope: "The Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him" (Isaiah 30:18, ESV). And we praise Him for His justice: "I will thank the LORD because he is just; I will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High" (Psalm 7:17, NLT).

www.GotQuestions.org

FOR THE
LORD IS A GOD
OF JUSTICE;
BLESSED ARE
ALL THOSE WHO
WAIT FOR HIM.

NKJV ISAIAH 30:18

www.treasureforourhearts.com #treasureverse #treasureforourhearts

A PRAYER FOR TRUE JUSTICE

Oh Heavenly Father, our hearts are heavy. Broken. Please give us eyes to see and ears to hear where Your Spirit is working. Help us to see every person the way that You see them. Break our hearts for what breaks Yours, God. Let us not merely say that we love each other. Give us strength to mourn with those who mourn, to weep with those who weep. Let Your justice roll like waters. Let your righteousness and love flow from us like rivers of living water. Purify our hearts, Lord, and fill us with genuine hunger for justice, for mercy, and for true peace. Heavenly Father, let justice and mercy start with me.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

YouVersion

A Responsive Prayer for Justice¹

Pray for those who are hungry.

Pray harder for those who will not feed them.

Pray for those who struggle each week to pay their bills.

Pray harder for the wealthy who do not care.

Pray for those who are homeless.

Pray harder for those who deny them shelter.

Pray for the sick and lonely.

Pray harder for those who will not give them comfort.

Pray for those who cry out for dignity.

Pray harder for those who will not listen.

Pray for those oppressed by unjust wages.

Pray harder for those who exploit them.

Pray for those who bear the yoke of prejudice.

Pray harder for those who discriminate against them.

Pray for those whose basic needs are denied.

Pray harder for public officials who cater to the greedy and ignore those bound unjustly.

Amen.

Intercessory Prayers

THERE'S POWER

Read: James 5:13-18

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16

When my sister found out she had cancer, I asked my friends to pray. When she had surgery, we prayed that the surgeon would be able to remove all of the cancer and that she wouldn't have to undergo chemotherapy or radiation.

And God answered yes! When I reported the news, one friend remarked, "I'm so glad there's power in prayer." I responded, "I'm thankful that God answered with a yes this time.

James says that "the prayer of the righteous man is powerful and effective" (5:16). But does "powerful" and "effective" mean the harder we pray, or the more people we ask to pray, the more likely God is to answer with a yes? I've had enough "no" and "wait" answers to wonder about that.

Prayer is powerful, but it's such a mystery. We're taught to have faith, to ask earnestly and boldly, to persevere, to

be surrendered to His will. Yet God answers in His wisdom, and His answers are best. I'm just thankful that God wants to hear our hearts and that, no matter the answer, He is still good.

I like Ole Halleby's words: "Prayer and helplessness are inseparable. Only those who are helpless can truly pray. . . Your helplessness is your best prayer." We can do helplessness quite well. Anne Cetas

Prayer Tips: Write out a prayer that focuses on an attribute of God.

PANIC OR PRAY

Read: 2 Chronicles 14:1-11

Then Asa called to the Lord his God and said, "Lord, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, Lord our God. 2 Chronicles 14:11

An 85-year-old woman, all alone in a convent, got trapped inside an elevator for four nights and three days. Fortunately, she had a jar of water, some celery sticks, and a few cough drops. After she tried unsuccessfully to open

the elevator doors or get a cell phone signal, she decided to turn to God in prayer. "It was either panic or pray," she later told CNN. In her distress, she relied on God and waited till she was rescued.

Asa was also faced with the options of panic or pray (2 Chronicles 14) He was attacked by an Ethiopian army of a million men. But as he face this huge fighting force, instead of relying on military strategy or cowering in dread, he turned to the Lord in urgent prayer. In a powerful and humble prayer, Asa confessed his total dependence on Him, asked for help, and appealed to the Lord to protect His own name: "Help us, Lord

our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this vast army" (v. 11). The Lord responded to Asa's prayer, and he won the victory over the Ethiopian army.

When we are faced with tight spots, meager resources, a vast army of problems, or seemingly dead-end solutions, let's not panic. Instead, turn to God, who fights for His people and gives them victory. Marvin Williams

Prayer Tip: Sometimes, instead of coming to God with requests, spend time praising Him.

TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION

Read: Psalm 119:17-24

Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors. Psalm 119:24

Have you ever been stuck in a conversation with someone who talks only about himself? To be polite, you strike up a dialogue by asking questions. The other person proceeds to talk endlessly about himself, and he never once asks you anything. It is all about that person—and nothing about you.

Imagine what it must be like for our heavenly Father to listen to our prayers during our devotional time. We may have read a portion of His Word, but then in prayer we swiftly shift focus exclusively to our needs. We ask for help in solving a problem, providing for a financial need, or healing a physical ailment. But the passage we've just read doesn't even enter into our prayers. What God has just said to us goes largely unacknowledged.

Apparently the writer of Psalm 119 did not have this perspective. Instead, he sought God's help in understanding the

Word: "Open my eyes," he said, "that I may see wonderful things in your law" (v. 18). And as he prayed he expressed how he treasured God's Word, calling it his "delight" (v. 24).

Let's develop a discipline of praying our response to the Word. It just might transform our devotional time. Bible reading and prayer should reflect a two-way communication. Dennis Fisher

Prayer Tip: Use a desk calendar to list your concerns day-by-day

SURROUNDED BY PRAYER

Read: Romans 15:22-33

I urge you, brothers and sisters, . . . join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. Romans 15:30

My friend Melissa's 9-year-old daughter Sydnie was in the hospital for chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant when I had a dream about her. I dreamed she was staying in a central room at the hospital with her parents. Surrounding her room was a

block of other rooms where family and friends were staying and continually praying for her during her times of treatment.

In real life, Sydnie wasn't physically surrounded by family and friends in adjacent rooms. But spiritually speaking, she was and is surrounded by prayer and love.

The apostle Paul seemed to have a desire to be surrounded by prayer. In most of his letters to churches, he requested to be remembered in prayer to the Lord (Corinthians 1:11; Ephesians 6:18-20; Colossians 4:2-4; Philemon 1:22).

To the believers in Rome, he wrote, "I urge you, brothers and sisters, . . . to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me" (Romans 15:30). He knew that he could not be effective in his service for God without His power.

The Bible tells us that Jesus also prays for us (John 17:20; Hebrews 7:25), as does the Holy Spirit, whose prayers are according to the will of God (Romans 8:27). What a comfort to be surrounded by prayer! Anne Cetas

Prayer Tips: Pray through the Psalms.

THE ARMOR OF GOD

EPHESIANS 6:10-18

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

The Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16)

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



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

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

The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17)

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

The Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14)

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

The Belt of Truth (Eph. 6:14)

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

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

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

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

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

(Perseverance from page 3)

perseverance of the saints is founded in the promise that “he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6) and Jesus’ declaration that “all that the Father gives me will come to me” and “I shall lose none of them that he has given me” (John 6:37, 39).

Beyond the concept of perseverance in regard to salvation, there are biblical exhortations to persevere in the Christian life. In his pastoral epistles to Timothy, the apostle Paul reminds the young pastor to “watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers” (1 Timothy 4:16). Timothy’s character was that of a godly man, and his doctrine was sound and scriptural. Paul warned him to watch them both closely and persevere in them because—and this is a warning to all Christians—perseverance in godly living and believing the truth always accompany genuine conversion (John 8:31; Romans 2:7).

Further exhortations to persevere in the Christian life come from James, who warns us to be “doers of the word and not hearers only” because those who hear but do not do are “deceiving themselves.” “But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it [perseveres]...this one will be blessed in what he does” (James 1:22-24). The

sense here is that the Christian who perseveres in godliness and the spiritual disciplines will be blessed in the very act of persevering. The more we persevere in the Christian life, the more God grants His blessings upon us, thereby enabling us to continue to persevere. The psalmist reminds us that there is great reward in persevering in the Christian life. In keeping God’s commandments, there is “great reward” for our souls (Psalm 19:11), peace of mind, a clear conscience, and a witness to the world more eloquent than many words.

James also exhorts us to persevere “under trials” because those who do will be blessed and will receive the “crown of life” which God has promised (James 1:12). Just as the true believer will be eternally secure in his salvation, his faith will also persevere in affliction, sickness, persecution, and the other trials of life that befall all believers. If we desire to live godly lives in Christ, we *will* suffer persecution (2 Timothy 3:12), but the faithful will persevere, kept by the power of the Holy Spirit who is the guarantee of our salvation and who will keep us “strong to the end,” persevering so we will be “blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 1:8).

www.GotQuestions.org

(Testing of your faith from page 3)

in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world” (1 Peter 4:13, NLT). The writer of Hebrews explains, “For you need endurance, so that after you have done God’s will, you may receive what was promised” (Hebrews 10:36, HCSB).

Peter also assures us that the testing of our faith through trials proves the genuineness or authenticity of our faith: “So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world” (1 Peter 1:6-7, NLT).

It is one thing to stand firm in our convictions when everything is going well and our faith remains untested. But how do we react when God seems silent, when everything is falling apart, when our hearts are broken, and our dreams are shattered? It’s then that the trials of this life truly test our faith and provide an opportunity to produce perseverance—a steadfast endurance that develops spiritual wholeness and maturity in us. When our confidence in Christ is proven unshakable through the fires of adversity, we can face any situation with joy, determination, and ever-increasing hope. We can trust God to uphold us through it all and reward us in the end.

We let “perseverance finish its work” when we continue to follow Jesus Christ, letting our “roots grow down into him” and our lives to “be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness” (Colossians 2:7, NLT; see also Colossians 1:10-12). Abiding in Christ calls for patient endurance over time and through testing for the work to be done in us (see John 15:4-10; Romans 12:12; Colossians 1:23; Hebrews 10:36-38; 2 Peter 1:5-8; Revelation 2:2-3).

The testing of our faith also produces life. Jesus told His

disciples that, amid opposition, they should “stand firm, and you will win life” (Luke 21:19). Knowing they would all face intense persecution, Jesus said, “You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved” (Matthew 10:22; see also Matthew 24:13).

Thankfully, perseverance does not depend solely on our efforts. As followers of Jesus, the Spirit of God is at work in us, giving us the power and strength to persevere (Philippians 2:13; 4:13; Ephesians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 12:6; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Hebrews 13:21).

Perhaps one of the best biblical examples of a person who developed spiritual maturity by persevering through severe testing of faith was the Old Testament character Joseph. He was tricked by his brothers and sold into slavery (Genesis 37:1-36), framed by Potiphar’s wife (Genesis 39:12-36), and forgotten in prison (Genesis 40:23). But God was working in Joseph through his hardships, fulfilling a plan to save his family and the future nation of Israel. Yet, it wasn’t until many years later that Joseph could see God’s hand in his trials. But then he could say to his brothers, “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives” (Genesis 50:20). God permitted the testing of Joseph’s faith to produce perseverance, which finished its work by making him “mature and complete, not lacking anything.” What’s more, Joseph’s determined, steadfast endurance brought about “the saving of many lives.”

www.GotQuestions.org



Let's Celebrate 200 Years

SAVE THE DATE FOR BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

SEPTEMBER THRU DECEMBER 2023

SEPT
22

**Connectional Virtual
Welcome - 7 PM**

SEPT
23

Welcome Brunch - 11 AM

SEPT
24

**Welcome Worship Service-
10 AM**

NOV
18

**Free Friends & Family
Breakfast- 10 AM**

NOV
19

**Friends & Family Service -
10 AM**

DEC
2

**Bicentennial Banquet -
4 PM thru 8 PM**

DEC
3

**Bicentennial Service -
10 AM**



More Information Is Coming Soon!!

(What would You do? from page 3)

phone call from a nephew of mine who lives in the United Kingdom. That was Michael. He and I had not communicated in a long time, at least by our standards; in weeks, if not months. So, I was eager to respond to the call and to hear what he had to tell me. He did not hesitate in the least bit. After the initial recognition of my voice and the acceptance that I was coherent and capable of receiving the 'news', he hit me with it! That, his father and my senior brother who had not been publicly known to be ill or in any way seriously incapacitated, had passed away, overnight.

My life has not been the same since that message from Michael, in April, 2023. How so? The various elements of the acceptance, the preparation, the grievance, the celebration, the succession and the aftermath of the life and passing of my brother are the essence of this essay as chronicled in August 2023.

In order to correctly relay the events that unfolded at the very moment I heard of my brother's passing to the point where I became his successor, I have to be aware that the Akan culture that I have written so much about in the past, has justifiably laid out the tiniest detail and every little bit of ritual to cover all that is needed to celebrate his life. It is fascinating to think that, the time-tested cultural routines always face predictable resistance and opposition, as in the case of my own response; but in the end, the norms and wisdom of the ancient practices eventually triumph and resolve all issues. Yes, I was overwhelmed by the news, and yes, I was determined to go my way, and yes, I was prepared to do whatever it took to make my point, the end result was a combination of customs, culture, rituals and compromises that ensured the continuity of the Akan cultural practices that have stood the test of time over all these ages. There's a saying in the medical community that 'there is no simple surgery', due to the possibilities of any one thing going wrong at any time. The same holds for the death, burial, and funeral of any Akan person. There are no 'simple funerals', because the ritualized steps to any particular funeral, starts with dealing with multiple stakeholders; and each entity is guaranteed to have his or her opinion as to why things should not be done in any particular manner or the other. It is ever more complicated if the deceased left no defined directives as to the format, preferences, resources and timelines for his or her final preparations for interment. So it was with my brother.

After getting over the initial shock of the news, and after relaying the news over to other sets of relatives and other family and community members, I had to reach out deep down into my own memories and experiences, with regard to the initial role that I had to play. To say that I was flabbergasted is an understatement. However, I was pleasantly surprised at how other recipients of the news went their own ways to console and to sympathize with me. The numerous ways sympathizers expressed their own shock and condolences, for some reason, had a calming effect on my overall response to the news of the moment.

The first action on my part was to reach out to the widow, my sister-in-law, to confirm for myself, and to hear her side of the events leading to my brother's passing. Beginning from the very moment I spoke to my sister-in-law till the point of meeting her face to face in the hometown of the impending funeral, I had to seek counsel and advice upon counsel and advice at every step of the way. And I actually thought I knew the Akan culture fair enough to find my own ways around the planning and execution of my

own senior brother's funeral. Problem is, each and everyone else carries the same confidence of expertise. "Not so fast", they would advise. "Not really", they would caution. "How about this or that other option?", they would ask. By the end of the first day, I knew I had my hands full, of thoughts, ideas, suggestions and all the do's and don'ts that would make for a nightmarish first night.

Coordinating among the children of my deceased brother for a forum to discuss the imminent funeral arrangements, was the most gruesome of all the initial steps I had to do. It's enough to just summarize that part by acknowledging that one of his offspring's is now estranged from the rest; me included in the fray. Go figure!

Fast forward to the moment of the three day set of events. We are about to start the final funeral rites, of my brother, in the city in Ghana famously known for staging enormously, flamboyant, flashy, expensive and 'no holds barred' last celebrations too. The frequent retort to anyone complaining of the excesses of the proceedings is this: 'try to outdo me, if you can'. There are more massive scale, commercialized, highway, roadside billboards announcing and promoting and inviting 'all well-wishers' to funerals in this city than anywhere else I know.

Culture dictates some of the following events, but commercial, capitalists' interests and the tendencies to 'outdo' others eventually make up for the excesses. We start with solid, black fabric for outfits when the deceased body was laid in state for 'viewing'. After the burial, we return to the grounds after quickly changing into crimson red outfit for the event; the true 'funeral'. Celebration continues with well-wishers and sympathizers 'contributing' various amounts of money to help the family defray the costs of the events. This continues till dusk, to be resumed next day with a memorial, thanksgiving church service. This time the outfit is predominantly white with black mixed in to remind ourselves of the passing of a 'senior/matured' relative.

Not to shortchange the bereaved family, the celebrations continue at the original grounds where the community of well-wishers return and join in the dancing and feasting while contributing in different amounts of money to help with the obvious costs of the events.

With such an undertaking, it is absolutely unclear to me why any society and community, with limited means of daily, economic survival, can accept and condone the excesses with no appetite for modification.

OK, so my brother has been buried and mourned to the best of our cultural expertise. The next day immediately following is 'accounting' day. Traditionally, this is when the family comes back together to account for every expense and to tally all the contributions to see if we broke even. In the past, if any there were any leftover costs, the family was to divide it equitably amongst themselves, not to leave any financial burden on any one individual. We made ok, this time.

The rest of these proceedings involve a major discovery I came upon, trying to exercise my role as the successor to my departed brother, as the new 'family head' of all the offspring's of our mother. The Akan culture has the rules and guidelines for any such family. If you dare to follow it.

The perfect cut-off for the next installment of **'what would you do?'**

Kwame6@att.net

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

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

The ACTS model for prayer includes these elements:

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

© Copyright 2002-2021 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved. www.GotQuestions.org

THE POWER OF CHRIST

Who id this ? Even the wind and the waves obey him. Mark 4:41

In 2013, about six hundred on-site spectators watched aerialist Nik Wallenda walk on a tightrope across a 1,400-foot-wide gorge near the Grand Canyon. Wallenda stepped onto the 2-inch-thick steel cable and thanked Jesus for the view for the view as his head camera pointed toward the valley below. He prayed and praised Jesus as he walked across the gorge as calm as if he was strolling on a sidewalk. When the wind became treacherous, he stopped and crouched. He rose and regained his balance, thanking God for “calming that cable.” With every step on that tightrope, he displayed his dependence on the power of Christ to everyone listening and now as the video is watched across the world.

When the winds of a storm caused waves to overtake the disciples on the Sea of Galilee, fear seeped through their pleas for help (Mark 4:35-38). After Jesus stilled the squall, they knew He controlled the winds and everything else (Vv. 39-41). Slowly they learned to grow in their trust of Him. Their personal experiences could help other recognize Jesus’ intimate availability and extraordinary might.

As we experience life’s storms or walk on the tightrope of trust stretched over the deep valleys of affliction, we can demonstrate confident faith in the power of Christ. God will use our faith-walk to inspire others to hope in him. Xochitl Dixon

How has witnessing Christ’s power in the lives of others strengthened your faith? How can prayer help you walk with confident faith?

Jesus thank, Father, for calming my heart as I trust You through life’s stormy seasons.

Today’s Scripture: **Mark 4:34-41**

³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

INSIGHT

Many of the disciples were experienced fishermen who would have faced many storms, but Mark describes this one as uniquely terrifying and life-threatening (Mark 4:37-38). In Jewish belief, the sea was associated with the chaotic forces of evil and destruction, adding an extra level of terror. Jesus and the disciples’ lives were under siege by forces of evil.

But Jewish faith also described God as the Creator who brings order out of chaos (Genesis 1:2-3, 6-9), who stills not only “the roaring of the seas” but “turmoil of the nations” (Psalm 65:7). Jesus’ calm rebuke of the wind and waves was unmistakable evidence that the power of God was at work in Him. Through Christ, God’s kingdom was coming, and the forces of evil would be powerless to resist Him. The disciples couldn’t yet grasp this and were “terrified” by Jesus’ power (Mark 4:41). Monica La Rose

THE GIFT OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Encourage one another and build each other up. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

“Your bees are swarming!” My wife stuck her head inside the door and gave me news no beekeeper wants to hear. I ran outside to see thousands of bees flying up from the hive to the top of a tall pine, never to return.

I was a little behind in reading the clues that the hive was about to swarm; more than a week of storms had hampered my inspection. The morning the storms ended, the bees left. The colony was new and healthy, and the bees were actually dividing the colony to start a new one. “Don’t be hard on yourself,” an experienced beekeeper told me cheerfully after seeing my disappointment. “this can happen to anyone!”

Encouragement is a winsome gift. When David was disheartened because Saul was pursuing him to take his life, Saul’s son Jonathan encouraged David. “Don’t be afraid,” Jonathan said. “My father Saul will not lay on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this” (1 Samuel 23:17).

Those are surprisingly selfless words from someone next in line to the throne. It’s likely Jonathan recognized that God was with David, so he spoke out of a humble heart of faith.

All around us are people who need encouragement. God will help us help them as we humble ourselves before Him and ask Him to love them through us. James Banks

Who do you know who needs encouragement? How might you humbly serve them today?

Dear God, You give me eternal encouragement and good hope. Help me to show Your love to someone today.

Today’s Scripture: **Samuel 23:14-23**

¹⁴ David stayed in the wilderness strongholds and in the hills of the Desert of Ziph. Day after day Saul searched for him, but God did not give David into his hands. ¹⁵ While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life. ¹⁶ And Saul’s son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God. ¹⁷ “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this.” ¹⁸ The two of them made a covenant before the Lord. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh.

¹⁹ The Ziphites went up to Saul at Gibeah and said, “Is not David hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hakilah, south of Jeshimon?” ²⁰ Now, Your Majesty, come down whenever it pleases you to do so, and we will be responsible for giving him into your hands.”

²¹ Saul replied, “The Lord bless you for your concern for me. ²² Go and get more information. Find out where David usually goes and who has seen him there. They tell me he is very crafty. ²³ Find out about all the hiding places he uses and come back to me with definite information. Then I will go with you; if he is in the area, I will track him down among all the clans of Judah.”

INSIGHT

The central feature of 1 Samuel 23:14-23 is the “Jonathan visit” — a friend-to-friend encounter at a very critical time. Though God can use casual, unplanned meetings with those we may or may not know, Jonathan’s visit was rooted in a deep, lasting friendship (see 18:1-4). This meeting is believed to have been their last. The depth of their relationship comes through in the lyrics of David’s lament for Jonathan (see 2 Samuel 1:25-27). Selfless, brief, timely visitations like these can be a real gift to those needing encouragement from God. Arthur Jackson

Life is...

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

*Life is an opportunity,
benefit from it.*

Life is beauty, admire it.

Life is a dream, realize it.

Life is a challenge, meet it.

Life is a duty, complete it.

Life is a game, play it.

Life is a promise, fulfill it.

Life is sorrow, overcome it.

Life is a song, sing it.

Life is a struggle, accept it.

Life is a tragedy, confront it.

Life is an adventure, dare it.

Life is luck, make it.

*Life is too precious,
do not destroy it.*

Life is life, fight for it.

The Cure for "Swamped Fever"

When life become too hectic, when you feel constantly swamped, it's easy to become dispirited. For this unhappy condition, turn to this verse: **He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. Revelation 21:7**

The secret is simply to practice the idea that you are a child of God. As such, God will be your guide; He will lend you His strength to augment your own weakness. You can overcome rather than be overcome. Instead of things flowing away from you, they will flow toward you. You shall indeed "inherit all things." Life will come your way. You will get a great lift of spirit.

No More Doubt—Only Confidence

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

If we do our part—live right and have faith—God will see that all of your real needs are supplied. God has infinite riches, enough for all of us. We can receive these through God's law of boundless supply. Live according to His principles, and you will never look in vain for any necessity. How the spirit rises when you develop confidence and know that you will be cared for, that all will be well, that the future is bright with promise.

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.

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!

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 believes in Him live, also. So our loved one whom we thought 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.

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 heartfelt 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.

“

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

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

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

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

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

My enemies are fleeing before me.

God has commanded His blessing on my storehouses.

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

I am the head and not the tail.

He has given me power to make wealth.

I dwell in the secret place.

I have His protection and provision.

God is my refuge, my fortress.

I am not afraid of the snare of the fowler.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I am without spot or blemish, an intercessor,

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

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

This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD,

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

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

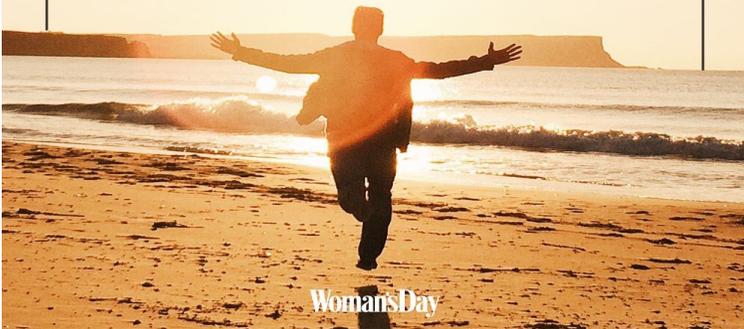
*Lord I pray that those may prosper that love Jerusalem and that peace will be within them
and prosperity in their houses according to Psalms 122:6-9.*

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

“

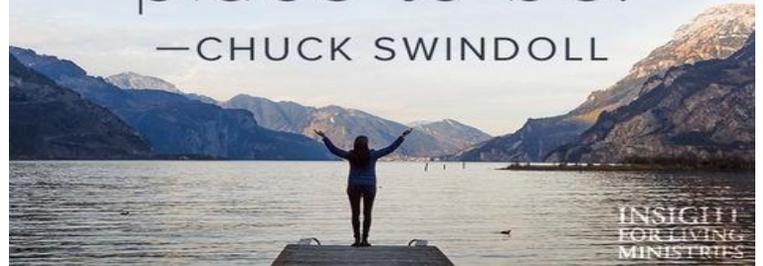
We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature — trees, flowers, grass — grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence ... We need silence to be able to touch souls.”

MOTHER TERESA



There's no greater relief than being in the center of God's will. It is the greatest place to be.

—CHUCK SWINDOLL



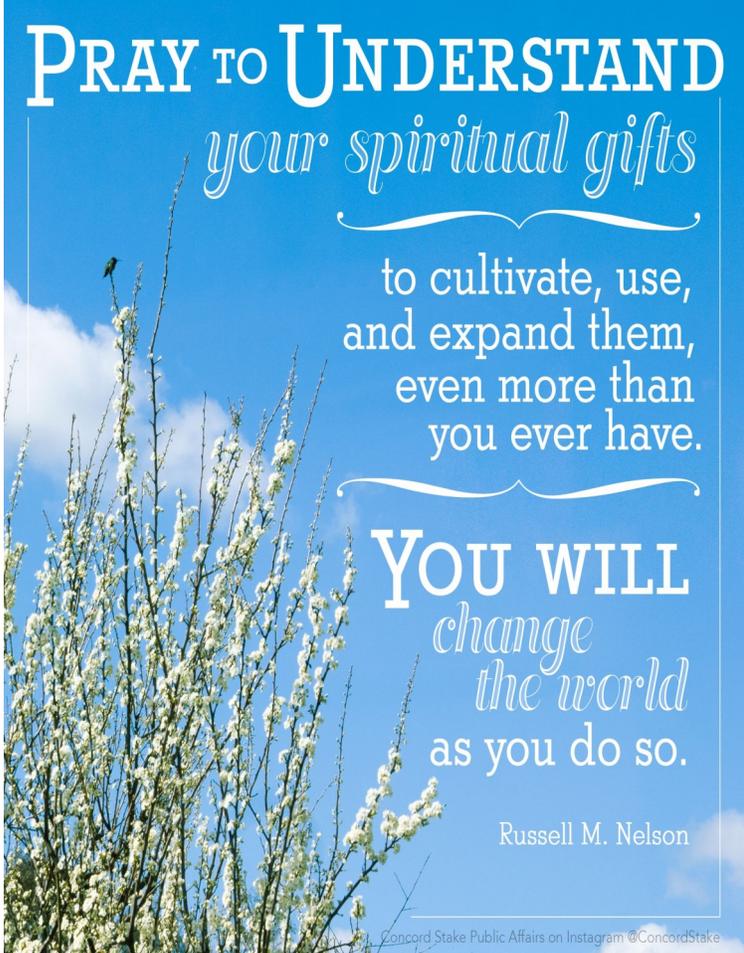
PRAY TO UNDERSTAND

your spiritual gifts

to cultivate, use, and expand them, even more than you ever have.

YOU WILL
change the world
as you do so.

Russell M. Nelson



Those who leave everything in **GOD'S HAND** will eventually see God's hand in everything.

QUOTEDIARY.NET





THE BEAUTY OF HOLLAND

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOURCE UNKNOWN

Developing an Attitude of Prayer in the Midst of Worry

But careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Philippians 4:6

When you're under pressure, it's always best to pray about it instead of talk about it. Prayer is the blueprint for a successful life. During His time on earth, Jesus prayed. He entrusted everything to God through prayer, even His reputation and life. We can do the same. We don't have to explain all the problems to Him; we can just give them to Him and ask Him to take care of everything. You don't have to complicate prayer. I think a lot of times people

wait until they get to their quiet time or church before they really pray, without realizing that they can pray at any time. Just have confidence in simple, believing prayer. Look at Paul's instruction in Philippians 4:6-7. Instead of worrying, simply pray and ask God for help when you find yourself in a difficult situation. The Bible tells us that God is faithful, that's one of His major characteristics. He can be counted on to come through for us when we pray to Him for help, so we should trust Him totally and completely. When we do, we'll be ready for anything that may come our way.

Prayer Starter: God, I don't want to live my life worrying. Instead, I decide today to get in the habit of praying to you at all times.

Jesus Came to Guide Us into the Way of Peace

To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:79

I believe that peace is one of the most important benefits and greatest blessings God has given us. However, in the busyness of rushing around, we often feel anything but peaceful. But it doesn't need to be that way. Luke 1:79 says that one of things God sent Jesus to do is to guide us "into the way of peace." as believers we have the wonderful privilege of walking in God's supernatural peace, regardless of how busy we may be or what is going on

around us. I lived the first forty years of my life without the blessing of peace-I was miserable. I finally came to a point of being so hungry for peace that I was willing to work with God to make whatever changes were necessary in order to have it. Thankfully, I now enjoy a life of peace that often passes understanding. I am able to walk in the path of peace during the storms of life, not just when storms don't exist. Have you made pursuing peace a priority? God wants you to. Follow the Holy Spirit into the peace that is rightfully yours in Christ.

Prayer starter: God, thank You for sending Jesus to 'direct and guide' my feet into Your peace. I receive Your great blessing of peace for my life.

His Mercies Are Always New

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

Each day is a new opportunity to close the door on the past and experience a brand-new start. Even the fact that God divided the days into twenty-four-hour segments is evidence that we need to start over on a regular basis. There is always a new day, a new month and a new year. But in order for us to make use of these new beginnings, we must make a decision to do so. Are you battling guilt and condemnation? Do you feel bad about something you

did years ago or something that happened yesterday? No matter how much time has gone by, the past is still the past. What is done is done, and only God can take care of it now. Your part is to admit your mistake, repent, receive God's forgiveness, and go on. In Lamentation, the prophet Jeremiah encourages us with the news that God's mercy is new every morning. Every day He gives you a fresh start. I'm so glad that God sends a new batch of mercy daily—we can decide to have a new beginning every day!

Prayer Starter: God, I'm so glad that You're mercies are new every morning! I can start fresh every day because of Your love, mercy, compassion and faithfulness to me!

The Holy Spirit Is Our Drill Instructor

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. James 1:3

Mature faith doesn't happen overnight. If we want to have a deep, healthy, solid faith in God, we must exercise our faith to make it stronger. Think of soldiers in the military. They're not ready for the most intense battles right away when they enlist in a branch of the service. They have to go through basic training. They are drilled and exercised and trained relentlessly. Drill instructors are assigned to do this 'equipping' because soldiers need to possess strength, stamina, resilience and endurance. Let's think about this in terms of our faith. First, we enlist, or give our lives to Christ. Then we begin a regimen of basic

training, or faith building. The Holy Spirit acts as our Drill Instructor in this case. The Holy Spirit knows exactly what we each need as a faith-building requirement so we can be prepared in season and out of season. We just need to obey Him, even when it's challenging, trusting that He knows how to build our faith. When you let the Holy Spirit train you, the results—a strong, solid faith in God—are well worth the time and effort.

Prayer Starter: Holy Spirit, I submit myself to Your instruction. I want to have a mature, solid faith in You. Train me so I can walk by faith, not sight, trusting God in every situation and for every provision I need.

Old Testament

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

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

LAW

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

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

HISTORY

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

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

POETRY

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

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

PROPHECY

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

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

New Testament

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

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

HISTORY

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts

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

LETTERS

PAUL'S LETTERS

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

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

OTHER LETTERS

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

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

PHOPHECY

Revelation

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



EXTREME KINDNESS

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us. Titus 3:4-5

Fast-food restaurant worker Kevin Ford hadn't missed a shift in twenty-seven years. After a video surfaced showing his humble gratitude for a modest gift he received to commemorate his decades of service, thousands of people rallied together to show kindness to him. "It's like a dream, a dream come true," he said when a fundraising effort brought in \$250,000 in just over a week.

Jehoiachin, the exiled king of Judah, was also the recipient of extreme kindness. He'd been incarcerated for thirty-seven years before the benevolence of the Babylonian king resulted in his release. "[The king] freed him from prison. He spoke kindly to him and gave him a seat of honor higher than those of the other kings who were with him in Babylon" (Jeremiah 52:31-32). Jehoiachin was given a new position, new clothes, and a new residence. His new life was fully funded by the king.

This story pictures what happens spiritually when, out of no contribution from themselves or others, people who believe in Jesus' death and resurrection are rescued from their estrangement from God. They're brought from darkness and death into light and life; they're brought into the family of God because of the extreme kindness of God. Arthur Jackson

What acts of human kindness have reminded you of God's goodness? How do you respond to the kindness of God who welcomes you into His family based on what Jesus has done?

Father, thank You for Your forgiving kindness. "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe; sin had left a crimson stain. He washed it white as snow."

Today Scripture: **Jeremiah 52:31-34**

³¹ In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the year Awel-Marduk became king of Babylon, on the twenty-fifth day of the twelfth month, he released Jehoiachin king of Judah and freed him from prison. ³² He spoke kindly to him and gave him a seat of honor higher than those of the other kings who were with him in Babylon. ³³ So Jehoiachin put aside his prison clothes and for the rest of his life ate regularly at the king's table. ³⁴ Day by day the king of Babylon gave Jehoiachin a regular allowance as long as he lived, till the day of his death.

INSIGHT

The prophet Jeremiah is often referred to as the weeping prophet because his book of prophecy contains several references to tears, including his own personal sorrow. For example, Jeremiah 9:1 says, "Oh, that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears! I would weep day and night for the slain of my people." And 13:17 adds, "If you do not listen, I will weep in secret because of your pride; my eyes will weep bitterly, overflowing with tears, because the Lord's flock will be taken captive." Jeremiah wasn't afraid to cry! Some students of scripture have speculated that some in the crowd thought Jesus was Jeremiah (Matthew 16:14) because He wasn't ashamed of His tears. Bill Crowder

Ministries, Grand Rapids, Michigan,
Reprinted by Permission

*No act of kindness,
no matter how small,
is ever wasted.*

Aesop

The Life Coach & Spirit Channel: YouTube.com/user/GitteFalkenberg Weekly quotes: Twitter.com/GitteFalkenberg @GitteFalkenberg

**Kindness is the light that
dissolves all walls between
souls, families, and nations.**

Paramahansa Yogananda

@yogabany

Please God.....

**Grant them courage,
When times seem bleak.**

**Grant them strength,
When they feel weak.**

**Grant them comfort,
When they feel all alone,
And most of all, God,
Please bring them
All home.**

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?

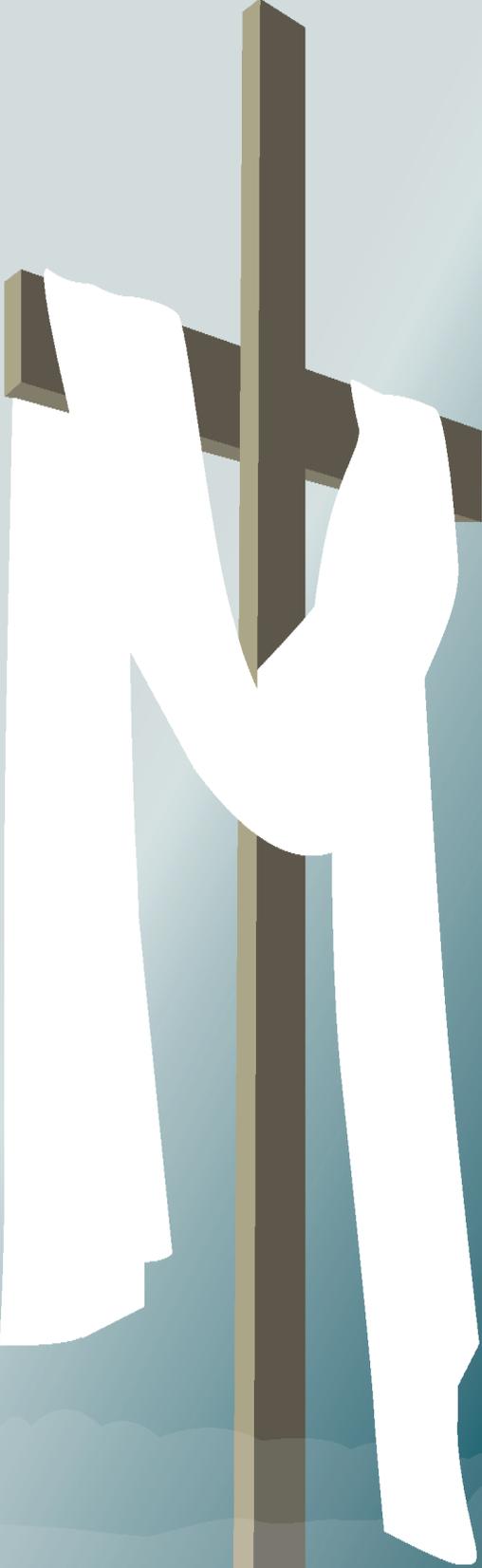
Let the spirit of God work for you in a Mighty, Mighty Way

For more information contact:

Church office 860-344-9527.or

Rev. Gregory B. Winborne: Days: 860-616-3834

PRAYER FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE



Thank you loving God
for the gift of life,
for this wonderful world which
we all share,
for the joy of love and friendship,
for the challenge of helping to build your kingdom.

Strengthen
my determination to work for a world
of peace and justice,
my conviction that, whatever our nationality or race,
we are all global citizens,
one in Christ;
my courage to challenge
the powerful with the values of the Gospel, my commitment to find
nonviolent ways of resolving conflict—
personal, local, national and international,
my efforts to forgive injuries and to love those I find it hard to love.

Teach me
to share the gifts you have given me,
to speak out for the victims of injustice who have no voice,
to reject the violence which runs through much of our world today.

Holy Spirit of God,
renew my hope for a world free from the cruelty and evil of war,
so that we may
all come to share in God's peace and justice.

-Pax Christi (Peace of Christ) Daily Prayer

200th Year Church Anniversary Celebration 1823-2023

The Vision Statement in four simple words:

These words are expressing the minimum expectations of members

Members are to **GATHER**

Every member should attend faithfully a worship service every week. Christians are commanded to worship the Lord together. Read Acts 2:42-47. not only are we called to worship the Lord, but we are also to encourage one another when we gather together.

Members are to **CONNECT**

That's the word picture to describe locking hands and arms with others. We are called to connect together in a small group (ministry, organizations, class leader system, bible study, Sunday school, and others).

Members are to **GO**

The members should be involved in at least one ministry in the church each year. Many should be involved in ministries that got them involved outside the walls of the church. The Great Commission should be at the heart of what we do as part of the process of discipleship (Matthew 28:19-20).

Members are to **GIVE**

Every member should be a regular and faithful financial giver to the church. Jesus, Himself, said it best: *"wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be"* (Matthew 6:21).

CROSS STREET PASTORS: 1823 TO PRESENT

JEHIEL E. BEAMON
WILLIAM JONES
H.W. HUTCHINGS
MOSES MONZINGO
G.H.S. BELL
WILLIAM J. SMITH
I.T. BATTLE
SAMUEL ROBERSON
J.C. LODGE
J.B. SMALL

S.W. WELLER
E. HORTON BROWN
E. GEORGE BIDDLE
GEORGE F. GREEN
MARSHALL M. SMITH
REV. COLEMAN
THOMAS RIDDICK
WILLIAM DAVAGE
DAVID FOGG
GEORGE C. BATTLE

HEZEKIAH WILLIAMS
N. ROOSEVELT SCOTT
DOUGLAS LAWRENCE
MOSES L. HARVILL



2007-Now

In May of 1993, the Rt. Reverend George W.C. Walker, Sr., appointed the Reverend Moses L. Harvill as the Pastor of the Cross Street Church. Under his leadership the Church continues to grow spiritually, numerically, and financially. The Church and parsonage mortgages have been liquidated

On December 23, 2007, we rejoice in the miracle on West and Wadsworth Street by opening the doors to the New Cross Street A.M.E. Zion Church.

On April 20, 2008, Cross Street celebrated the 185th Church Anniversary and the dedication Celebration of the New Cross Street A.M.E. Zion Church.

The Right Reverend George E. Battle, Presiding Bishop and Mrs. Iris Miller Battle, Missionary Supervisor was so very thankful that God has afforded us the opportunity to share and participate in this auspicious occasion. Look at what God has entrusted to the members of this Church; to the community in the City of Middletown; to the State of Connecticut; and especially to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. My heart and I pray that your hearts cannot fully express the gratitude we feel for how God has provided and for how He has worked through all of us to meet the needs of those we now serve and the many who will come that we will assuredly serve in the future.



1829-1929

The original church was built in 1829. The members purchased land from a Mr. Henry Paddock and the church was constructed on Cross Street, which at this time faced Mt Vernon Street currently the site of the Science Center of Wesleyan University

1929-2007

In 1929, the church was moved to its present site due to the realignment of Cross Street. It was during this move that the church was named Cross Street. Under the leadership of 12 ministers, many renovations were accomplished. However in 1978, the 1867 church structure was torn down and a new building constructed on the same site under the leadership of Reverend Douglas Lawrence.



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday

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

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

Tuesday

Bible Study

Time: 6:00 P.M.

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

Wednesday

Day Of Prayer

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

Sunday Church School

8:00 a.m. – 08:45 a.m.
Adults

Call-in only: 978-990-5105
Code: 204730#
Sister Sylvia Pina / Brother Ken
Simmons

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 am
Children: ages 3-12:

In person, Fellowship Hall
Ms. Carolyn Smith / Rev. Grant.

3:00 pm—3:34 pm
Children: ages 9-12

Call-in: 929-205-6099, Code:
614890401#.

or
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/614890401#>
Rev. Grant teacher

Any questions call: 860-490-3199
Gloria Malloy, Church School
Superintendent.

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

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

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

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

Sanctuary Guidelines

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Much Love to All. Faithfully Yours,
Pastor Harvill

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

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

The Cross Street Journal is published Bi-monthly. It can be found on our website: crosstreetamezion.org & in the front lobby. If you would like a PDF copy sent to you, Email your request to: ken462012@gmail.com. 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 (ken462012@gmail.com), or give it to him. **Praise God!!!**



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 — See Page 31

Worship Service — 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Robyn M Anderson

Pastor

Email: revrmanderson@gmail.com

The Rev. Moses L. Harvill,

Presiding Elder

Mrs. D. Diane Proctor

Missionary Supervisor

The Right Reverend Dennis

Proctor

Presiding Prelate

Ministerial Staff

Rev. Robyn Anderson

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

The Vision Statement in Four Simple Word:

Members are to **GATHER, CONNECT, GO, GIVE**

"I am a Christian"

By Maya Angelou

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

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



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

The Jabez Prayer

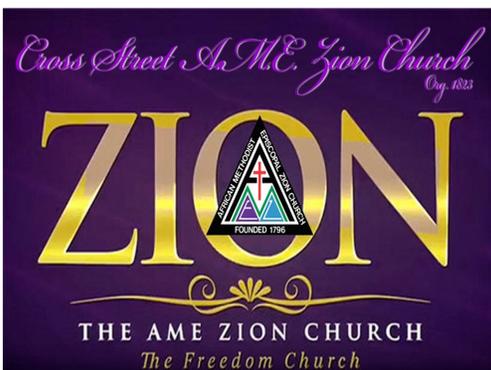
And Jabez called on the God of Israel
saying, "Oh, that You would bless me
indeed, and enlarge my territory,
that Your hand would keep me from
evil, that I may nor cause pain!" So
God granted him what he requested.
1 Chronicles 4:10 (NKJV)

"God's Word

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

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

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



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

Doxology

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