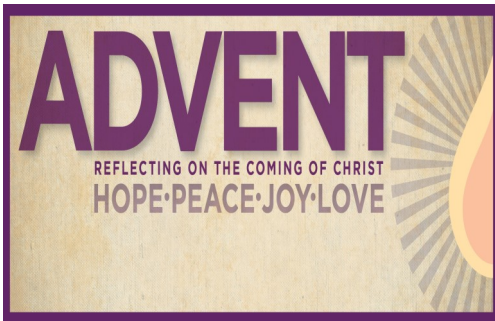


# THE CROSS



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



## Basic Christian Beliefs

The following is a brief statement of Christian Beliefs. These statements are in agreement with the Bible teaching and is found in your Discipline as the beliefs of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

**There is one God in three persons**

- A. God the Father
- B. God the Son
- C. God the Holy Ghost

*(Beliefs on page 10)*

November / December 2019  
Volume 23 Issue 6

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Desk	2
Fruit of the Spirit	4
Lord Hear Our Prayer	5
The Armor of God	6
Daily Bible Reading	7
Christian Season	7
Name of God	7
Sunday Church School	8
Words To Live By	14
Daily Confession of Faith	15
Spirit Lifters	16
Barbara Perry Speaks	17
The Beauty of Holland	18
Joyce Meyer	19
Bible's Bird's Eye View	20
Our Daily Bread	22
Activities	23



Visit our  
Facebook page

## Food For Thought

### Jesus' Invitation

Matthew 11:28-29; 7:7

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on

*(Food on page 13)*

## Believing in the promises of God

Hebrews 11:8 – 10: By Faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

*(Promises page 11)*

## Every Misfortune is a Blessing

Lately, I have become so embroiled in the occurrences of miracles that I have aptly started to call myself a miracle whisperer. From everything I know, each of us has the ability to track the daily events in our lives and the cunning ability to distinguish between what constitutes a miracle versus ordinary happenstances. To begin with, here are two definitions of 'miracle' that I usually grapple with. The first one says: **a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by nature and is therefore**

**considered to be the work of a divine agency.** Examples of these include those that are referenced in the Bible and other religious documents. The second definition states that a miracle is: **a highly improbable or extraordinary event, development, or accomplishment that brings very welcome consequences.** In effect, all of us, occasionally experience events in our lives that we quickly consider miracles, if only because we derive such joy and exuberant elation that

*(Misfortune on page 12)*

# *From The Pastor's Desk*



**Dear Beloved Members,**

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

**I pray all is well with you and yours. Thanksgiving is approaching, which is an excellent time to give thanks for family and friends. The Lord has been good to us, and we give**

**him all the glory.**

**The Cross continues to launch into a brighter future with The Homecoming & Family and Friends Celebration on Sunday, November 17, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. It will be a dynamic worship experience sharing with Family and Friends. We invite you to please share with us on this day, Rev. Frances Campbell of Archer Memorial AME Zion Church will be the Guest Preacher, with music, singing, and much more, followed by Fellowship dinner.**

**I am also inviting you to share a gift along with other members, family, and friends towards a lump-sum contribution to bless the church. Your generous love gift added with others will assist us in reaching the goal. These funds will go to support the church mortgage and ministries for our children, youth, community, and help to advance the Kingdom of God. You can text give 73256 "The cross" or give online [crossstreetamezion.org](http://crossstreetamezion.org).**

**We are thanking you in advance for your prayers and participation. Together we are launching an even brighter future. We still believe the best is yet to come. Come as you are, and you will find hope at the Cross!**

**Faithfully Yours,**

**Reverend Moses L. Harvill, Pastor**

**God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase in your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you ( 2 Corinthians 9:10 NLT).**

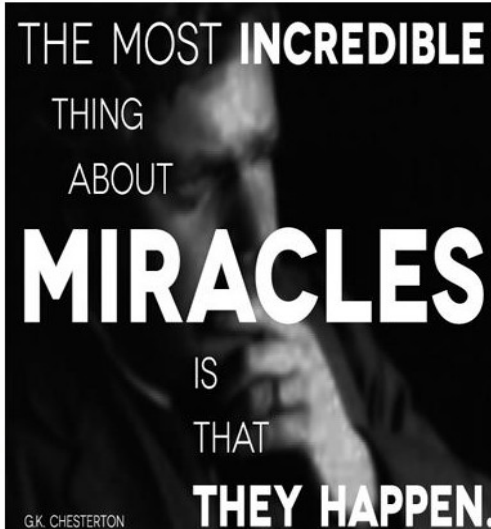
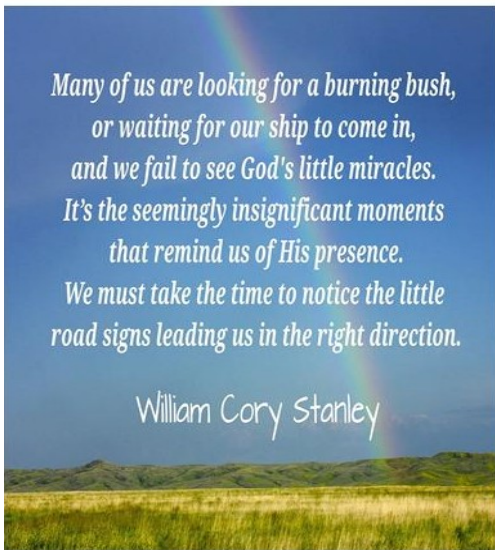
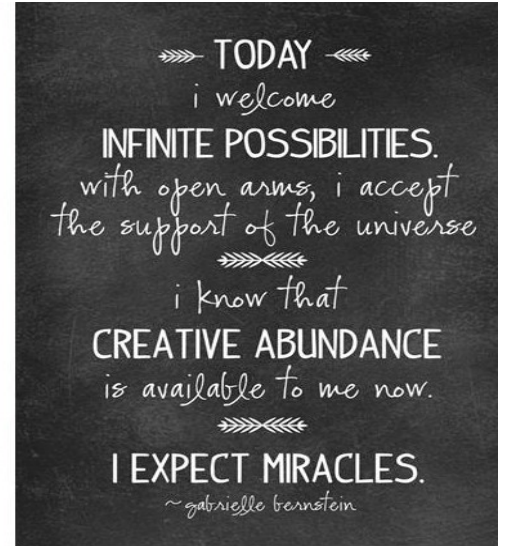
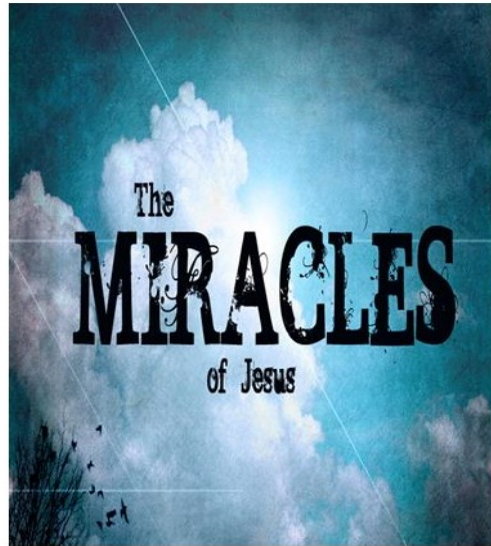
**Note: We are grateful for your faithful giving to the church of your choice, and we pray God's blessings over you.**

## **Let's Get Radical**

**This is my church. It is composed of people just like me. It will be friendly if I am. It will do great work if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am generous. It will bring others into its fellowship if I bring them. Its seats will be filled if I fill them. It will be a church of loyalty and love, of faith and service. If I who make it what it is, am filled with these, Therefore, with God's help, I dedicate myself to the task of being all these things I want my church to be.**

# 2020 Vision

## The Year of Expected "Miracles"



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

### FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOVE, *limited love*, **hatred**; JOY, *temporary JOY*, **sorrow**; PEACE, *numbness, carelessness*, **anxiety strife**;  
PATIENCE, *laziness, insensitivity*, **impatience**; KINDNESS, *manipulation by kindness*, **pride**;  
GOODNESS, *hypocrisy*, **evil**; F A I T H F U L N E S S, *h a l f -heartedness*, **infidelity**;  
MEEKNESS, *false modesty*, **self-seeking**; SELF-CONTROL, *choosing lesser goals*, **lack of control**  
(The Fruit of the Spirit, John W. Sanderson)

## Lord Hear Our Prayers

### Morning Prayer Reminder

Dear Lord, help us remember what a difference it makes when we make time with You a priority in our morning. By awaken us in body and Spirit each day with a desire to meet with You and to hear You speak Words of affirmation, assurance and wisdom over our heart as we prepare to go into our day. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

### A Prayer

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

### "Walk By the Word"

Lord, may nothing separate us from You today. Teach us how to choose only Your way today, so each step will lead us closer to You. Help us walk by the Word and not our feelings. Help us to keep our heart pure and undivided. Protect us from our own careless thoughts, words, and actions. And keep us from being distracted by our wants, our desires, our thoughts on how things should be. Help us to embrace what comes our way as an opportunity, rather than a personal inconvenience. And finally, help us to rest in the truth of Psalm 86:13, "Great is Your love toward Me." You already see the ways we will fall short and mess up. But right now, we consciously tuck Your whisper of absolute love for us into the deepest part of our heart. We recognize Your love for us is not based on our performance. You love us, warts and all. That's amazing. What's most amazing is that the Savior of the world would desire a few minutes with us this morning. So Lord, help us to forever remember what a gift it is to sit with You like this. Amen.

### Prayer for Tiresome Days

Father, clear our sleepy head and fill our mind with expectation. Awake us slow body and energize our heart with love in action. Ignite our spirit and set this day on fire with promise. Make the ordinary extraordinary. Engage us, show us Your kingdom alive. Help us to see that every waking moment is full of promise because of You, In Jesus name we ask and pray, Amen, Amen, Amen.

### A Prayer

Psalm 85:8–9 says, "I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants – but let them not turn to folly. Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land, Amen.

Lord our God, You are help, comfort, and life to us in everything we have to endure. We gather before You as poor, weak people, but You can make us rich and give us new life so that our lives prove we hold to Your will and to the justice You bring on earth. May we be one in spirit through all we experience in our hearts, to the glory of Your name. May the praise and thanks of many people ring out into all the world because You are help and deliverance from all evil, In Jesus name we ask and pray, Amen, Amen.

### Prayer for Today

Psalm 37:3-4, says, "Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart, Amen.

Dear Father in heaven, we love and honor Your ways even when they are bitter ways. We long for courage and strength. Lord, help us to believe. Grant faith to the millions surrounded by life situation, having faith that overcomes everything through utmost self-denial. Let Your light shine out to bring life to the nations in the midst of all that is happening. Your light shall lead and guide us, and peace will come, a deeper peace than we have ever known. Today remember each of us in all our concerns, and grant that the struggles of life may lead us to peace. If hard and bitter ways should be our lot, help us to remain steadfast, never complaining about our burdens even in the most difficult days, for through grief and trouble the way leads to You. Amen.

Prayers by Barbara Perry

# THE ARMOR OF GOD

**EPHESIANS 6:10-18**  
 "... Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." v. 10, 11

**The Shield of Faith** (Eph. 6:16)  
 Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.

**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, <sup>[a]</sup> against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak

## Read the BIBLE in ONE Year

### 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

### DECEMBER

1 Galatians 1-3  
2 Galatians 4-6  
3 Ephesians 1-3  
4 Ephesians 4-6  
5 Philippians 1-4  
6 Colossians 1-4  
7 1 Thessalonians 1-5

8 2 Thessalonians 1-3  
9 1 Timothy 1-3  
10 1 Timothy 4-6  
11 2 Timothy 1-4  
12 Titus 1-3  
13 Philemon  
14 Hebrews 1-4  
15 Hebrews 5-7

16 Hebrews 8-10  
17 Hebrews 11-13  
18 James 1-2  
19 James 3-5  
20 1 Peter 1-2  
21 1 Peter 3-5  
22 2 Peter 1-3  
23 1 John 1-2

24 1 John 3-5  
25 2 John, 3 John, Jude  
26 Revelation 1-3  
27 Revelation 4-8  
28 Revelation 9-12  
29 Revelation 13-15  
30 Revelation 16-18  
31 Revelation 19-22

### JANUARY

01) Genesis 1-2  
02) Genesis 3-5  
03) Genesis 6-9  
04) Genesis 10-11  
05) Genesis 12-15  
06) Genesis 16-19  
07) Genesis 20-22

08) Genesis 23-26  
09) Genesis 27-29  
10) Genesis 30-32  
11) Genesis 33-36  
12) Genesis 37-39  
13) Genesis 40-42  
14) Genesis 43-46  
15) Genesis 47-50

16) Exodus 1-4  
17) Exodus 5-7  
18) Exodus 8-10  
19) Exodus 11-13  
20) Exodus 14-17  
21) Exodus 18-20  
22) Exodus 21-24  
23) Exodus 25-27

24) Exodus 28-31  
25) Exodus 32-34  
26) Exodus 35-37  
27) Exodus 38-40  
28) Leviticus 1-4  
29) Leviticus 5-7  
30) Leviticus 8-10  
31) Leviticus 11-13

### Kingdomtide

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

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

### Advent

**Advent** is the season of expectation, hope and celebration of the past, present, and future comings of Jesus Christ to the world. Much of the focus is on the prophecy of the coming of the Messiah to Israel and the expectancy of that fulfillment. The Advent cry is “Come,” even though Emmanuel has come. Jesus has come, presently comes into the hearts of believers through grace, and is yet to return. This season is a time of anticipation as the Church makes ready for the coming of the Lord and the celebration of Jesus coming as a babe in Bethlehem. Therefore, Advent embodies a vital element of the Christian faith. The Advent season has marked the beginning of the Christian Year since the eight-century and consists of the four weeks before Christmas.

**Color:** 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.

Name of God	Meaning	Application
<b>JEHOVAH - ROHI</b>	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.
<b>JEHOVAH – SABAOTH</b>	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.
<b>JEHOVAH – SHALOM</b>	The Lord is Peace	God defeats our enemies to bring us peace. Jesus is our Prince of Peace. God brings inner peace and harmony.
<b>JEHOVAH – SHAMMAH</b>	The Lord is There The Lord My Companion	God’s presence is not limited or contained in the Tabernacle or Temple, but is accessible to all who love and obey Him.



## Sunday School is a Family Affair

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

### Come Grow with US!

#### Believing Promises

Devotional Reading: Psalm 99

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:1-15

#### EXALT!

**<sup>1</sup> Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith as precious as ours through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:**

**<sup>2</sup> May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.**

**<sup>3</sup> His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup> Thus he has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants of the divine nature. <sup>5</sup> For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, <sup>7</sup> and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love. <sup>8</sup> For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For anyone who lacks these things is short-sighted and blind, and is forgetful of the cleansing of the past sins. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, be all the more eager to confirm your call and election, for if you do this, you will never stumble. <sup>11</sup> For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you.**

**<sup>12</sup> Therefore I intend to keep on reminding you of these things, though you know them already and are established in the truth that has come to you.**

**<sup>13</sup> I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to**

***refresh your memory, <sup>14</sup> since I know that my death will come soon, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. <sup>15</sup> And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.***

**Affirmation:** “For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you...was not ‘Yes and No’ but in him it is always ‘Yes.’ For in him everyone of God’s promises is a ‘Yes.’” (2 Corinthians 1:19-20)

#### ENGAGE

Faith depends and relies on God’s promises to us. These promises are at the root and foundation of our lives and sustain us daily. We live in the confidence that God will perform and do what God has promised. God will never fail us!

Of course, some promises mean more than others. The value we place on a promise made often depends on the one who is making the promise. We consider if the person making the promise is dependable, has a good track record of keeping promises and is trustworthy. When people prove to be untrustworthy or unreliable, we generally want to diminish our interactions with them. We would prefer to have an honest “no” to a dishonest “yes.”

There are many reasons for us to be cynical and skeptical as we look out on the landscape of our world. Still, by trusting God and believing God’s Word, we have learned how we can keep our balance through life by depending and trusting God’s promises, which never fail.

#### EDUCATE

Biblical scholars do not agree on the authorship of 2 Peter. It is considered to be unlikely to have been written by the Apostle Peter because the letter reflects evidence of events past the lifetime of Simon Peter. Therefore, it is the position of some scholars that 2Peter was written by an early Christian teacher giving instruction to the church and writing in Peter’s name.

This possibility of questionable authorship does not  
*(Promises on page 9)*

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



*(Promises from page 8)*

diminish the value of this epistle, however. The epistle espouses the theological concepts of traditional Christian faith. 2 Peter opens with an authoritative apostolic voice addressing what may be a new generation of believers who share the same faith as past generations. The writer lists virtues in verses 5-7 that have much in common with lists from other writings of that era, such as Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 4:2-3, 32; Philippians 4:8.

The writer is not speaking of faith in this context as personal belief or trust, but to the content of faith, itself. This generation of believers is urged to continue in the traditions handed down to them. The passage here echoes the sentiment of the song about that "old time religion," which claimed, "it was good for my dear mother, it's good enough for me."

In 2 Peter 1:5-9, the writer admonishes the new generation of believers by listing several necessary elements of character that followers of Christ should display daily. The writer urges these Christians to earnestly and diligently develop these characteristics, adding one to the other. These behaviors may be deemed "ethical" and right for anyone to do, but we note how the author adds the flavor of Christian character to this list. "For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love. For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For anyone who lacks these things is nearsighted and blind, and is forgetful of the cleansing of past sins."

As we follow Jesus' example, with the assistance and guidance of the Holy Spirit, this pleases God. We learn and see as we follow Jesus' example that Peter describes both our faith and the promises of God as "precious." this is not without good reason. God's promises can always be relied upon, and will never fail.

Because of our trust in God' promises that we are certain never waver - as the epistle of James remind us, "Every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" (James 1:17), we are sure God will keep the promises made now and in the future. Anyone who chooses not to live this way - and this reprimand includes both false teachers and those who follow them - have both forgotten their past and denied the future.

## ELEVATE

In the book **Tuesday with Morrie: An Old Man, a Young man, and Life's Greatest Lesson**, Mitch Albom pens a memoir about the wisdom he gleaned from Morrie Schwartz, his former sociology professor who is dying of ALS (also known as "Lou Gehrig's Disease"). The memoir is a collection of the life lessons Albom gleaned by visiting with Schwartz every Tuesday to discuss the meaning of life. One of the gems of wisdom that Schwartz share with Albom is how "the culture we have does not make people feel good about themselves. We're teaching the wrong things. 11

Do you agree with Schwartz? As we examine the values our culture celebrates, are we "teaching the wrong things?"

As we are instructed in the ways of God, we can see that we do not have to be co-opted into behaving as the culture around us does or wants us to do. It will take courage and discipline to "stick to your faith" and "believe God's promises," but God's grace will see you through!

## I THINK:

- Consider the excuses people give for not living a godly lifestyle. Contrast those excuses with verse 3 of the text. Discuss how we respond to God's call and actualize God's power for godliness.
- Do you believe that temptation or distractions to godly living are worse or more challenging in this day and age than in times past? Why or why not?

## VERSE OF THE WEEK:

**"Thus he has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants of the divine nature," 2 Peter 1:4.**

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

*(Beliefs from page 1)*

### **Jesus Christ is the Son of God**

- A. He was born of a Virgin
- B. He lived a sinless life
- C. His death on the cross was a sacrifice for our sins
- D. He did rise again from the dead
- E. He did ascend into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God interceding for us.
- F. He is coming again

### **The Holy Ghost**

- A. The Holy Spirit (Ghost) is divine
- B. The third person of the Trinity
- C. Sent to us by Jesus Christ from the Father (God)
- D. What He does:
  - 1. Testifies of Christ and God
  - 2. Gives the love of God
  - 3. Teaches saints
  - 4. Strives with sinners
  - 5. He comforts
  - 6. He sanctifies
  - 7. He dwells with Saints
  - 8. Much, much more

### **Salvation**

- A. Salvation is by faith in Christ alone, without works and only by grace.
- B. The power of Christ's blood cleans from sin "all who come to God by Him"
- C. The need of works after salvation is to express gratitude and to prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2)
- D. There is a resurrection of the body; the eternal glorified state of believers in Heaven, and the eternal punishment in Hell of all who reject Christ.
- E. There is one true Church, the Body of Christ, consisting of all believers, regardless of color, race, or standing, and the need of attending and supporting a local Church. (Hebrews 10:35)
- F. There is a need for daily growth in grace through Bible study, prayer, and witnessing.

### **Why is Salvation necessary?**

- A. Because all are sinners. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

- B. All are condemned. "He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.." (John 3:18)
- C. Sin brings death. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)
- D. It is the only way to enter into the kingdom of God. "Except a man be born of the water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:5)  
"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." (John 3:3)

### **The way to Salvation**

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner
  - 1. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way (Isaiah 53:6)
- B. Believe in Jesus Christ
  - 1. "And they said, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."
- C. Confess Christ
  - 1. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thy heart that God had raised Him from the dead thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:9,10)
- D. Receive Christ
  - 1. "But as many has received Him, to them gave Him power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe in His name." (John 1:12)

### **What happens when you are saved?**

- A. Your sins are forgiven.
  - 1. "To Him give all the prophets witness, that through name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission (forgiveness) of sins.
- B. You are a new creation.
  - 1. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold,

- all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- C. You are given peace.
  - 1. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have preached with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1)
- D. You will spend eternity with God in Heaven.
  - 1. "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that were I am, there ye may also be." (John 14:1-3)
- E. You become a part of God's family.
  - 1. "Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, than an heir of God through Christ." (Galatians 4:7)
- F. You are blessed with all Spiritual blessing
  - 1. "...who hath blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly peace in Christ." (Ephesians 1:3)
- G. Or the Bible.
  - 1. The entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, we believe is the inspired Word of God.
  - 2. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2 Timothy 3:16,17)

## **Basic Beliefs of Christianity**

1. There is only 1 God
2. God is all-knowing
3. Jesus is the son of God
4. There is final judgment
5. The Bible contains the teachings/stories of God

*(Promises from page 1)*

God called Abraham and told him to leave his country, family, and his Father's house and to take a faith journey. God called him to leave the comfort zone and take the less traveled road.

Believe in God's promises. Believe in God's limitless possibilities. There is something about the promises and possibilities of God. With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.

The Lord says to the church as we rekindle the passion for the building of our new worship center to trust His promises. We can depend on the word of the Lord. The Lord says, in due season we will reap the harvest, if we do not lose heart. If we walk in obedience and trust in the Lord the vision shall become a reality. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Let us continue to walk by faith and not by sight. Our faith will take us from vision to victory. Let us move forward and fulfill the vision. We have the promises of God that he will lead and guide us to a place of prosperity and praise.

Let us rekindle the passion for the vision with a refocus on the 4 C's:

1. Confidence in the God who promised to give us an inheritance. Hebrews 11:6; Matt. 17:20; Romans 1:16-17; Matthew 9.2; II Corinthians 5.7; Colossians 2:6-7; Joshua 1:5

"I will not fail you, nor forsake thee"

2. Commitment to the God who promised to give us an inheritance. 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; Psalm 37.5; Proverbs 16:4; 1 Corinthians 1:9

3. Concentration on the God who promised to give us an inheritance. Hebrews 12:1-9; John 10:10

Believing in the promises of God

Hebrews 11:8 – 10 By Faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

God called Abraham and told him to leave his country, family, and his Father's house and to take a faith journey. God called him to leave the comfort zone and take the less traveled road.

Believe in God's promises. Believe in God's limitless possibilities. There is something about the promises and possibilities of God. With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.

The Lord says to the church as we rekindle the passion for the building of our new worship center to trust His promises. We can depend on the word of the Lord. The Lord says, in due season we will reap the harvest, if we do not lose heart. If we walk in obedience and trust in the Lord the vision shall become a reality. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall

speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Let us continue to walk by faith and not by sight. Our faith will take us from vision to victory. Let us move forward and fulfill the vision. We have the promises of God that he will lead and guide us to a place of prosperity and praise.

Let us rekindle the passion for the vision with a refocus on the 4 C's:

4. Confidence in the God who promised to give us an inheritance. Hebrews 11:6; Matthew 17:20; Romans 1:16-17; Matthew 9.2; II Corinthians 5.7; Colossians 2:6-7; Joshua 1:5

"I will not fail you, nor forsake thee"

5. Commitment to the God who promised to give us an inheritance. 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; Psalm 37.5; Proverbs 16:4; 1 Corinthians 1:9

6. Concentration on the God who promised to give us an inheritance. Hebrews 12:1-9; John 10:10

7. Communicate with the God who promised to give us an inheritance.

Let us believe in God and expect miraculous blessings. The blessings of a new worship center church for the honor and glory of God.

8. Communicate with the God who promised to give us an inheritance.

Let us believe in God and expect miraculous blessings. The blessings of a new worship center church for the honor and glory of God.

---

### Salt Of The Earth

Read: Matthew 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, ...it is then good for nothing. Matthew 5:13

What did Jesus mean when He told His followers that they were "the salt of the earth"? (Mt. 5:13). In the ancient

world, salt had many uses. For one, it preserved food. Without salts, meat and fish would quickly spoil. In a similar way, Christians who uphold God's moral standards can slow the decay of society.

Salt was also used as fertilizer. Until the mid 1900's, English farmers added salt to their fields to increase the yield.

Salt helped crops to grow. Christians too can encourage the growth of what is good wherever they live.

Salt also brings out the flavor of food. By their witness, salty believers help the people around them to taste life fully as God intended.

*(Misfortune from page 1)*

we feel we've been visited by the divine kind of a miracle. Honestly, it is a stretch to just call any extraordinary event a 'miracle'.

In his book on miracles, Tony Coscia of Colchester, the author of *Tony's 50,000 Co-Incidence Miracles*, thinks just like me. We both agree that if you pay attention to the events of your daily life, you can acquire the trained eyes and perceptive intuition that would allow you to distinguish several events that can be safely and honestly considered miraculous – almost to the divine level – as against those of the ordinary, analogous ones. Culturally, we frequently call certain events co-incidences, but when you repeatedly step into co-incidences, it's about time to pay more attention.

This is where I come in. With this essay, I am going to blow your mind with this spectacular series of events. You have to be the judge. In a series of events that span over three years, you will have to follow the sequences, grab the bigger picture and then finally come to some conclusion before you can make up your decision. So stay with me on this.

I've been driving my current car for the past thirteen years. It is my fervent desire to try and hit the two hundred thousand mileage before I start thinking about replacing it. About three years ago, right after I returned from a year stay in Albuquerque, New Mexico, I rented several music CDs from the local library and played them repeatedly in my car. They kept me company and entertained me on my various rides around and about the area. Even as far as driving to Toronto, Canada while peacefully listening to those CDs on my car's stereo system. When it came time to return those CD to the library, after exhausting the renewal limits, I discovered that I could not eject them from the machine. They were stuck.

I explained my predicament to the librarians and pleaded with them for

more time to allow me to find any ways to get those CDs out. In all, I had two CDs from the library and four others of my own. Two of which were my most treasured copies of Pete Seeger songs, that he personally gave to me. Of course, I had exhausted the various suggestions on YouTube on how to get you non-working CD player to spit out the CDs from within. During this period you can bet that I had also been to the original car dealers and enquired from them as to how on earth I could get my CDs out. Each technician gave the same refrain – to replace the 'broken' system with a newer one. Minimum \$1,200 and all would be 'kosher', so they implied.

I actually visited two local joints that dealt exclusively with high-end, after-market car stereo and navigation systems. The verdict was always the same. Sure it could be done, with a newer replacement system, but no guarantees as to the functioning of the existing navigation system. My best bet was to replace the entire stereo system for no less than \$800, which I couldn't justify for myself. In the end, I had to bite the bullet. Go to the library and ask for mercy. Their lenient decision was to forgive me the overdue fees, but to make me pay for the cost of the two CDs at \$20 each. I was given the empty cases with the receipt of payment and therefore ownership. The worse part of the ordeal was the feeling of having 'taken' a public property and being forced to pay for my misdeeds. Did they believe me? I thought maybe they didn't. That was utterly humiliating, to say the least.

At this point if you have stayed with me from the beginning, everything you have read so far constitute the bigger picture. You need to know those preambles leading to the big event. As a result of the lack of CD playing capability, I had started in my mind to start the exercise of looking to replace this car. After all, I've owned it for over ten years and what better time to get a newer car than now, when the CD player does not work. But I call it an exercise because it takes me close to

a year and hundreds of test drives before I officially commit to a buy any car. Not just any car, but one that really has all the bells and whistles as well as the comfort and the reliability that has to be endorsed by non less than the 'consumer report' magazine. I have a history of signing on the dotted line and still refusing to take delivery. Not to mention the one several years ago, that I returned over the weekend, back to dealers, to get my money back. So, as I tell all car sales people; 'you really have to leave me to make the final decision. Any form of coercion will certainly backfire. My conscience will lead me back to the lot only to return what I consider non-personal decision'.

Two weeks ago, I discovered that my high beams were not working as usual. The internet is awash with all the various ways to replace them. So, I took on the challenge. I went to the auto parts store and bought the high-end Sylvania replacement bulbs for my car. One sunny afternoon, I decided to just do it. I had seen it done so many times in several YouTube videos, that I felt, I could do this in my sleep. I followed the basics and finally got to the first bulb on the left side of the car. After a few tested moments, when I couldn't just pry off the bulb, I finally got it. Eureka moment! I successfully replaced the dead bulb with the new one and put it back into the socket where it belonged in the lamp assembly. One down, one to go.

Now, was the testing time. I had to repeat this feat on the right side of the car. But that is where the auxiliary battery sits. And none of the so-called experts on YouTube ever mentioned the fact that the battery may have to come down first, in order to be able to maneuver my wrists properly to grab the bulb from the assembly. But as luck will have it; really, in my personal realm of things, it is the other way round. The better perspective has nothing to do with luck. It is part of my firm belief that 'every misfortune is a potential blessing'. I have lived with this adage all my life, and it had never failed me

*(Misfortune on page 13)*

*(Misfortune from page 12)*

yet. The battery I was looking at was installed by yours truly a couple of months back when the previous one gave up the ghost too soon within the given warrantee. I had called the number on the battery and had been instructed to go to the nearest Napa auto store for replacement. I did but since I could not drive the car over to the store, the salesman at the time did me a favor and asked one of his associates to bring me home with the replacement battery, and left on my own to do the installation. The misfortune at that time, ended up being my blessing of expertise on how to handle the auxiliary battery of a hybrid car.

Now fast forward all these months to now, when I was facing the battery which stood so prominently in my way of getting to the right side head beam bulb. I

subsequently remembered how I put it in, and therefore reversed the routine and took off the battery. It still took me a couple of minutes to finally get the bulb to come out and be replaced. Success was mine. In all I had the battery off for up to 25 minutes, plus the effort of cleaning, dusting and wiping it off before putting it back meant it must have been out for a total of 45 minutes, at least. But now, I had the two bulbs in place. I had the battery back where it belonged and I had the luxury of wiping the rest of the engine and replacing all the plugs and clips that held the covers in place. I had this nagging feeling that I had gradually gained a few inches to my height. To say I was overjoyed and elated is an understatement. I was on cloud nine! But now was time to test my accomplishment. I got back in the car, turned the key in the ignition for the 'ready' symbol. Hybrid engines

do not turn as other engines do. You just get a symbol of 'ready' that indicates that all is set to drive off. But that moment, all I could hear was the rumbling sound of the CDs jostling to come out, or so it seems. I was startled at first. But then I came to my senses and realized to my astonishment that the CD player was resetting or refreshing or reshuffling or all of the above. As I told my brother later, as I quickly figured out what was happening, I actually danced in the seat of my car and had a moment of pure, divine joy that transcended many of my prior pleasant surprises. I managed to eject all CDs and then to load and play some tracks of some of them. The CD player never sounded better than that moment.

A moment of a true miracle! That is what I say. What do you think?  
By Kwame Ocansey

*(Food from page 1)*

seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you."

**A Daily Blessing**

Take Care -- The Lord will strengthen you, each step along the way.  
Take Time -- And let God's spirit guide you gently day by day.  
Take Courage -- For the Lord has the power to help you heal and grow.  
Take Heart -- Because the love of God will never let you go.

**God Bless You Always.**

Let Us Realize That the privilege to work

Is a Blessing,  
That the love of work  
Is Success!!

Begin your day with  
Love in your heart,  
Expect blessings,  
Share Goodness,  
Shine like the sun, and  
Inspire someone.  
Never forget that  
God is with you all the time, so  
Sow seeds of kindness in the heart of others.

May God's  
**BLESSINGS**  
Be With You Always.

Life is a miracle,  
And every breath  
We take, is a Gift.

Maybe this day is not  
One of your favorites, but  
Never Forget that Every  
Day you wake up, is an  
Amazing gift, and its's up  
To you, to make it COUNT.

**12 Things To Always Remember**

1. The past can't be changed.
2. Opinions don't define your reality.
3. Everyone's journey is different.
4. Judgements are not about you.
5. Overthinking will lead to sadness.
6. Happiness is found within.
7. Your thoughts affect your mood.
8. Smiles are contagious.
9. Kindness is free.
10. It's okay to let go and move on.
11. What goes around, comes around.
12. Things always get better with time.

**Sustained and Led by the Spirit**

*Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.*

Roman 8:26-30

## Words To Live By

### Gifts from Above

**The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they call him Immanuel. Matthew 1:23**

**A**ccording to an old story, a man named Nicholas (born in AD 270) heard about a father who was so poor that he couldn't feed his three daughters, much less provide for their future marriages. Wanting to assist the father, but hoping to keep his help a secret, Nicholas threw a bag of gold through an open window, which landed in a sock or shoe drying on the hearth. That man was known as St. Nicholas, who later became the inspiration for Santa Claus.

When I heard that story of a gift coming down from above, I thought of God the Father, who out of love and compassion sent to earth the greatest gift, His Son, through a miraculous birth. According to Matthew's gospel, Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy that a virgin would conceive and give birth to a son whom they would call Immanuel, Immanuel, meaning "God with us" (1:23).

As lovely as Nicholas's gift was, how much more amazing is the gift of Jesus. He left heaven to become a man, died and rose again, and is God living with us. He brings us comfort when we're hurting and sad; He encourages us when we feel downhearted; He reveals the truth to us when we might be deceived.  
Amy Boucher Pye

How can you give the gift of Jesus today? How does His presence lead you to share your resources of time, wisdom, and Love with others?

**Jesus, thank You for the way You left Your Father to be born in humble circumstances. May I never take for granted Your presence in my life.**

To learn more about the birth of Jesus, visit [bit.ly/2R7FD4f](http://bit.ly/2R7FD4f).

### Today's Bible Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> *This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.* <sup>19</sup> *Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

<sup>20</sup> *But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."* <sup>21</sup> *She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

<sup>22</sup> *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:* <sup>23</sup> *"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").*

<sup>24</sup> *When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.* <sup>25</sup> *But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

### Insight

Today's text introduces us to Joseph, a carpenter in Nazareth and step-father of Jesus. Joseph is only mentioned briefly in Scripture but he's never the speaker; however, his life speaks volumes of his devotion to God. He's concerned for the law and desires to act in obedience (Matthew 1:19), yet he pairs that concern with genuine compassion for Mary. His focus on obedience is likewise balanced by trust that the message he's received from the angel is from God-giving him strength to obey (VV. 22-25).

For more on Joseph, see Mary and Joseph: Reflecting on the Wonder of Christmas at [discoveryseries.org/hp074](http://discoveryseries.org/hp074). Bill Crowder

Ministries, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
Reprinted by Permission

***“Daily Confession of Faith”***

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

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

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

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

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

***My enemies are fleeing before me.***

***God has commanded His blessing on my storehouses.***

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

***I am the head and not the tail.***

***He has given me power to make wealth.***

***I dwell in the secret place.***

***I have His protection and provision.***

***God is my refuge, my fortress.***

***I am not afraid of the snare of the fowler.***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***I am without spot or blemish, an intercessor,***

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

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

***This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD,***

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

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

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

***Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!***

# Spirit Lifters

By Norman Vincent Peale

## Realize the Power Within You

Realize the power that is within you, and you will no longer be the victim of a depressed spirit.

And what is this inner power? Simply the God-given ability to believe. To the extent to which you develop this faculty, you will master the defeats in your life. The great issue is to learn to believe.

This is stated in one of the most important of all Scripture passages:

***Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Mark 9:23***

Learn to believe. Learn to cast out doubt. This is done by the practice of affirmation. Affirm faith, think positively, visualize achievement. Never think doubt. Always think faith.

This text affirms that when you learn to believe, the area of the impossible is vastly reduced and the area of the possible is greatly increased.

If you set this text firmly at the center of your thought patterns, you will never again be a victim of low spirits.

## 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 the world; Hope, the attitude of expectancy—the best is yet to be; and Love, one of the greatest qualities of all—a heart full of compassion and understanding. Christian love gives deep joy. Let these three shine like stars in your life, and your spirit will be uplifted always.

## What Christ Can Do for You

We read in the Bible of the marvelous things Jesus did for people—and wish that the same experience might be ours. Through faith in Jesus Christ, they were able to accomplish the most astonishing achievements, or were rescued from sad plights or gained tremendous new power over difficulties.

Rather sadly we ask, "Why can't that happen to me?"

It can, and as proof I urge you to meditate upon this tremendous Spirit Lifter:

***Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8***

The simple truth stated here is that Jesus Christ never changes. He is an invariable factor in a variable world. He is just the same now as when He walked the shores of Galilee. He has the same kindness, the same power to heal and change men's lives. He is the same restorer of courage, the same transformer of people's souls.

Any things that He ever did for anyone throughout all history, He can do for you. It all depends upon how completely you surrender yourself Him—and how sincerely you believe.

## 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 that follows has probably brought more healing to the human soul and given more lift to the spirit in sorrow than any other passage in all the literature of the world.

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

What a glorious message! Jesus Christ is alive, and those who believe in Him live, also. So our loved one whom we 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.



### Barbara Perry Speaks

#### "Be A Bounce-Back Person"

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 1 Peter 1:6-7

Let us pray, "Father in heaven, thank You for Your grace, mercy, and

favor. We ask for rain in the time of rain, we ask for increase in Your favor and blessing so we can be a blessing to those around us today and always. In Jesus' Name. Amen."

Life is full of things that try to push us down. We all face disappointments and setbacks. When we face setbacks, it's easy to get discouraged or lose our enthusiasm. Too often we are tempted to just settle where we are. But if we're going to see God's best, we have to

have a bounce-back mentality.

See today is a new day. Things are changing in your favor. You need to get ready because there's a bounce-back coming. You're going to bounce back from sickness, bounce back from depression, bounce back from bad breaks, bounce back from loss. Keep standing, keep believing, and choose to be a bounce-back person because you are coming out better off than you were before, Amen!

#### "A Lifetime of Favor"

Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name. For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. Psalms 30:4-5

Let us pray, "Father, thank You for Your goodness and faithfulness in our life. We choose to honor You in all we do. We choose to acknowledge Your ways. We also

thank You for pouring out Your favor and blessing on us as we boldly follow Your commands in Jesus' name we pray and ask, Amen, Amen, Amen."

Today I encourage you to remember when we put Him first place in our life, follow His commands, He promises to pour out His favor on us even when those thoughts of our try to tell us different. When our thoughts tell us, "It's not going to happen or It's too good to be true." that when we turn it around and say, "Father, I

want to thank You for Your favor on my life, on my children, on my career, on my future. I am Your child, and I know it's not temporary because our favor isn't seasonal, It doesn't come and go because of Your promise. So we thank You, God, for a lifetime of favor!" Amen. So today, let this truth sink down into your spirit: God's favor is not for a season; it's for a lifetime and if we honor His Word, obey His commands and walk in mercy and truth, that's how we find favor in God's sight by doing our part, God will do His part, Amen.

#### "Be Joyful in Hope"

Romans 12:12,15 says, "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer... Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn, Amen.

Lord our God, We thank You for Your gospel, the great, good tidings we may carry in our hearts to give us

joy in this present time, even though on all sides people are in anguish and agony. We thank You that Your gospel fills our hearts with compassion, enabling us to help carry what many have to suffer.

Today we ask You show us our need of You so that we can receive Your help. If we must be the first to suffer all kinds of pain and distress,

may we do so joyfully because we have been promised blessing in the midst of all the pain. May we continually honor Your name, Praising You for the good news of Your kingdom, for the promise that everything must work together for good through Jesus Christ the Savior. Amen.

#### "The Same Spirit"

Romans 8:11 says, "And if the Spirit of Him Who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, [then] He Who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also restore to life your mortal (short-lived, perishable) bodies through His Spirit Who dwells in you..." Amen.

Let us pray, "Father, thank You for loving us perfectly. Today we want to know You more, and we want

to know Your love. We receive it by faith today and ask that You show us Your ways and fill us with Your peace as we keep our heart and mind stayed on You in Jesus' name. Amen."

When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit makes His home inside us. That's the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead.

See the resurrection power can

bring back health, strength and life to our physical body, and it can bring back life to our hopes and dreams. In fact, it can bring life to any area that may seem dormant on the inside of us, Amen!

So the next time you feel overwhelmed by sickness, challenges or burdened by an addiction, fear, worry or sickness, or despair, remember, the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, Amen!

## THE BEAUTY OF HOLLAND

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOURCE UNKNOWN

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

### Know God's Character

***Oh taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!*** Psalms 34:8 KJV

It's important that we know God's character. Why? It gives us discernment. If we don't know the character of God, how can we ever know who is from God and who is not from God? Here are three character traits of God that help me stay in tune with who He is and what He is doing:

1. Justice: God is a God of justice. That word justice is so awesome because it means that He will always make anything that's wrong right. This helps me to not worry when I am

mistreated because I know God will bring justice. It's who He is.

2. Goodness: God is good, this fact never changes. And He's good all the time, not just once in a while or when things go your way. Psalm 34:8 says, "Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him" (NIV). When things are bad, I find great encouragement in God's goodness.

3. Holiness: God is holy and righteous, and He desires to make us holy, pure and clean, free from the defilements of sin. To be honest, it has helped me in my walk with God to realize that whatever He does is right, whether I like it or not. This helps me stay in sync with Him.

These three traits are not the only characteristic of God, but they are some of the most significant and powerful ones to me. I encourage you to spend some time looking up these traits, and other traits of God that are important to you. When you study who He is, the Holy Spirit will help you incorporate His traits into your own personality. Begin to practice them in your daily life, and see what God does... You won't be disappointed.

**Prayer Starter:** God, You are wonderful. Your justice, goodness, holiness, and countless others traits amaze me and remind me of how great You are. Continue to remind me of Your character so I can become more like You.

### How to Experience His Presence in Your Everyday Life

***"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love Me, he will keep My words; and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him.."***  
John 14:23 KJV

Life is busy and filled with distractions. It's so easy to get caught up in our cares, errands and worries that we lose sight of what matters most.

There's an interesting little story at the end of Luke chapter two about when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem for Passover when He was twelve years old. After the festival was over, they left to go

home, supposing He was with them.

I wonder how many times we suppose God's with us when we've wander off to do our own thing?

Now here's the interesting part. Mary and Joseph had traveled a day's journey before they realized Jesus wasn't with them and then it took three days to find Him. Three days! The message here is that it's easier to lose that special presence of God than it is to get it back once we've lost it.

We need to be careful to remain in the presence of God. When we do, we make God feel at home in our hearts.

This simply starts with being obedient to

His Word. A commitment to turn from behavior that offends God is the number one sign of spiritual maturity. It shows you care about what He thinks.

That means you choose to be generous toward others, you learn to forgive, let go of your offenses and live in peace. When we choose to be intentional with our words, giving thanks to god and lifting up others, we'll feel connected to God all throughout the day.

**Prayer Starter:** Father, thank You for making Your home in my heart. I need Your presence today, Lord. Help me to honor You with my thoughts and my words and to be a blessing to those around me.

### 7 Ways to Practice Peace

***And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7***  
KJV

Living in God's peace is vital to enjoying life. I believe that one of the keys to living with peace in your life is taking small steps toward peace every day. Here are a few tips you can use to develop a more peaceful lifestyle.

1. Be selective with how you spend your time. You may be trying to do too many things and end up doing none of them well. Hurrying is the flesh trying to do more than the Holy Spirit is leading you to do. Be led by the Spirit.

2. Be prepared to say "no" nicely. Sometimes

we take on things we shouldn't because we're uncomfortable saying no. Ask God to give you the words to say no when you need to.

3. Resist the spirit the of procrastination. God's Word tells us to exercise self-discipline. Do what you know you need to do now so you can fully enjoy your times of rest.

4. Eliminate key distractions. If you know you are prone to certain distractions, such as watching TV, set some guidelines for yourself.

5. Set appropriate boundaries for interruptions. Life is full of interruptions, but you can learn to set boundaries that help you manage them in healthy ways, such as scheduling times when you are "off limits." Schedule time to give yourself a break.

6. Modify your life. Ask God to show you out-of-the-box ways to save time and trouble. For instance, when I don't have time to do the dishes, I use paper plate!

7. Pray and listen. If you can see that your plan is not producing peace, go back to God, pray for peace in the now, and for the wisdom to make changes that will benefit your life.

The bottom line is to make peace a priority, take practical steps towards it, and let God lead you every day into His perfect peace that passes all understanding.

**Prayer Starter:** God, lead me into Your peace that passes all understanding. Show me the daily steps I can take to walk in Your peace for me.

# A Bird's Eye View Of The Bible

## Old Testament

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

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

### LAW

**Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.**

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

### HISTORY

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

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

### POETRY

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

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

### PROPHECY

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

The 17 prophetic books account for almost a quarter of the Bible. They are divided into "Major Prophets" (the first five books) and, "Minor Prophets" (the last 12). The "Minor" ones are shorter, not less important.

## New Testament

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

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

### HISTORY

**Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts**

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

### LETTERS

#### PAUL'S LETTERS

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

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

#### OTHER LETTERS

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

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

### PROPHECY

**Revelation**

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



**2019 FAMILY AND FRIENDS SUNDAY**  
**"Come As You Are!!!"**

**SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 17, 2019 @ 10:00 A.M.**

***Guest Preacher***  
Reverend  
Frances Campbell



**GENEROUS GIVING**  
Members requested to give \$100;  
Pastor requesting persons to join him in giving \$250.  
**2019 GOAL: \$20,000**

***Coordinators***  
THE YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

---

Dinner will follow this amazing worship experience!!



**Christmas Bazaar  
and Craft Fair**

**ENJOY A DAY FILLED WITH  
VENDORS, FOOD, AND FUN!**

**DATE: NOV. 23, 2019 | TIME: 9 A.M.-2 P.M.  
LOCATION: CROSS STREET AME ZION CHURCH,  
440 WEST STREET, MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457**

*Presented by Cross Street Women's Ministry*

**GROWING INTO GIVING**

*Freely you have received; freely give. Matthew 10:8*

**I** got you a present!" my two-year-old grandson shouted excitedly as he pressed a box into my hands. "He picked it out all by himself," my wife smiled.

I opened the box to find a Christmas ornament of his favorite cartoon character. "Can I see it?" he asked anxiously. Then he played with "my" present for the rest of the evening, and as I watched him, I smiled.

I smiled because I remembered gifts I had given loved ones in the past, like the music album I gave my older brother one Christmas when I was in high school that I really wanted to listen to (and did). And I realized how years later God was still stretching me and teaching me to give more unselfishly.

Giving is something we grow into. Paul wrote, "But since you excel in everything...see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7). Grace fills our giving as we understand that all we have is from God, and He has shown us "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

God generously gave us the most unselfish gift of all: His only Son, who would die on a cross for our sins and be raised to life. Any who receive this ultimate gift are rich beyond measure.

As our hearts are focused on Him, our hands open in love to others.  
James Banks

In what ways do you need to grow in giving?  
What could you do today?

Thank You, Father, for giving me the best gift of all: Your Son!  
Help me to share Your generosity with others today.

**Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9**  
**<sup>1</sup> Now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. <sup>2</sup> In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup> For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, <sup>4</sup> they urgently pleased with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. <sup>5</sup> And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. <sup>6</sup> So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. <sup>7</sup> But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.**

**<sup>8</sup> I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. <sup>9</sup> For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.**

**Insight**

Paul motivates the Corinthian church by citing the inspiring example of the Macedonians. He's also asking for generosity that will demonstrate unity between churches. Division between the Jewish and gentile believers in Jesus plagued the early church. By giving to the church in Jerusalem, gentile disciples of Christ in Corinth and Macedonia would be contributing to a Jewish congregation, sending an implicit message of love and acceptance. Paul further notes how the Macedonian believers faced severe trials, yet gave out of "overflowing joy" and "extreme poverty" (2 Corinthians 8:2-3). This joy is a natural response to "the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches" (V. 1). Our circumstances don't destroy our ability to give, and they can't steal the joy that flows out of the grace God gives us  
Tim Gustafson

Ministries, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
Reprinted by Permission



**Crises/Emergency: Cell phone 860-754-4606**

Cross Street Recovery Ministry the "Hope Line" is in operation 24 hours per day. Please call 860-754-4606 if you, a friend and/or a family member are in need of counseling and/or are in crisis,  
**PLEASE** dial the "Hope Line". All information will be confidential.

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

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

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

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

### **Sunday**

**8:45 a.m. Church School**

**10:00 a.m. Worship Service**

2nd Sunday Senior Usher Board

Meeting (following service)

Youth Meeting 1st & 4th Sunday's

(following service)

### **Monday**

6:00 p.m. Zumba

7:00-9:00 p.m. Bible Study, Eddy Shelter

7:00 Media Ministry (1st and 3rd of month)

### **Tuesday**

**Special Prayer for Pastor Harvill**

6:00—7:00 p.m. Prayer meeting and

bible study.

### **Wednesday**

6:00 p.m. Zumba

6:00 p.m. Ministerial Staff (1st of month)

### **Thursday**

6:00 p.m. Steward Board

7:00 p.m. Trustee Board (2nd of month)

### **Friday**

**Day of Fasting**

6:00 p.m. Vision Choir (3rd & 4th of month)

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Cross Street Recovery Ministry (room 2)

### **Saturday**

10:00 a.m. Pastors Aide (2nd)

11:00 a.m. Security Ministry Meeting (2nd Saturday of month)

12:00 noon Missionaries (2nd Saturday of month)

### **Choir Rehearsals**

Men - 7 p.m. Monday

Women - Tuesday & Friday before 5th Sunday

Children - 7 p.m. Friday before 1st Sunday

Unity - 7 p.m. Thursday

Praise & Worship Choir 7:00 pm

Wednesday

## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, November 12

@ 6:00 p.m.

### **Bible Study**

(It's hard to get in shape spiritually if you only workout on Sundays!)

@ 7:00 p.m.

### **Special Executive Meeting**

for all Ministers, Class Leaders, & Team Servants!

Wednesday, November 13

@ 6:00 p.m.

### **Young Adults Fellowship for Family & Friends Sunday Preparations**

Please see Sis. Melanie James for more information

@ 7:00 p.m.

### **Prayer Meeting**

on the Prayer Line and in the Sanctuary

Prayer Line number: (605) 313-4819

Please note change Code: 423861

Thursday, November 14 @ 12:00 p.m.

### **Senior Luncheon**

Please note date change

All Men & Women are welcome!!

Thursday, November 14 @ 7:00 p.m.

### **Steward Board & Trustee Board Meeting**

Saturday, November 16 @ 5:00 p.m.

### **Pastor Preaching for New Jerusalem Christian Center Church's 30th Church Anniversary**

At the Hartford Marriott Farmington

Located at: 15 Farm Springs Road, Farmington, CT 06032

If interested in attending please see

Sis. Denise Privott for more information

Wednesday – Friday, November 20-22,

### **REVIVAL**

sponsored by the Young Adults

Host Church:

Mount Olive A.M.E. Zion Church

82-100 Pearl Street

Waterbury, CT 06704

Rev. Kelsey Hopson, Pastor

Saturday, November 23,

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### **Christmas Bazaar**

Wednesday, November 27 @ 7:00 p.m.

### **Thanksgiving Eve Service**

Ministers, Officers, & Leaders on duty. All choirs singing and combined ushers serving

November 24 – December 29

### **Finishing Strong**

More information to follow

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



## 2020 VISON

### The Year of Expected “Miracles”

#### CROSS STREET A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Organized in 1823

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

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

crossstreetchurch@snet.net  
www.crossstreetamezion.org

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

**Rev. Moses L. Harvill, M. Div.,**  
Pastor

Email: mharvill@snet.net

**The Rev. Dr. Terry L. Jones**  
Presiding Elder

**Mrs. D. Diane Proctor**  
Missionary Supervisor

**The Right Reverend Dennis Proctor**  
Presiding Prelate

#### Ministerial Staff

Rev. Robyn Anderson-Turner  
Rev. William D. Wilson  
Rev. Ella Frances Perry  
Rev. Karen Nesmith  
Rev. James Battle  
Rev. Myrtle Turner  
Rev. Gregory Winborne  
Rev. Joyce Johnson  
Rev. Earlene Grants  
Sister Felicia Freeman



#### “I am a Christian”

By Maya Angelou

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

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



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

#### The Jabez Prayer

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

#### “God’s Word

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

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

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

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

#### Doxology

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