

Jewels for the Journey

194 full page sermon starters - daily devotions

Donald Cantrell

Jewels for the Journey

The Author

It has been my privilege to preach the Gospel since 1980. I have now been preaching for more than 29 years. I have never gotten over the day that God saved me at Old Fashion Baptist church in Chatsworth, Georgia. I had only been saved for about 7 months when I realized that God was calling me to be a preacher. I have gotten over many things since that day in May of 1980, but the call to preach still burns within my heart.

I had the wonderful opportunity to sit under one of God's most noble men, Walter Hare. In sitting under his preaching, I had the honor of learning the Art of Alliteration. I have tried to develop this skill in my preaching ministry. The key to Alliterated Outlines is maintaining biblical accuracy and not forcing a word that has no foundation in the message.

The main force that drives me in writing books and sharing my messages is the thought of being helpful. I want to help those ministers that may need a simple thought to prompt them in developing a mighty message. I find much pleasure in knowing that someone has found something useable in one of my books or outlines. This is an honor to me.

In these times many do not have enough money for Bible College, nor do they have the time to pull up roots and move away. I try to establish some simple principles to help the busy pastor and preacher. If my writings are not practical then I have failed in achieving my goal as an author. I want my writings to not only be practical, but I want them to be preachable. I do not aim for the top shelf in the cupboard, but I aim for the low shelf so that even the simplest may understand.

I have been allowed to pastor several churches during the last 30 years. I know the rigors and the pressure that the man of God faces in these difficult times. I want you to take these thoughts and use them in your pulpits. Hopefully the sincerity and the simplicity of them will allow you to minister to your people. I hope that these writings fan the flames of service within the hearts of every reader.

"Jewels for the Journey - Day 1"

Exd 3:21 And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty:

Exd 3:22 But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put [them] upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians.

The Lord was about to set his people free, they were to start a new journey, after four hundred years of Egyptian bondage freedom was on the horizon. The people may have been filled with fear concerning this new found freedom, you may ask why? The people were slaves, they had no possessions to speak of, how would they survive, what would they do? The Lord had a good answer for their fears and their concerns, he would speak to the Egyptians and they would do something strange at his bidding, he would stir their hearts up to help the people of Israel. As the multitude of Jews began to leave Egypt they went to tell their friends and their masters goodbye, at this point God gave them liberty to leave the houses with an over abundance of Jewels of gold, Jewels of silver, much raiment, this was unbelievable. The Jewish people would have "Jewels for the Journey", this was unheard of, and they went from slaves to freedom in one stroke of God's good hand.

If we were to be honest God has done the same for most if not all of us, we came out of our former lives facing the unknown, fearful of how we were going to make it as Christians. We had great fears and lots of doubt about the direction of this new life, but thanks are unto our good God, he changed all of our doubts and settled all of our fears. As I began this new journey he gave me jewels that I cannot place a price tag on. If I need grace he has supplied me with an adequate supply, if I need mercy it is always abundantly available. When I need peace it is within an arms reach, when I need love he soothes me with a love that is plenteous and wonderful. If I doubt his word can soothe them sufficiently, if I cry his loving hand will wipe all of my tears away.

"Nothing is an obstacle unless you say it is." Wally Amos

"Jewels for the Journey - Day 2"

Exd 3:21 And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty:

Exd 3:22 But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put [them] upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians.

1 - God Bestows His Favor upon Me

2 - God Bestows His Fortune upon Me

3 - God Bestows His Freedom upon Me

In the space below thank him for his wonderful Jewels for the Journey. He has blessed us with blessings that would drain the pens of men if we were to write them down, the world very well could run out of paper if we were to note how good our God has been to each one of his blessed children:

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Good timber does not grow with ease; the stronger the wind, the stronger the trees." J. Willard Marriott

"A Journey to the Unknown - Day 3"

[Jos 3:4](#) Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed [this] way heretofore.

[Jos 3:5](#) And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you.

The children of Israel were on the banks of the river Jordan, the city of Jericho was in the distance, looming and lurking, waiting to test them. The past 40 years of wilderness wandering was behind them, 40 years of unbelief, 40 years of funerals and heartache. The Lord had just appeared to Joshua and promised to be with him, never to leave him, never to forsake him. The people had 3 days to get prepared, 3 days until they would launch out into the unknown, new beginnings, new horizons, new opportunities. Into a land flowing with milk and honey, these were good days, days of anticipation and excitement.

As you launch out into the unknown, how will you face it, willingly or woefully, with reluctance or reassurance? The Lord wants to take us to greater places; it is up to each of us to let go and let God!!! Is it within you to launch out into the deep and follow the Lord's leading? This could be a journey of blessing, wonderment, fulfillment, we could all learn from the experiences of the children of Israel.

"A gem cannot be polished without friction, nor a man perfected without trials." Chinese Proverb

"A Journey to the Unknown - Day 4"

[Jos 3:4](#) Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed [this] way heretofore.

[Jos 3:5](#) And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you.

1 - We All Have Orders to Follow

2 - We All Have Obstacles to Face

3 - We All Have Opportunities to Fathom

In the space below list some of the obstacles the need to be removed in order for you to find complete fulfillment and joy in your Christian life:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Only a man who knows what it is like to be defeated can reach down to the bottom of his soul and come up with the extra ounce of power it takes to win when the match is even."

Mahummad Ali

"Famine or Funerals - Day 5"

Rth 1:1 Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

In this story we read of a major famine that had overwhelmed Bethlehem Judah, the House Of Bread. In the midst of this horrible famine, Elimelech decided to pull up roots and travel about 50 miles down the road to Moab. I can hear them talking of leaving Bethlehem, the children would have been sad in leaving their friends, but excited concerning this new move. I wonder how Naomi felt as she left her house, her relatives. I can hear the father telling them not to be sad, as soon as the famine was over, they would return. The word sojourn means, a temporary stay, only for a short time.

I wonder if Elimelech knew the price of this departure, I wonder if he would have made this decision if he knew the effects this would have on his family. The short journey turned into a long stay, ten years passed and the family was still there. Somewhere along the way the two boys got married, then the father died; on top of all of this the 2 young men died. The family only departed 50 miles down the road, but seemingly it was the longest journey they would ever face.

As you travel down the path of life, you may want to consider that it is a serious decision to depart from the chosen way. It would be better to go through the famine with God, then to live in the land of plenty without God. Dear friend remember this, Moab will call out to you during life's tough times, you stick with God, and this family learned this fact.

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.”
Mahummad Ali

"Famine or Funerals - Day 6"

[Rth 1:1](#) Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

1 - The Decision of Man - Their Missing Faith

2 - The Danger of Moving - Their Mighty Famine

3 - The Despair of Moab - Their Miserable Funerals

I know that Moab will beckon me in the coming days; I need the Lord's help and direction in these areas:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: “The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will.” Vince Lombardi

"The Silent Killer - Bitterness - Day 7"

[Hbr 12:14](#) Follow peace with all [men], and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

[Hbr 12:15](#) Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble [you], and thereby many be defiled;

The writer of Hebrews tells us to live peaceably with all men, the he also tells us to live in Holiness. If we are to see God we must obey this demand, live in peace and Holiness. Then the writer warns us about the danger of falling, not losing our salvation, but falling by the wayside, ending up in the scrape heap of failure and misery.

As Christians we must avoid the silent killer of bitterness, the writer tells us of the root of this bitterness. The amazing thing about a root is that it is generally hidden, covered up, out of sight. The Christian that has let this root grow in their life is in danger of failure, eliminating the graceful work of God in your life. The tender root begins to grow, now anger, envy, hatred, even jealousy begin to attach to this tender root.

I wonder if we are willing to dig this bitter root up, uncover it for what it is,

this root has got such a hold on you that it engulfs your every thought. Bitterness is the silent killer among the Christian world, many of God's dear little children have been wronged or disappointed and let this bitter root take hold in their life, sweetness turned to sourness.

“Once you learn to quit, it becomes a habit.” Vince Lombardi

"The Silent Killer - Bitterness - Day 8"

Hbr 12:14 Follow peace with all [men], and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Hbr 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble [you], and thereby many be defiled;

- 1 - Bitterness Must Be Realized - It's There**
- 2 - Bitterness Must Be Removed - It's Time**
- 3 - Bitterness Must Be Resisted - It's True**

Dear Christian friend has bitterness become embedded in your life, has it turned your singing into silence? What are you going to do about it? Hopefully you will list it in the space below and leave it at the altar and ask God to free you:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: “An invincible determination can accomplish almost anything and in this lies the great distinction between great men and little men.” Thomas Fuller

“The Danger of Hidden Rocks - Day 9”

[Act 27:29](#) Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.

In this text we find that the sailors were fearful of having their boat smashing into the rocks. I often go running up on one of the hiking trails on top of Fort Mountain. I have no fears of falling because of the large rocks that are numerous along the path. As I jog along the trails I encounter ruts in the path, along with roots, but this is not a major problem. I can see the ruts and the roots, along with the large boulders or stones, it is the hidden rocks that cause me to stumble or fall. I was jogging today and the path was full of leaves, so I cautiously made my way along the trail. I came upon a part of the trail that was clear, so I picked my speed up and ran much faster, but with less caution. The next thing that I knew I was stumbling and with much luck I maintained my balance. How could this be, I could see the trail right before my eyes, what had happened. I failed to see the small rock that was jutting from the ground, it was only sticking forth an inch or so, but that one inch could have brought me much grief and pain.

I dare say that many of us go through life looking for the big rocks that could harm us; we often see the ruts and the gullies that could wreck havoc upon our lives. How often do we end up battered and bruised because we overlooked the small pebbles or the hidden holes that Satan has placed in our path? I ran a local half marathon several months back, the race was in the mountains of Benton Tennessee and was full of rocks, roots and gullies. I was

near the 9 mile mark when I let my eyes wander from the path before me, in one moment I was down on the ground, bloody, bruised and battered. I had to finish the race in a miserable condition, but I did finish the race. How many of us will finish our race in a beaten and battered condition, due to the hidden rocks of Satan?

“Determination is the wake-up call to the human will.” Anthony Robbins

“The Danger of Hidden Rocks - Day 10”

[Act 27:29](#) Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.

1 - The Race and its Challenge

2 - The Rocks and Their Covering

3 - The Runner and His Caution

In the space below you may want to identify some of the rocks that the Holy Spirit has revealed unto you, rocks that will make you stumble if you ignore them:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: “Your attitude, not your aptitude, will determine your altitude.”
Zig Ziglar

"From Sighing To Shouting - 11"

[Jos 6:16](#) And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city.

The children of Israel had just crossed over Jordan, spent a few days at Gilgal, in the distance the walls of Jericho was looming. The walls around this city hosted chariot races at times, it was a big wall, and it had been there a long time. The Lord directed his people in the very path of this city, this city with the gigantic walls, the walls of intimidation. As the little nation stood looking up at the great city, the Lord spoke to Joshua, he gave him words of hope. Joshua instructed the people to do something that seemed ridiculous, absurd, they were to march around this city once per day, until the seventh day then seven times on the final day. The little nation was instructed to keep quiet, walk on everyday, but keep quiet, boy was this hard!!!

On the seventh day, on the seventh time around, the people let out a shout, the trumpets blew, the walls fell flat, the city was overtaken, and Israel won the battle and could not accept any of the glory for those walls falling down flat. Some of you are sighing, you are facing some large looming walls, it seems impossible, and the situation looks hopeless. The best thing you can do is walk on, pray on, don't quit walking, don't quit trusting, the Lord will come through, one day your walls will come tumbling down. The little nation learned some mighty lessons on those seven days of quietly walking.

Life is too short to spend your precious time trying to convince a person who wants to live in gloom and doom otherwise. Give lifting that person your best shot, but don't hang around long enough for his or her bad attitude to pull you down. Instead, surround yourself with optimistic people.

Zig Ziglar

"From Sighing To Shouting - 12"

[Jos 6:16](#) And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city.

1 - God Saw the Sighing

2 - God Submitted the Solution

3 - God Solved the Situation

4 - God Started the Shouting

In the space below, share with the Lord the walls that you are facing, ask him to help you:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Instead of giving myself reasons why I can't, I give myself reasons why I can." Unknown

"When It's Time to Lighten the Load - Day 13"

[Act 27:18](#) And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next [day] they lightened the ship;

[Act 27:19](#) And the third [day] we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.

The apostle Paul was on his journey to Rome, upon leaving he got word from the Lord that it would be a very hazardous journey, but the captain issued orders to ignore the Apostle. The ship encountered much trouble along the way. The waves were billowing, the winds were blowing, and it seemed as if the ship would go under. As the ship battled its way through the storm, it became obvious that a decision had to be made concerning the cargo onboard. It was so serious that every non essential piece of cargo had to be cast overboard. I wonder how much deliberation they had concerning this cargo. I wonder if it was so important to keep, that the men would place their life in jeopardy to salvage it.

As you and I go through life we will encounter storms, sometimes these storms have been sent our way from the very throne of God, why is that? As the storm approaches, as our life gets backed up into a corner, it might be time to lighten the load!!! It very well could be that God is backing us into a corner to find out what is worth keeping in our life. As the storm raged on, the sailors still found items that were more of a hindrance than a help, these things also were tossed overboard. If the storm keeps on raging, God may be want us to look even closer, lighten the load even more, can we do it, will we do it?

"If you have made mistakes, there is always another chance for you. You may have a fresh start any moment you choose, for this thing we call 'failure' is not the falling down, but the staying down. "

Mary Pickford

"When It's Time to Lighten the Load - Day 14"

Act 27:18 And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next [day] they lightened the ship;

Act 27:19 And the third [day] we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.

1 - The Ship Was Sinking - A Great Dilemma

2 - The Load Was Lightened - A Good Decision

3 - The Message Was Meaningful - A Godly Directive

The storm may be heading your way; will you be ready to lighten the load? If the Lord reveals some things in your life that must be cast overboard, can you do it? It may not be sinful, but it very well could be a great hindrance to you, if the Lord shows you, will you cast it overboard? It could be a thing, a person, a place; it could be something that is meaningful to you? In the space below, list some items that you may want to look at casting overboard:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "There is nothing brilliant or outstanding in my record, except perhaps this one thing. I do the things I believe ought to be done. And when I make up my mind to do a thing, I act."

Theodore Roosevelt

"The God of Second Chances - Day 15"

[Jon 3:1](#) ¶ And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying,

[Jon 3:2](#) Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

I suppose that all of us have heard of the story of Jonah & the Whale, a real fish story. The Lord appeared unto Jonah and commissioned him to go to Nineveh; he was to preach a divine message unto these wicked people. The prophet immediately got up and headed the wrong way. He fully intended to go as far away from Nineveh as possible. He caught the first ship that was going to Tarshish and this prophet was out of town.

Of course things got rough in the prophets life, the storm, the interrogation, he was cast overboard, got a 3 day submarine ride in the belly of a great fish. After he had spent 3 days in the belly of this fish, the prophet finally prayed. He repented, probably felt like a failure, felt as if God was done with him, the prophet headed back home, beaten, battered, and bruised.

As the prophet got back home, sit back down, something very strange happened, the Lord appeared unto him the second time. He received the same commission, the same message, only this time he got up and went. Often we think because we have disobeyed, because we failed God, that God is finished with us. Dear friend this is not true, God is a God of second chances, failure is not final with the Father, and we must understand this fact.

"Don't limit yourself. Many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, remember, you can achieve."

Mary Kay Ash

"The God of Second Chances - Day 16"

Jon 3:1 ¶ And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying,

Jon 3:2 Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

1 - Jonah Found That God Was Bigger Than He Ever Thought

2 - Jonah Found That God Was Better Than He Ever Thought

3 - Jonah Found That God Was Bolder Than He Ever Thought

In the space below you may want to list some areas that seem to hinder your Christian growth, like Jonah you understand that God was big in finding you in your waywardness, God was better in forgiving you, but God was even Bolder in giving you a second chance:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Entry:

Quote: "One of the most difficult things everyone has to learn is that for your entire life you must keep fighting and adjusting if you hope to survive. No matter whom you are or what your position is you must keep fighting for

whatever it is you desire to achieve.”

George Allen

"Close Encounters - Day 17"

[Jhn 20:20](#) And when he had so said, he shewed unto them [his] hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

[Jhn 20:25](#) The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

The disciples were gathered together wondering what would happen now that the Lord was gone, he was dead, all of their hopes, their dreams, everything seemed to have fallen apart. The Lord himself, the risen Lord, the real Lord, here he was in their midst, they could see him, hear him, touch him. One of the disciples had been missing, (sometimes it's not worth missing is it) now he entered in among the other disciples, he could sense the excitement, the emotion in the room. In unison they begin to tell him of seeing the Master, we have seen the Lord, how did Thomas respond? He wanted to see the Lord for himself, he demanded that he must see him, touch him, and feel him!!! I am of the opinion we need more people like Thomas, you may say more Doubters, no; more Demanders!!! Here we find one that was not satisfied about what others saw, he wanted in on the action, he wanted to see the Lord.

As we move on let us consider the following, the church has many historians that can tell you where Jesus used to be, how things used to be. The church has many librarians that tell us stories about him, the church needs more Thomas's that want to know where he is now, what he can do now, where can I find him now? We need those that will not settle for less, those that will not search for less, will you be one of them?

If there is one thing I would banish from earth, it is fear.

The only way to do that is to see that there is nothing to fear,
nothing in all of life to be afraid of.

Henry Ford

"Close Encounters - Day 18"

[Jhn 20:20](#) And when he had so said, he shewed unto them [his] hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

[Jhn 20:25](#) The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

1 - The Testimony of Some - They Saw Him

2 - The Tragedy of Some - They Shun Him

3 - The Triumph of Some - They Seek Him

We will have many opportunities to see the Lord if we are really seeking him, in the space below list some areas in your life that you would like to see a manifestation of the Lord:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: “Do not anticipate trouble, or worry about what may never happen. Keep in the sunlight.”
Benjamin Franklin

"When All Hope Is Gone - Day 19"

[Act 27:20](#) And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on [us], all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.

The ship was struggling in the storm; the sailors had tried everything they knew to survive this storm. The storm had been raging for 3 days and nights, the sun and the moon had not appeared in days, the wind was blowing, it seemed hopeless. The writer declared that seemingly all hope had been taken away. As we examine the practical aspect of this passage, how often has the storm blew in our life, after we had tried every human means possible, the situation look utterly hopeless?

It would be awful to travel through life without the Lord, awful to face life's storm with uncertainty, no spiritual comfort, no hope with in, no hope without. If we surveyed the men on this ship, none of them knew the Lord, except the apostle Paul, none of them knew where to turn, none of them could offer up a prayer of faith. It would do all of us well to realize that our help comes from the Lord, our hope comes from the Lord, and our haven of rest is found in the Lord!!!

As we think about our life, the ups and downs of life, the good times, the bad times, we must always remember that no matter how dark and dreary the day, we have a hope.

It is not work that kills men, it is worry. Work is healthy; you can hardly put more on a man than he can bear. But worry is rust upon the blade. It is not

movement that destroys the machinery, but friction.

Henry Ward Beecher

"When All Hope Is Gone - Day 20"

[Act 27:20](#) And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on [us], all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.

1 - The Coming Hour of the Storm

2 - The Comforting Hope of the Saint

3 - The Compassionate Heart of the Saviour

Dear friend you must remember that matter how tough no the situation, or no matter how dark the way, you have a hope. The Lord has never lost any of his dear children in the storm; our precious Lord loves us and will always be there for us. In the space below, list some past storms that the Lord has bought you through, he showed up in a mighty way on your behalf:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly."

Lanston Hughes

"What Are You Holding Back - Day 21"

Mar 10:21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

Mar 10:22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

The rich young ruler had just approached Jesus; he was questioning the Lord concerning eternal life. The Lord told him what was necessary to obtain this Everlasting Life, he instructed the young man to observe the 10 commandments, follow them and he would have this life. The rich young ruler felt a sense of satisfaction; he boldly told the Lord that he had done this since he was a lad. At this time the Lord said something to this young man that crushed him forever, it was the most horrible words that had ever been directed his way. The Lord told him that one more thing was required, the young man must take his fortune and sell it, give it all to the poor, and then he must pick up his cross and follow Jesus. As the Master got done with this statement, the young man became sad, and went his way grieving, have you ever really grasped the reason why?

The rich ruler loved his possessions more than he wanted to be saved, he wanted both worlds, but he did not intend to give up the earthly to gain the heavenly. The truth of this passage is that the Lord knows what tugs at our heart; he knows where our true love lies. I wonder how many times we boldly tell of our love for him, our commitment to him, but deep down we know that we are not as dedicated as we often act. When it comes right down to it the Lord really does know the one thing in our lives that is holding us back, he even brings it to our attention, lays it bare before our face!!! We could all learn some great lessons from this study.

“Before your dreams can come true, you have to have those dreams.”

Dr. Joyce Brothers

"What Are You Holding Back - Day 22"

Mar 10:21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

Mar 10:22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

1 - The Desire That Was So Wonderful - His Thirst

2 - The Demand That Was So Woeful - His Treasure

3 - The Departure That Was So Wasteful - His Tears

The Lord has great use for us, he wants us to be saved, he wants us to be involved, enjoy our salvation, but many of us cannot go all out for that one thing that is holding us back. The sad thing about this passage is not that the rich young ruler had many things hindering him, no; he only had one thing, just one thing. If the Lord shows you that one thing in your life, will you let go of it, will you give it up? In the space below pray and ask the Lord to show you the one thing that may be standing in your way:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Big thinking precedes great achievement."

Wilferd A. Peterson

"Thinking One's Self to Be Happy - Day 23"

[Act 26:2](#) I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews:

The apostle was standing before the king; he was confined to prison due to his biblical teachings and his testimony for Jesus Christ. The great apostle seemingly had no reason to be happy, in the near future he would make his voyage to Rome, he would lay his head upon the chopping block and his life would be over. If we could do an inventory of his friends, most of them had left him, some for the love of this world, some due to the rigors of the journey, some due to disagreements. The apostle would be ran from every town that he entered, he would be accused by the city leaders, attacked by the religious leaders, hated by most, why would he be happy?

The apostle had learned something great in his Christian experience, life was tough, living it was often hard, happiness was a choice. In the midst of his trials, his troubles, his tribulations, his tears, when it seemed as if nothing was going his way, he would think himself to a state of happiness. He realized that happiness was a choice, happiness was a state of mental being, and he would remain in a state of happiness. In the prison, when the midnight hour would approach, he learned to sing, in the seas, when the ship was about to sink, he would pray and eat, in famines he was still saved, in floggings, he was still saved. The apostle had learned to consider his self to be happy. It was his choice, he may not be able to control his afflictions, he had no choice in his sufferings, but my friend he had a say in his mental state, he would think himself to be happy, wow!!!

I wonder if we could teach ourselves to be happy, happy no matter what, happy in spite of the circumstances, happy no matter what difficulty he would experience? Happiness is a choice, happiness is a state of being, it is something that can be inspired by the right kind of thinking, the right kind of thinking.

“Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow; don't walk behind me, I may not lead; Walk beside me, and just be my friend.”

Albert Camus

"Thinking One's Self to Be Happy - Day 24"

[Act 26:2](#) I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews:

1 - The Apostle & His Mental Decision

2 - The Apostle & His Verbal Declaration

3 - The Apostle & His Personal Delight

Often times we fail to be happy due to circumstances, due to unfulfilled dreams, our career is not where we think it should be, our marriage is experiencing try times, and our finances are in a mess. The list goes on, we all have our specific reasons for unhappiness, and we all have our own reasons to remain bitter and unhappy. In the space below list some areas where you need help dealing with your own personal happiness:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

“You May Be One Person To The World But You May Be The World To One Person.”

Anonymous

"The Servant Leader - Day 25"

[1Ki 12:6](#) ¶ And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may

answer this people?

1Ki 12:7 And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever.

In this great passage we find that Rehoboam's father had died, now he was the king, he had a gigantic choice to make, he could ease the burden of his people or he go make it greater than even his father. As you read the passage you will find that he increased their burden and in doing so lost his leadership abilities with his people. The king had received some excellent advice from his consultants; he was advised to lead by serving, is this even possible?

As we look throughout the bible we find that great leaders have always had servant characteristics, of course one would have to look no farther than our Lord himself. Jesus Christ the King of Kings and Lord of Lords was the greatest leader that this world has ever witnessed, but on the other hand the world has never witnessed such a wonderful servant. He led by serving, he ignited crowds to follow him; he inspired men to forsake everything, leave it all behind and come follow him. I wonder if this could have happened if he was not such a wonderful servant.

The Lord served in his mighty miracles, he served in his words of compassion, he served in teaching his followers how to pray, and he served in teaching them how to truly love. I suppose that most of us have high aspirations concerning our personal lives, our goals, our legacy, would it be possible to incorporate the aspects of servant leadership in order to achieve these lofty expectations?

"If I had to select one quality, one personal characteristic that I regard as being most highly correlated with success, whatever the field, I would pick the trait of persistence; Determination. The will to endure to the end, to get knocked down seventy times and get up off the floor saying, "Here comes number seventy-one!"
Richard M. DeVos

"The Servant Leader - Day 26"

1Ki 12:6 ¶ And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may

answer this people?

1Ki 12:7 And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever.

1 - The Servant Leader & His Submission - Surrendering

2 - The Servant Leader & His Humiliation - Serving

3 - The Servant Leader & His Inspiration - Succeeding

We can all look for areas of service, no matter our position, no matter our possessions, we can all serve. The Lord himself told his disciples that whoever wanted to be first must be last, are we willing to honor his request? In the space below list some areas that you need the Lord's help in making you a servant leader:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "The snow was falling heavily outside. I sat before a blank page for close to ten hours. I refused to get up; instead attempted with great pains to coerce stubborn thoughts from my noodle. Useless it seemed until the 11th hour and then all I'd seen and felt and heard, arrived, and was transcribed effortlessly like the tune of chirping birds."

Greg Evans

"When It's Time for Boldness - Day 27"

Hbr 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the

feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin.

Hbr 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

The writer of Hebrews tells us a couple of things that truly offers us hope. He tells us that we have a high priest that understands what we deal with, our temptations, our heartaches, our points of weakness, he my friend understands. He also tells us to approach the throne of grace, here we can obtain mercy, here we can find grace, and here we can find help, right on time.

The best part of this passage is the opening invitation, he tells us to come boldly unto the throne of grace. We are to come in freedom, unreservedly, openly, without concealment, come freely, fearlessly, with all confidence, come with cheerful courage, come with all the boldness that one can muster up. It is the most wonderful opportunity that you and I have as Christians; we can enter into the very presence of God, right into the very throne room and lay before him our hearts desire. It should not go unused, this resource should not go untapped, it should not go untested, it should never go untried, he appeals to you and I to come!!!

If we were to enter into in courtroom across this country, without hesitation we would be asked to keep silent, but in the divine courtroom of glory, our wonderful Lord prompts us to speak, speak boldly, without vain repetitious words. I don't know what you may be facing, but I know you can take it to the Lord, you do not need the preacher, the pastor, the priest, all you need is boldness to enter in, lay it before him. It is time that we use our available resources, use our Christian benefits.

“I look on that man as happy, who, when there is question of success, looks into his work for a reply.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"When It's Time for Boldness - Day 28"

Hbr 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin.

Hbr 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

1 - The Request That Must Be Understood

2 - The Resource That Must Be Utilized

3 - The Reassurance That Must Be Unleashed

As we face day to day living, the unknown, the hazards of life we must utilize our resources, we must approach the throne of God. We must go today, tomorrow, we must choose to be consistent in going. Lord in the coming days I will approach the throne room with all boldness, give me mercy, give me grace, provide me with help and assurance, in the following areas:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Happiness is a positive cash flow."
Fred Adler

"Living From Scoop to Scoop - Day 29"

[Ki 17:11](#) And as she was going to fetch [it], he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

[1Ki 17:12](#) And she said, [As] the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I [am] gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

[1Ki 17:16](#) [And] the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

In this wonderful passage we find that the situation went from bad to worse, the prophet had just left a drying brook, he was now face to face with a dwindling barrel, in the coming days he would encounter a dying boy, and things were rough. As he left the drying brook, God sent him to a widow lady that was to feed him, upon finding this widow the prophet approached her to fetch him some water and fix him a morsel of bread. The widow lady told him how it really was at her house; her last meal was so small that she only needed two sticks, two sticks that would make a feeble fire. On this feeble fire she would fix a meal that would furnish her and her son one piece of bread, upon eating this bread they would die.

The prophet of God stood his ground, he was going to bless this woman, and he would challenge her to trust God. He asked her to do the improbable, the unbelievable, the unfathomable, he requested that she fix him a morsel of bread first, then fix one for the lad and for herself. This woman never flinched in her obedience to the prophet of God, I can see her as she fixed the prophet his morsel of bread, the barrel had only one scoop left, she scraped the bottom of the barrel. As she gave the man of God his bread, I can see him prompting her to fix her son one, she looks and the barrel miraculously had another scoop left, he tells her to now fix herself one, this was too much for her, it was impossible, she looks and yet again there is still one scoop left.

“Don't cry because it's over, Smile because it happened!”

Dr. Seuss

"Living From Scoop To Scoop - Day 30"

[Ki 17:11](#) And as she was going to fetch [it], he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

[1Ki 17:12](#) And she said, [As] the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I [am] gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

[1Ki 17:16](#) [And] the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

1 - The Expectation of a Scooper's Life - His Prayer

2 - The Excitement of a Scooper's Life - His Promise

3 - The Enjoyment of a Scooper's Life - His Praise

It is exciting to live from scoop to scoop; it is a life of utter excitement and unfathomed expectation. The scooper lives his life trusting God, can we learn to live from scoop to scoop? Lord please supply me help in these areas to live the life of a scooper:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: “To live we must conquer incessantly, we must have the courage to be happy.”

Henri Frederic Amiel

"It's Time to Say Goodbye to Our Ishmael's - Day 31"

[Gen 21:9](#) And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.

[Gen 21:10](#) Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, [even] with Isaac.

[Gen 21:11](#) And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.

In this passage something extremely hard was being asked of Abraham, he was required to send his first born son away. The boy was birthed due to the haste of Abraham; he ignorantly listened to Sarah his wife and ran ahead of God, in doing so he had a son out of God's will. The handmaiden of Sarah, being named Hagar, conceived a son, his name was Ishmael, and this boy would only bring grief to his family. Ishmael had a mixed heritage, his mother was an Egyptian and his father was a Hebrew, one represented the worldly walk, the other represented spiritual walk.

In the process of time Sarah conceived a son with her husband Abraham, his name would be called Isaac, he was the chosen son, the one sent and promised by God. As little Isaac began to grow, Ishmael started mocking him, Ishmael felt that because he was the first son he had greater privileges, he most likely thought that his father loved him more than Isaac. Upon seeing the mocking of Ishmael, Sarah approached her husband and demanded that the handmaiden and her son be sent away, this was very grievous to the aged Abraham. He truly loved this boy, he had grown to share his affection between the two sons, but upon talking to God, the Lord informed him to listen to Sarah, Why? The time comes when we have to get rid of the things from Egypt, we must cast them away, this dear friend will be a test of great magnitude, and this bidding from God will challenge you like you have never been challenged.

“Never give in! Never give in!” “Never, never, never, never in nothing great or small, large or petty. Never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense.”

Winston Churchill

"It's Time to Say Goodbye to Our Ishmael's - Day 32"

Gen 21:9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.

Gen 21:10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, [even] with Isaac.

Gen 21:11 And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.

1 - The Worldly Birth - His Divided Affection

2 - The Woeful Banishment - His Designed Affliction

3 - The Wonderful Benefits - His Delightful Admiration

As we inspect our lives, do we have some Ishmael's hidden away, nobody knows but the Lord. We tenderly divide our affection between loving the worldly and the spiritual. This was one of two major tests that Abraham had to pass; the second test also involved his son, only it required the death of his precious son Isaac. As the Lord shows you things in your life, will you be willing to expose and expel the Ishmael's from your life? In the following space I will list some or all of my Ishmael's:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "If you're going through hell, keep going."

Winston Churchill

"More Grace - Day 33"

[Jam 4:6](#) But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

[II Cor. 12:9](#) And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

The passage tells us that God will supply us with enough grace for the situation. The Lord told the apostle Paul that his grace was sufficient, it was sufficient for all occasions, for all situations. The grace of God was able to save me, it is able to keep me, it is able to see me through, all the way to heaven. It would be inadequate to define the grace of God, no writer could ever exhaust its worth, no artist could ever portray its beauty, and no amount of money could cover its worth. The amazing grace of God was extended to us as feeble human beings, it is undeserved, it is warranted, it is free but yet so expensive, it is personal, yet so expansive.

In this particular passage, the writer talks of more grace, if the grace of God is not enough, he will give us more grace. I will never forget calling the doctor when my daughter was about 4 years old, the doctor asked us what medicine she was taking, we told him, I have never forgotten his response; he told us we were giving her the best medicine that was available, we would just give her more of it!!! When you seemingly are about to drain all of the grace that is available, he will send more of it your way. The grace cellar in glory has never been exhausted, it has never run low, and it has never showed up empty. The Lord has all of the grace you and I will ever need, he is watching us, at the right time he will splash a little dose of his grace upon us, he will keep on splashing until it is an adequate dose, amen.

“When anyone tells me I can't do anything, I'm just not listening any more.”
Florence Griffith Joyner

"More Grace - Day 34"

[Jam 4:6](#) But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

[II Cor. 12:9](#) And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

1 - The Mighty Person of Grace - Our Saviour

2 - The Massive Portion of Grace - Our Supply

3 - The Marvelous People of Grace - Our Story

As we travel down the highway of life, we will encounter days of doom, defeat, disaster, difficulty and dread, don't give up, don't quit, don't quiver, just trust God to give you his grace, if that is not enough, he will give you more grace, sufficient grace, enough to make it. In the passage below, we may want to ask the Lord to issue his abundant, amazing, available, and assuring grace:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "For athletes, the Olympics are the ultimate test of their worth."
Mary Lou Retton

"Jesus Is Precious - Day 35"

1Pe 2:7 Unto you therefore which believe [he is] precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

I wonder if we truly comprehend what the writer of this passage is trying to tell us, he is placing a great emphasis upon how precious our Lord should be to us. The apostle Peter used this word with great significance and assurance when describing his Lord and Master, he described him as the precious stone, he emphasized that his blood was precious. The word precious would signify a stone of great value, something rare, something beautiful, to be revered, to be held in high esteem, it should be honored.

The Lord himself had chosen Peter, he would often admonish this disciple, he would often rebuke this disciple, but ultimately he was molding and making this disciple. The disciple Peter was the one that jumped out of the boat and walked upon the water, he was the man that cut off the ear of the servant. Peter often spoke in haste, but he always spoke with a heart of love, he was a man of deep devotion and loyalty to his Lord and Master. As the disciple grew in age, his office changed from the disciple, to that of an apostle, he went from being a follower to a backer, upon his preaching and loyalty the world would be turned upside down.

How could this be, how could someone that seemed to be so frail, become so faithful? The apostle never lost track that Jesus was precious to him. He never lost sight of his burning love for his Lord and Saviour.

“It is the inspiration of the Olympic Games that drives people not only to compete but to improve, and to bring lasting spiritual and moral benefits to the athlete and inspiration to those lucky enough to witness the athletic dedication”.

Herb Elliott

"Jesus Is Precious - Day 36"

1Pe 2:7 Unto you therefore which believe [he is] precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

1 - Jesus Is Precious In His Name

2 - Jesus Is Precious In His Claims

3 - Jesus Is Precious In His Fame

4 - Jesus Is Precious In His Aim

As we inspect our Christian life, as we inventory each item that means something to us, when we come to Jesus, how would we describe him, is he somewhere in the middle, somewhere near the bottom, or is he the most important aspect of your life? Our Lord and Saviour should hold the highest place in our life, in our love, in our language; he should be first and foremost. If we could be honest how precious is he to us? In the space below list some thoughts you may want to write down concerning how precious he is in your life:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "The important thing in life is not victory but combat; it is not to have vanquished but to have fought well."

Pierre de Coubertin

"There - Day 37"

1Ki 17:4 And it shall be, [that] thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee **there**.

1Ki 17:9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which [belongeth] to Zidon, and dwell **there**: behold, I have commanded a widow woman **there** to sustain thee.

1Ki 17:10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman [was] **there** gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

In this passage and these verses we find a word that could be overlooked and ignored were it not the nudging of the Spirit. The Spirit often times sets off a spiritual alarm, stop, look, be careful, you are about to overlook something needful. The little word that I want to focus on is "there". In this passage it is used no less than four times, the ravens will feed you there, arise and go to Zarephath and dwell there, a widow will sustain you there, the widow was found "there". I can imagine that you are asking what the importance of this little word, there?

The Lord commanded the prophet to go to the brook, there is where he would be taken care of by the Lord, when the brook dried up the Lord commanded the prophet to move yet again, when he moved over there, there is where the Lord would continue sustaining his prophet. As he arose and went and got to Zarephath, he found the widow woman there, there was where he found the abiding presence and abundant blessings of his God.

As we go from day to day, we must always find out where our there is, we

must realize that often our "there" is subject to change!!! It may be here today, somewhere else next year, another place in the future. The most important place that you and I need to be is the place that God has chosen as our "there".

"For athletes, the Olympics are the ultimate test of their worth."

Mary Lou Retton

"There - Day 38"

1Ki 17:4 And it shall be, [that] thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee **there**.

1Ki 17:9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which [belongeth] to Zidon, and dwell **there**: behold, I have commanded a widow woman **there** to sustain thee.

1Ki 17:10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman [was] **there** gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

1 - There Is Where He Abides Personally

2 - There Is Where He Provides Powerfully

3 - There Is Where He Confides Privately

4 - There Is Where He Presides Pointedly

I wonder if we understand the importance of fervently finding, faithfully filling the place of our there. As we find our there, we will find that in this place dwells all of the fullness, all of the fellowship of our Christian joy. Lord please issue me guidance to where my there is:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "There can be distractions, but if you're isolated from the heart of the Games, the Olympics become just another competition."

Mary Lou Retton

"Provision's For the Pilgrims - Day 39"

[2Sa 17:28](#) Brought beds, and basons, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and parched [corn], and beans, and lentiles, and parched [pulse],

[2Sa 17:29](#) And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for David, and for the people that [were] with him, to eat: for they said, The people [is] hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.

The passage before us pertains to the time when Absalom had ran David out of the palace, sometime in the night David and his followers left the palace, went up the rough side of the mountain, barefooted, clothed in sackcloth and ashes, weeping as they ascended the mountain. The mighty king left all of his belongings, the future seemed bleak, and seemingly the end was swiftly coming his way.

AS David found his way through the wilderness, he received counsel to cross the river, encamp his flock deep in the wilderness. The king felt that this was wise insight, so he obeyed the instructions, but his people were worn and battered, the journey had wearied them. As they came to their place of lodging, they were confronted with something that confounded them. Shobi, Machir, and Barzillai was there to greet them, these men had prepared beds, basins, beans, parley and many other wonderful things for David and his little faithful followers. The mighty provision was for the hungry, the weary, and thirsty that was lodging in the wilderness.

It would do all of us good to realize that wilderness days will come our way, hard days, trying days, lonely days, tearful days, days that try a man's faith. It

would also do us good to realize that in the midst of our wilderness lodging, God will take care of us. It is a fact, you can bank on it, you can expect it to happen, and God will see that you make it through your wilderness travels.

“Football isn't a contact sport, it's a collision sport. Dancing is a contact sport.”
Duffy Daugherty

"Provision's For the Pilgrims - Day 40"

[2Sa 17:28](#) Brought beds, and basons, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and parched [corn], and beans, and lentiles, and parched [pulse],

[2Sa 17:29](#) And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for David, and for the people that [were] with him, to eat: for they said, The people [is] hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.

1 - The Pilgrim & His Wilderness Travels - Sent

2 - The Pilgrim & His Wilderness Test - Struggle

3 - The Pilgrim & His Wilderness Table - Supplied

4 - The Pilgrim & His Wilderness Triumph - Successful

As we prepare to enter the wilderness, we may want to reassure ourselves that our stay will be tough, our struggles will be difficult, in the end we will be taken care of in our wilderness journey. Lord as we go into the wilderness please help us:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "We can't run. We can't pass. We can't stop the run. We can't stop the pass. We can't kick. Other than that, we're just not a very good football team right now."

Bruce Coslet

"More than Enough - Day 41"

Exd 36:5 And they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the LORD commanded to make.

Exd 36:6 And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing.

Exd 36:7 For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.

The proclamation had been sent, it was proclamation that challenged God's people to help build the sanctuary, and the sanctuary would become God's dwelling place among his chosen people. I wonder what went through the mind of Moses, was this challenge to great, was it impossible, was it improbable, was it insurmountable? The minutes turned in to hours, the hours slowly passed, daylight turned in to darkness, the darkness gave way to the long tedious hours of midnight, then daylight broke the horizon, it was now time for the morning offering, what would happen. As Moses contemplated his proclamation, he kept remembering one word, this offering was a freewill offering, nobody should feel coerced, nobody should feel obligated, and would the people respond to this kind of edict?

As Moses looked, he must have seemed surprised, the people were coming, not just a few, not even a good many, but multitudes of people were coming,

the first day was fabulous, then came day number two, surely this would be a down day. Those that came to be counted the offering told Moses this day was better than the day before, this continued morning after morning. The most improbable thing occurred, the men in charge came to Moses and asked him to tell the people to stop giving, and this was beyond imagination!!!

After the inventory was counted, recounted, the people had given more than enough, wow, that's right, more than enough.

"We've got to find a way to win. I'm willing to start cheating."

Marv Cook

"More than Enough - Day 42"

Exd 36:5 And they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the LORD commanded to make.

Exd 36:6 And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing.

Exd 36:7 For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.

1 - The Gifts That Were Summoned & Desired

2 - The Gifts That Were Shared & Delivered

3 - The Gifts That Were Sufficient & Described

It would be wonderful thing if our churches could operate under the same economy, the economy of love, love for our Lord, love that demands that he have a satisfactory place in our lives. In the space below, do a spiritual inventory of your heart, are you giving him enough, is there room for more, is there a call for more, is he saying that's enough, that's adequate?

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "There's no substitute for guts."

Paul "Bear" Bryant

"Don't Forget Peter - Day 43"

[Mar 16:7](#) But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

In this passage we find that the Lord had just revealed himself to some of his followers, he informed them to go share the wonderful message with his other disciples. He also made a specific statement; he made mention of Peter, he had not forsaken this disciple, though it seemed that Peter had forsaken him.

We must not forget that Peter was the one that made the statement concerning life or death when following his Lord, peter was the one that cut off the servant's ear, he was the one that walked upon water; nobody else has ever experienced this great feat. It must be stated that as all others fled, Peter did follow his Master, though it was from afar, he did meekly follow. It must be noted that Peter did find his way into the inner courts, within actual eye contact with the one that he loved.

The humanity of Peter has often been denounced by those of us who portray an air of arrogance; would we have done anything different? I wonder if we would have even followed the Lord into the inner courts of the Judgment Hall. I wonder how brave we would have been in drawing our swords, would we have cut off the servants ear or would have fled off into the darkness, run right

out of our garments as the young unknown disciple?

The Lord knew the heart of his hurting disciple, he understood how terrible he felt over this occurrence, and he knew that Peter had to hear some encouraging words!!! The Lord had need for Peter, he had not given up on him, Peter was still of great value for the coming church, the Lord knew this.

“I learned that if you want to make it bad enough, no matter how bad it is, you can make it.”

Gale Sayers

"Don't Forget Peter - Day 44"

[Mar 16:7](#) But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

1 - The Fallen Disciple - His Mistake

2 - The Forgiven Disciple - His Moment

3 - The Favored Disciple - His Ministry

In the event that like Peter you fail the Lord, don't quit, don't let Satan plant seeds of doubt in your mind, our God forgives and forgets. In the space below ask the Lord to graciously offer his forgiveness in the areas that seem to be haunting you:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Winning isn't everything, but it beats anything that comes in second."
Paul "Bear" Bryant

"What to do when you're sinking? - Day 45"

Mat 14:30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

Mat 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth [his] hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

The mighty disciple had just done the impossible, he challenged the Lord to let him walk upon the sea, the Lord bid him to come, and so the disciple leaped onto the waters and started walking. He had experienced what only one other man had ever experienced, that other man was the Lord. As Peter took one step after another, he realized what was happening, the impossible was happening, his fleshly nature got the best of him. He began to look around, he saw the waves, he felt the mighty wind, and he became afraid and started to sink.

Often times we enter into the place of wonderful experiences, things seem to be going so wonderful, so great, then like Peter we take our eyes off of the Lord, we look at the circumstances of life, and we began to sink. It is a fact, take your eyes off of the Lord, you will go under, you will be overtaken by the enemy. It is a fact, it is not a probability, it is a factual truth, if you stop looking at the Lord, and trouble is heading your way.

“It seems there was this minister who just had all of his remaining teeth pulled and new dentures were being made. The first Sunday, he only preached 10 minutes. The second Sunday, he preached only 20 minutes. But, on the third Sunday, he preached 1 hour 25 minutes.

When asked about this by some of the congregation, he responded this way.

The first Sunday, my gums were so sore it hurt to talk.

The second Sunday, my dentures were hurting a lot.

The third Sunday, I accidentally grabbed my wife's dentures...and I couldn't stop talking!”

Humor in the church

"What to do when you're sinking? - Day 46"

[Mat 14:30](#) But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

[Mat 14:31](#) And immediately Jesus stretched forth [his] hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

1 - The Disciple & His Faith - See Him Walking

2 - The Disciple & His Faltering - See Him Wavering

3 - The Disciple & His Focus - See Him Wailing

In his moment of despair, Peter done something that was so right, he cried out to his Lord, “Lord, Save Me”!!! In our moment of distress we must learn to find Jesus, cry out unto him, he is available, he is able, and he wants to help. The disciple knew which direction to go to find help, do you? How often do we try to find help in every area, but the right area, we ignore the true source of help, right? In the space below, you may want to note some area's in your life that need the Lord's help.

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "A mother was giving instructions to her three children as she sent them into Sunday school, "And, why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" Her son quickly responded, "Because people are sleeping!"

Humor in the church

"He Knows - Day 47"

Rev 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

The passage tells us something that we could so readily overlook, these four simple words carry great impact for the reader, He knows, the Lord knows. It is one thing for someone to suppose, it is one thing for somebody to assume, but it is altogether different for someone to look us in the eye and inform us that they know.

The Lord wants us to fully understand that he knows, he knows our works, he knows our ways, he knows our worth, he assures us that he knows with all authority. Often we fail to understand how great our God is, we fail to comprehend his awesome abilities, his wondrous capabilities. The writer of Revelation places great significance upon these four little words, these words should stir us up to live a life of holiness, a life of faithfulness, a life of usefulness.

I wonder how it would affect our actions if we received a letter from heaven telling us that the Lord was sending one of his angels to monitor our every move, would we limit our actions, would we restrict how we conduct our lives.

It would help us greatly to remember that our every move is being noted, our every word is being documented, often we live as if there will never be a day of accountability.

The Lord loves us, he died for us, he is praying for us, he is pulling for us, he is promoting us, in return he is depending upon us, expecting good things from us, expecting holiness from us, how well are we living up to these expectations? The four little words, I know thy works, how heavy these words are, how pointed these words are, how absolute these words are?

“The Sunday School Teacher asks, “Now, Johnny, tell me frankly do you say prayers before eating?”

“No sir,” little Johnny replies, “I don’t have to. My mom is a good cook.”

Church Humor

"He Knows - Day 48"

[Rev 3:8](#) I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

1 - These Words Were Personal & Direct

2 - These Words Were Powerful & Decisive

3 - These Words Were Profitable & Dependable

4 - These Words Were Pivotal & Demanding

In the space below list some areas where you need the Lord's help. You need help in comprehending how important it is to fully follow his teachings and precepts:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her preacher father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day she asked him why. "Well, Honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages, "I'm asking the Lord to help me to preach a good sermon." She asked "Well then, how come He doesn't do it?"

Church Humor

"The Truth Often Hurts - Day 49"

Pro 27:6 Faithful [are] the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy [are] deceitful.

In this passage we find a Jewel for the Journey that is of great significance, it carries a lot of power, so simple, yet so sublime. As we inspect our true friendships, those that have stood the test of time, what makes these relationships so successful? A true friend will tell you the truth, the truth even if it is not popular, even though it might hurt for a time.

How many true friends do you have? I would guess that most of us could count our true friends on one hand, those people that really know the truth concerning us. Are we willing to let this group of people tell us the truth, willing to seek true counsel, willing to listen to their advice, willing to let them speak without retaliation? The bible tells us that the wounds of a friend are faithful, it might hurt, but it is so beneficial, so needful.

If we were to be honest many of us have lost friends due to us getting mad at them, mad at the truth, we don't want the truth, and we want them to appease us, side with us, right? We could do ourselves much good if we would inform our true friends to be honest with us. Do not be obnoxious to us, not mean to

us, but tenderly honest with us.

I used to go fishing with a man in a church I Pastored some years ago. We would take the same route home from the lake each time we fished. This man was an ice cream lover, and of course all of you know my devotion to the various flavors of the frozen lactose concoction. As we approached the ice cream shop the man I was with would act as though the steering wheel was out of his control. He would slowly pull into the parking lot of the ice cream shop while saying, "O no, I can't stop the car, it is out of control. I don't want to stop here but the car is pulling in anyway. O well, we might as well get some ice cream since my car loves this place so much." Some people are like this with sin. They think that they must sin, they can't help it! Oh, yes they can! There is no temptation that has overtaken you for which God has not provided a way of escape.

Dr. J. Mike Minnix

"The Truth Often Hurts - Day 50"

[Pro 27:6](#) Faithful [are] the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy [are] deceitful.

1 - The Warning That Comes From True Friends

2 - The Wounds That Come From True Friends

3 - The Wisdom That Comes From True Friends

4 - The Wealth That Comes From True Friends

How many true friends do you have? A true friend is one that loves us, loves us through our ups and our downs, loves us in spite of our flaws, in spite of our failures, and loves us for who we truly are. A true friend knows us for who we really are, not for our public reputation, but for our private reality, that my friend is a true friend, how many of them do you really have? As you reflect upon your relationships, do you need to go back and mend some fences, repair some damage, damage that resulted from the truth being told? In the space below, list your true friends, list any friends that need to be contacted and approached for forgiveness:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: “There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells you it's going to be a butterfly.”

R. Buckminster Fuller

"Beware Of the Little Things - Day 51"

[Sgs 2:15](#) ¶ Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines [have] tender grapes.

The noble writer of this love song, warns us to be careful of the little foxes, the small foxes that want to enter into our vineyard and corrupt it. The little foxes represent those things in our lives that seem to be small, insignificant, unimportant, those things that have just gotten a start in our lives. The word could be defined as something young, we must be careful letting new things get a grip in our life. The little foxes represent those things that could corrupt, ruin, destroy and bring travail into our path. The little foxes are very dangerous things, things that often go unnoticed, things that enter in unannounced, things that are unrestrained.

If we would be honest with ourselves none of us plan on forsaking God, none of us have considered a specific time to fall by the wayside, none of us desire to end up in a spiritual swamp, right? The road to corruption never starts with something big, obvious; it always starts with giving heed to the insignificant, the unimportant, and the small. We drop our guard, we think that we have arrived, we feel secure in our own strength, but remember, it is

not the lion or the bear that spoils the vines, it is the little insignificant foxes that bring ruination.

Have you dropped your radar, have you let the little things find entrance into your life, how many are running free in your life? It may have pricked your heart at first, but you explained it away, you excused it away, you failed to expose it for what it really was, are you able to admit this, can you call them out and expel them?

Beauty is an ecstasy; it is as simple as hunger. There is really nothing to be said about it. It is like the perfume of a rose: you can smell it and that is all.
W. Somerset Maugham

"Beware Of the Little Things - Day 52"

[Sgs 2:15](#) ¶ Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines [have] tender grapes.

1 - The Dangerous Entrance of the Little Foxes

2 - The Deceitful Excuse of the Little Foxes

3 - The Diligent Eviction of the Little Foxes

4 - The Delightful Elimination of the Little Foxes

In the space below can you expose the little foxes that have gained entrance into your life? It would be right to seek the Lord's help in evicting them from your life, do it today, do not wait:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "We know only that we are living in these bodies and have a vague idea, because we have heard it, and because our faith tells us so, that we possess souls. As to what good qualities there may be in our souls, or who dwells within them, or how precious they are, those are things which seldom consider and so we trouble little about carefully preserving the soul's beauty."
St. Teresa of Avila

"Playing Peek A Boo With Our Lord - Day 53"

[Sgs 2:9](#) My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, shewing himself through the lattice.

This little verse tells us just how important our relationship with Jesus really is, it is of the utmost importance to the Lord. Often we think of Christ as someone watching over us with a zapping gun, someone just waiting for us to mess up, so that he can get us. This is the untrue, our Lord is not that type of God, he is full of love, flowing with compassion, seeking and searching for opportunities of fellowship.

This wonderful text depicts the love that our Lord has for his church, he is full of life, he is found to be giddy, and he is courting his future bride. The text describes as secretly hiding outside of the house, peeking through the window, he is not fully revealing himself, but can only be viewed through the lattice, his view of the bride is so clear, but the brides view of him is partly concealed.

"We can only see through a glass that is dim and gloomy, but every now and

then we get a view of our Lord, my friend he loves you, he is often found tenderly watching you, desiring to see you, yearning for your companionship.”

“If a man is called to be a streetsweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, here lived a great streetsweeper who did his job well.”

“I just want to do God's will. And he's allowed me to go to the mountain. And I've looked over, and I've seen the promised land! I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land.”

“I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit together at the table of brotherhood.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Playing Peek A Boo With Our Lord - Day 54"

[Sgs 2:9](#) My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, shewing himself through the lattice.

1 - Our Lord Passionately Looking

2 - Our Lord Personally Longing

3 - Our Lord Plentifully Loving

It would drastically change our life if we could honestly understand our Lord's love for us. He longs to be with you and me, that my friend is an awesome thing, something that should inspire us. We should live for him as if he is right by our side, we should look for him just as if he was around the next corner. We have his truthful assurance that he will never leave us, never forsake us, and never fail us. It is an amazing thing to know that our Lord, our perfect saviour, our Christ can be found playing Peek A Boo with us, feeble human beings, people that should be unworthy, unwelcome, unwanted. In the space below thank the Lord for his fellowship:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "It is my hope that as the Negro plunges deeper into the quest for freedom and justice he will plunge even deeper into the philosophy of non-violence. The Negro all over the South must come to the point that he can say to his white brother: "We will match your capacity to inflict suffering with our capacity to endure suffering. We will meet your physical force with soul force. We will not hate you, but we will not obey your evil laws. We will soon wear you down by pure capacity to suffer."

Martin Luther King Jr.

"Faith That Flourished - Day 55"

[Gen 22:3](#) ¶ And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

The order had been proclaimed, God was requiring Abraham to sacrifice his son, not one of his son's, but his only son Isaac. I wonder how the atmosphere was around his house as the daylight hours turned to darkness. I suppose that he enjoyed every moment that he could share with his son, how was his wife going to handle this demand from God. The family takes advantage of every second to share this time with their boy.

Then the final candle is snuffed out, they must go to bed, would they sleep on this night, could they sleep on this night? The boy could sense that something was wrong; maybe his mother's tears warmed his face as she tenderly kissed him, and maybe his father's hand stroked his head a bit longer as he told him good night. The night would pass swiftly by, but it would be the longest night that Abraham would ever have to endure.

Daylight was still a few hours away, Abraham could delay this demand from God, and he could disobey, would we have thought any less of him? The father was a devout man of God, his faith was about to flourish, he did something that is often overlooked in the scriptures, he rose up early, ahead of time!!! Abraham had complete and total trust in his God, he would not hesitate, and he would head straight into the unknown, fully trusting in the will of his God.

Laws that forbid the carrying of arms...disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes...Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man.

Thomas Jefferson

"Faith That Flourished - Day 56"

[Gen 22:3](#) ¶ And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

1 - A Faith That Refused To Flee - The Obligation of Abraham

2 - A Faith That Remembered To Follow - The Opportunity of Abraham

3 - A Faith That Resolved To Flourish - The Obedience of Abraham

How faithful will you be when God requires you to do something out of the ordinary? Often times we think of men like Abraham to be super heroes, men that had no inner struggles, men that followed God as robots that is not the case, not even close. It would do us good to realize that Abraham faced the same struggles as you and I, his heart would have been torn apart, his faith was put to the grandest test. In the space below ask God to help your faith flourish in specific areas:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Who saves his country violates no law."

Napoleon Bonaparte

"Pigpen Psychology - Day 57"

Luk 15:17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

The prodigal son had wandered afar from home, he was in a strange land, he was in a strange place, he was doing a strange task. As he looked around he wondered how his life had come to this, he could smell the stench from the pigpen, he was famished, literally pressed to consider eating with the pigs. As he looked around, all of his friends had left when his money was gone, those that had housed him had forsaken him, the night life had ended a long time ago. As he looked down he saw his bare feet, he saw that his clothes were full of holes, he saw the pigs, and the pigs reminded him of how low his life had sunk.

In the midst of this horrible, odorous, foul pigpen something wonderful happened, something that his father could not do for him, something that his mother's tears could not do for him. In the muck and the mire of that pigpen, the prodigal came to himself, he had a jarring experience, his mind was jolted,

his memory was jolted, and his mandate to move was jolted. Often times a father's prayer for his son to return home, gets answered in the pigpen, the pigpen can do what nothing else can do.

The pigpen counseled this boy, it stirred his mind, it stroked his memory, he realized where he was, and he remembered where he used to be. The pigpen was the best psychology session that this young man would ever have, the fathers prayers were about to be answered, the boy was about to be heading home. Often times we want God to bring our loved ones home safely, we want the prodigal to return but we ask God to take it easy on them, my friend often they need the pigpen, often they need the psychology that only a pigpen can offer them.

"A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards. More than that no man is entitled to, and less than that no man shall have."

Theodore Roosevelt

"Pigpen Psychology - Day 58"

[Luk 15:17](#) And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

1 - The Pigpen Loudly Called the Prodigal

2 - The Pigpen Literally Captured the Prodigal

3 - The Pigpen Lovingly Counseled the Prodigal

4 - The Pigpen Legitimately Changed the Prodigal

The pigpen is often neglected in our prayers, but the pigpen is often needful in our progress, that is the progress of a prodigal. As we journey through life, we may drift to the pigpen, we may see our friends drift to the pigpen, always keep in mind, the pigpen done more for this prodigal than even his fathers love could do for him. In the space below, list some prodigals that you may

know, ask the Lord to use the pigpen to bring them back home:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect everyone who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately, nothing will preserve it but downright force. Whenever you give up that force, you are ruined...The great object is that every man be armed. Everyone who is able might have a gun."

Patrick Henry

"The Pilgrim of Patmos - Day 59"

Rev 1:9 ¶ I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Rev 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

The age disciple had been banished to the rocky, barren, desolate isle of Patmos, not for committing some horrible crime against society, not for stealing, not for trying to overthrow the government, but for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. It would have been easy for John to quit, to recant, to turn back, but not this disciple of love. The apostle was determined to continually serve his great God, he felt as if there were no other options.

As John looked around and saw the rocks, he was surrounded by waters on every side, escape seemed to be impossible, his thoughts drifted off to the

little churches in Asia Minor, he loved those dear Christians, how he longed to see them, he desired to comfort them in their tribulation, he was their brother, he was their companion. As John considered their plight, he realized that it was the Lord's Day, it was the day of his Lord's resurrection, what could he do, was worship an option on this isolated place? It certainly was, he would not be distracted, he would not be defeated, he would not be dismayed, he would worship and he would worship today.

We could all learn some valuable lessons from John, we could learn to worship our Lord no matter what we are facing, no matter the situation, we can not be fair weathered Christians. The apostle might have been banned to Patmos, but he was not banned from worship, his tribulation inspired adoration.

A man's country is not a certain area of land, of mountains, rivers, and woods, but it is a principle; and patriotism is loyalty to that principle.
George William Curtis

"The Pilgrim of Patmos - Day 60"

[Rev 1:9](#) ¶ I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

[Rev 1:10](#) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

1 - The Pilgrim & His Tribulation

2 - The Pilgrim & His Testimony

3 - The Pilgrim & His Triumph

In our journey we will face hard times, times of difficulty, times that will challenge our faith, our fortitude; we must realize that those times will come, how will you handle them? The apostle John stood firm in the midst of his rugged times, he stood firm on his testimony, he stood tall for his Lord, and we

must prepare ourselves to stand tall. The tough times are coming, ask the Lord to help you in specific areas of your life, ask for specific needs to grow your faith:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "You can't get rid of poverty by giving people money."

P.J O'Rourke

"Burning Hearts - Day 61"

[Luk 24:32](#) And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

The two travelers were heading to Emmaus, their hearts were heavy, their minds were confused, and they were talking about the events that had just transpired. The men were talking about the death of their master, the Lord Jesus Christ, it seemed as if all hope had been buried in the tomb, all of their dreams seemed to have just ended. The men decided to travel down the road to Emmaus, but as they were traveling someone joined them and quizzed concerning the subject of their conversation. The men were shocked that this traveler knew nothing of their conversation was he a stranger, was he ignorant to events that had Jerusalem turned upside down.

The men proceeded to tell this stranger about the current events that had

just occurred in the streets of Jerusalem, they talked of Jesus, the prophet of God, he was mighty in word and deed, and he was their hope, their help. The men told of the chief priest and how they cooperated with the city rulers and condemned Jesus to a horrible death, his death would be upon the cross of Calvary. The men noted how that they had trusted in this prophet, how they had hoped that this man would be the redeemer of Israel, but no this was improbable, even more so seeing that he had been dead now for three days. It seemed to be over, finished; their hopes fell by the wayside.

The stranger began to speak to these men, he opened up the scriptures and painted a picture of their redeemer that these men had never considered, he showed them how Christ had to suffer, he showed them how that Christ would triumph in the end. As the stranger spoke, their hearts began to burn within; they wanted him to speak on. The Lord was asked to spend the evening with them, he broke bread with them, when the time was right he revealed himself to these men, and then he vanished out of their sight.

“I think patriotism is like charity -- it begins at home.”

Henry James

"Burning Hearts - Day 62"

[Luk 24:32](#) And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

1 - The Sorrow That Troubled Them - Their Burden

2 - The Story That Touched Them - Their Burning

3 - The Saviour That Thrilled - Their Benefit

It would be so beneficial if we would seek the risen saviour and let him talk to us, would not our hearts burn within us, would it not be of great benefit to us. In our day and age we have many things to talk about, we have many burdens, we have much to be grieved about, but we need to find the Lord, we need him to set a fire burning within our hearts. We should keep on walking,

keep on looking until we find him, we should ask him to burn our hearts, brand our hearts, set us ablaze on the inside:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "You're not supposed to be so blind with patriotism that you can't face reality. Wrong is wrong, no matter who says it."

Malcolm X

"Our Worst Brought Out His Best - Day 63"

[Eph 2:3](#) Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

[Eph 2:4](#) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

It can be summed up in a simple thought, "when we were at our worst, God was at his best ". If we could see the truth about who we were before we experienced salvation, it would have been a sad state of affair; we were walking down the wrong course, the course of this world. We were children of wrath, children of death; we were dead in our trespasses and in our sins. We were dead men walking, we probably have never really considered the truth concerning this matter, we want to think that most of us were pretty good people, my friend if we could understand the truth, we were in a mess.

The great thing about this is that it is located in the past, it is not how it is now, it is how it used to be, and we used to be in a state of death, now it is just a story of death. We used to have fleshly desires, fleshly lust, it used to control us, it used to consume us, it used to chain us down, but not so now. In the present we are saved, we have experienced a change, the Lord entered into the scene; it was not over until he had his say in the matter.

The bible says, but God, in the very midst of my sin he appeared, he appeared in his rich mercy, he appeared in his great love, he appeared and loved me. It took a great love to save me, it took a great love to save you, it took a love that would cost God his only son, it took a love that would span the universe, it took a love that would go from the greatest heights of heaven to the lowest depths of hell.

“The person who never made a mistake - has never tried anything new.”
Albert Einstein

"Our Worst Brought Out His Best - Day 64"

[Eph 2:3](#) Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

[Eph 2:4](#) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

1 - The Amazing Love of God

2 - The Able Love of God

3 - The Abundant Love of God

4 - The Abiding Love of God

If we were to be honest, none of us deserved the matchless, endless, selfless, flawless love of God. We deserved hell, but gained heaven, we deserved death

but experienced life; we deserved bondage, but received liberty. When you and I were at our worst, God was at his best that is still wonderful to me!!! Thank him in the space below:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "You can't blame gravity for falling in love."
Albert Einstein

"A Mind to Work - Day 65"

[Neh 4:6](#) ¶ So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

The people had a mind to work, that was the solution to repairing the walls. Nehemiah had received news concerning Jerusalem that the city lied in waste and desolation, the walls had fallen down, and Israel was the laughing stock of the region. The great leader turned to his God in prayer and fasting, the asked the king to grant him permission to go and rebuild his homeland. The king not only gave him his approval, but he provided him an escort and many resources to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

After touring the desolation, Nehemiah called all of the people together and revealed his plan to them. It was a plan that required great faith, but would also require much toil and labor would the people buy into his plan? The enemy was ready to taunt them, ready to ridicule them, could this feeble

group of people stand up to the test? It is one thing to have faith, it is one thing to believe, but it is another thing to place hands and feet upon that faith!!! The people agreed with their leader, each person was to repair the wall with his own particular family, in his own backyard.

The church would rise above any need if the people would all join in and have a mind to work. We need a mind to work, not a mind to complain, not a mind for strife, not a mind for gossip, not a mind for doubt, but a mind for work. Have you considered your role in helping your church, do you support it economically, spiritually, can they depend on you when it's time for a little sweat, time for the laborious events, time for the physical? It would greatly benefit your church if you would sign up today, stand up, speak up, let everyone know that you are ready to join in and do your part.

Quote: "The important thing is not to stop questioning."
Albert Einstein

"A Mind to Work - Day 66"

[Neh 4:6](#) ¶ So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

1 - The Walls Were Ruined - The Neglect

2 - The Workers Were Ready - The Need

3 - The Watchers Were Rejected - The Needless

I wonder how long it has been since you found joy in service; joy in simply serving, how long has it been my dear friend? Do you know how it feels to volunteer for the needed task, the task that so often goes unnoticed, so often goes unannounced? The church has always flourished by having volunteers; it has never risen above its servants!!! It would benefit your church if you found your place of service; you fill your place of service. You finished in your place

of service. In the following space list some areas that you could benefit your church in becoming a servant:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "The most beautiful emotion we can experience is the mysterious. It is the power of all true art and science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead. To know that what is impenetrable to us really exists, manifesting itself as the highest wisdom and the most radiant beauty, which our dull faculties can comprehend only in their most primitive forms -- this knowledge, this feeling, is at the center of true religiousness. In this sense, and in this sense only, I belong to the rank of devoutly religious men."
Albert Einstein

"A Great Work - Day 67"

[Neh 6:3](#) And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I [am] doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?

In this story we find that the enemy had sent messengers unto Nehemiah, they wanted to have a meeting with him, was he willing to meet? The mighty leader refused to become sidetracked; he realized how important his job was. He also realized how trivial the meeting would be with his enemies, it would be meaningless, he would never agree with them, so why meet with them. As Nehemiah looked around he saw that his people were working so hard, why was this, what stirred them up to do this work?

The people knew that the work was great, it meant something to each one of them, it was more than just important, it was personally meaningful to them.

Have you ever considered that your work in the kingdom of God is great, it is of the utmost importance, it is needful? It does not matter what your particular role might be, it could be very small, it could go unnoticed, but my friend it is important? The church must get this message across, it must be heralded from pulpit to pew, and your job is great, it is beneficial, it may seem simple, but it is supreme.

What is your task, does it stir your heart to know that God knows what you are doing, does it warm your heart to know that our Lord knows why you are working, and do it for him, do it today, and do it tomorrow!!! Do not quit, do not slow down, and keep on keeping on, only eternity will tell us how important your job was. The work of God is a great work, it is a grand work, and it is a glorious work, so work on my friend. If your job runs it's course, find yourself another job, if you do not know what to do, you call out to God and he will send something your way, God is hard up, he will use just about anyone!!!

“Pleasure of love lasts but a moment, Pain of love lasts a lifetime.”

Bette Davis

"A Great Work - Day 68"

[Neh 6:3](#) And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I [am] doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?

1 - The Necessity of Our Work - Some See It

2 - The Nobility of Our Work - Some Share it

3 - The Notoriety of Our Work - Some Shun It

It is an awesome thing for God to use someone like myself, what about you, are you amazed that God uses someone like yourself? I will never get over the thought that God has let me sign up, he has let me enlist for service, he drafted me into his army, that my friend is an awesome thing!!! Thank him for letting you be apart of his team:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "I self destruct every relationship so that I don't get hurt, but in truth I just hurt myself worse in the long run."

Anonymous

It Came To Pass, Not To Stay - Day 69"

[Luk 24:4](#) And **it came to pass**, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

The scriptures use the phrase, "it came to pass" in 452 different places, that my friend is a lot of times for one particular phrase to be mentioned. It should give us much peace to realize that no matter what the situation, it came to pass, not to stay; you can find great consolation in that fact. No matter how dark the day, no matter how long the night, it only came to pass, never to stay. It does not even matter how horrible the news, how terrible the pain, how horrific the results, it too shall pass. The good news is that our heavenly father is in control, no matter the situation, no matter the despair, no matter how dire the circumstances may seem, this too shall pass.

I can expect some to say, but you do not understand, this may take us to the graveyard, yes it very well may take you there my friend, but remember this,

the graveyard is not the end, it is really the beginning. As my uncle was getting ready to pass on over to the other side, he asked his brother if thought that he would feel the sting of death? After a great pause, my other uncle told him he did not know, he never experienced death, but he assured him of one thing, he would not have to cross over alone, he would have a friend and a guide. Our heavenly father will not abandon us, he has not brought things our way to stay, and he will see that they pass, they may not pass by swiftly, but my friend they will pass.

What are you facing today, does it seem to have settled in, seemingly never to go away, don't worry, fret not, it will come to pass. One day you will look back and realize that your heavenly father brought you through safely, the storm paused momentarily, but it pass eventually.

"I believe that everything happens for a reason. People change so that you can learn to let go. Things go wrong so that you appreciate them when they're right. You believe lies so you eventually learn to trust no one but yourself, and sometimes good things fall apart so better things can fall together."

Marilyn Monroe

It Came To Pass, Not To Stay - Day 70"

[Luk 24:4](#) And **it came to pass**, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

1 - The Christian & His Perplexity

2 - The Christian & His Perseverance

3 - The Christian & His Promise

In the space below tell the Lord all of your troubles, tell him all about your struggles, and ask him to bring it to pass:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "One would always want to think of oneself as being on the side of love, ready to recognize it and wish it well --but, when confronted with it in others, one so often resented it, questioned its true nature, and secretly dismissed the particular instance as folly or promiscuity. Was it merely jealousy, or a reluctance to admit so noble and enviable a sentiment in anyone but oneself?"

Shirley Hazzard

"When the Work Is Hindered - Day 71"

[Mar 6:5](#) And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed [them].

[Mar 6:6](#) And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

In this passage our Lord had just returned to his own country, the little place called Nazareth. In this country the people knew who Jesus was, at least who they thought that he was, to them he was the carpenter's son. The people were very familiar with his earthly family, Mary, the sisters, and his brothers, to them there seemed to be nothing special about this man called Jesus. The people questioned his wisdom, his healing powers, his reputation, they questioned to the point that they literally got mad at him.

It would do all of us good to remember that familiarity breeds contentment,

often times it difficult to allow the normal to become abnormal. The Saviour realized that a prophet would receive no honor from his own people, they would easily write him off. The Lord only healed a few sick folk in his own backyard, then he did something that most of us overlook, he went, he moved on down the road. Upon being rejected he would move on until someone was ready to receive a blessing.

The text reveals to us that their unbelief was so great that the Lord himself marveled at them. Unbelief is the greatest of all sins, unbelief will keep a person out of heaven, unbelief will send a person to hell, unbelief will shut down a church, it will destroy every fiber of faith that a person has stored up. It would help us greatly to pray and ask our Lord to expand our faith and expose our unbelief, upon exposing it, we need to extract it from our life, get rid of it, and do it today!!!

“Tis said of love that it sometimes goes, sometimes flies; runs with one, walks gravely with another; turns a third into ice, and sets a fourth in a flame: it wounds one, another it kills: like lightning it begins and ends in the same moment: it makes that fort yield at night which it besieged but in the morning; for there is no force able to resist it.”

Miguel De Cervantes

"When the Work Is Hindered - Day 72"

[Mar 6:5](#) And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed [them].

[Mar 6:6](#) And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

1 - Unbelief Hinders the Work - Realize It Immediately

2 - Unbelief Hinders the Word - Recognize It Infinitely

3 - Unbelief Hinders the Worker - Remove It Individually

I wonder if we have allowed unbelief into our heart, have we let it set up residence, have we given it a foot hold in our life. We need to strongly resist the desire to doubt the power of God, we must reject the very thought of

disbelieving any portion of the word of God. The word of God will bring to fruition the work of God, his will can only come to pass when one has total belief in his mighty word, in his wonderful works. In the space below ask God to help grow your faith and remove all unbelief from your life:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Love is bittersweet, and it's up to you to make it bitter or sweet."

Unknown

"Either Come Apart, or You Will Come Apart - Day 73"

[**Mar 6:31**](#) And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

The disciples had been so busy, they had been going from daylight until dark, and the crowds followed them continually. If they were walking the mobs swarmed them, if they went by boat the crowds ran along the shore until they could see Jesus. The disciples were not weary of the work, but I promise you that they were very weary in the work. It is one thing to burn for the work, but another thing to burn due to the work. The point of this lesson is, sometimes you need a break, sometimes you need sometime to get refreshed, to get revived, to get refocused. I probably would not be far from the truth if I

asked you why the work has gotten dull, why you're toiling has become so laborious, why your prayer life seems to be so cold and so distant, could it be due to burnout?

It is a fact that in most all churches 10 percent of the people do 90 percent of the work that is sad, but so true. The church needs more workers, the church has need that more to sign up, but the fact is most will not do this. In most churches you have three kinds of people, those that watch the work, those that weary the work, and those that welcome the work. If you are in the group that welcomes the work, that my friend is wonderful, but be careful, don't burn out. We must follow our Lord's direction; find yourself a place to come apart, a place for some personal rest and relaxation, a place for some nice recreation.

The motto of many of our great workers is, "it's better to burn out than rust out". I wonder if this statement is really true, I wonder if this does not cause spiritual casualties along the way, fallen workers, fallen not due to sin, but due to fatigue? I believe that we need to be sure that we are taking care of ourselves physically, mentally, spiritually; it takes all three of these areas to keep us fresh.

"Love me or hate me, but spare me your indifference."

Libbie Fudim

"Either Come Apart, or You Will Come Apart - Day 74"

[Mar 6:31](#) And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

1 - It is Not a Sin to Say No

2 - It Is Not a Sin Not to Go

3 - It Is Not a Sin to Refresh Your Soul

In the coming days, you must seek refreshment; you must schedule that time to come apart. In a lot of case people whose lives are coming apart, have failed

to take time to come apart. In the space below ask God to help you learn to take care of yourself, ask him to keep you from becoming a casualty:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "In search of a Rose you sometimes overlook an orchid."
Carol Harris

"Little Is Much If God Is In It - Day 75"

[Jhn 6:9](#) There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

The crowds were gathered around Christ and his disciples, they were hungry, evening was approaching, Jesus was about to teach his disciples a mighty lesson. He prompted them to send the multitude away, so they could go find some food, or they could take their money and buy the multitude some food. As they counted the money, it was clear that there was not enough money, not even close, what would they do? One of his disciples informed the Lord that a little lad was with them; in his lunch box he had five barley loaves

and two small fishes. Then the disciple said something that was so true, something that was so human, he declared loudly to anyone that was willing to listen, " but what are they among so many "?

The Lord knew what he was going to do, the disciples did not have a clue, nor do you and I. He took those five loaves and two small fishes and he broke them, then he blessed them, then he had them distributed among the multitude and when all was said and done they were all full. The story does not end there, upon feeding everyone the Lord told them to gather up the fragments, and they had twelve baskets left over, twelve over and above what had been distributed to the thousands of people.

We must understand that our God is a great God, he is bigger than you and I think he is, he is better than you and I think that he is, he is bolder than you and I think that he is. When it comes to miracles, he has no limitations, when it comes to using something he cannot be hindered, he can go where he wants to go, he can do what he wants to do. He cannot be hindered from entering in, he cannot be hindered when he wants to exit. He is God, there is none like him, there is no other.

"The best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend."
Abraham Lincoln

"Little Is Much If God Is In It - Day 76"

[Jhn 6:9](#) There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

1 - God Is Unlimited in His Acts

2 - God is Unrestricted in His Abilities

3 - God Is Undeterred in His Associations

We must praise him for his wonderful acts, he can do all things, and he doesn't need much to start with, thank God for that. He did not get much

when he got me, but I got it all when I got him. Give him what you have today, it may not be much but it will be adequate, it will be sufficient. Look for some areas that you need the help of God, list them below:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: “The glory of friendship is not the outstretched hand, nor the kindly smile, nor the joy of companionship; it is the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when he discovers that someone else believes in him and is willing to trust him with his friendship.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"What to Do When You Have Spent All That You Have - Day 77"

[Mar 5:25](#) And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

[Mar 5:26](#) And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

The woman was in a complete mess, her physical condition was in a mess, her economical condition was in a mess, and her mental condition was in a mess, what could she do? The disease had overwhelmed her, it had robbed her of twelve years of her life, and it had not gotten any better, but rather grew worse. The woman had tried many doctors, apparently they used her as

a guinea pig, and the doctors wanted her money but honestly offered her no relief or hope. The woman spend every dime that she had hoping to find a cure, she would have travelled from city to city, witch doctor to witch doctor, all in vain.

In our modern day society do we not see the same events occurring on a regular basis? We see folk with distress, we see folk with disease. We seem them experiencing difficulty, they will try any means, travel any distance, try any doctor, often without relief or remedy. It would do us good to turn to God with each and every need, he certainly has the answer, and He most assuredly has the ability. We may need to travel, we may need to seek other options, but we should always include God, we should ask for his guidance, his deliverance.

Upon seeing her situation go from bad to worse, she heard that Jesus was passing by, she humbly found him she meekly touched the hem of his garment. As she silently did this deed, Jesus felt virtue leave his body, he wanted to know who it was that touched him. The disciples thought this was a foolish question seeing there were people pressing upon the Lord, but he knew something mighty had just occurred. Why did she receive immediate healing, was it her touching him, was the garment, was she special? Of course all of those answers are wrong; she received healing because of her great faith!!!

“Friends are bandages that stop your heart from bleeding.”

Laura Williams

"What to Do When You Have Spent All That You Have - Day 78"

[Mar 5:25](#) And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

[Mar 5:26](#) And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

1 - Faith Trusting - Her Confidence Was Large

2 - Faith Touching - Her Chance Was Looming

3 - Faith Triumphant - Her Change Was Literal

The woman had reached her wits end, all hope had fled away, humanly she was heading towards the finish line of despair and depression, but thank God Jesus passed by, and in passing by he offered her the most beautiful opportunity that life could afford her. He offered her the chance for change, help for the helpless, hope for the hopeless. In the space below ask Jesus to grow your faith and help your situation:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "A friend leaves footprints on your heart like you leave them on sand, they get washed away, but best friends leave footprints on your heart like you leave them on the moon, those stay forever."

Victoria Elise Shakespeare

"Astonished - Day 79"

[Mar 5:42](#) And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was [of the age] of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

Astonished, amazed, how often do we use this word in our Christian experience, do we use it daily, and do we use it loosely? The story is of great interest to the complacent Christian, to that person whose Christian life has become bland and tepid. The word astonished literally means to knock something from its original state, literally into a state of wonderment,

amazement. The story portrays a child that was twelve years old, the child had died, and the family was in mourning. Then the Lord shows up and knocks things upside down, he literally shook all of those that were in attendance, they were in complete amazement.

The Lord sent everyone out of the room except the parents, then he spoke to the child, out side they were laughing him to scorn they were having the time of their life. The Lord, his disciples, and the parents were about to observe divinity at its best, he spoke and the child arose, she instantly got up. At our Lords bidding the tide was turned, at his beckoning call the dead had to rise up, that my friend is God at his best.

The girl began to walk around, the Lord told them to feed her, I wonder how much mocking was going on then, how many of them were laughing him to scorn now? The room was filled with astonishment, he turned their mental perception upside down, and the people did not know what to say. It would benefit us to expect the abnormal. Our God is not dead, he still has the same ability, and he still can perform mighty miracles. How many times do we come to church and expect nothing to happen, and usually we get exactly what we expected, nothing!!!

“You can tell a lot about a fellow's character by the way he eats jelly beans.”
Ronald Reagan

"Astonished - Day 80"

[Mar 5:42](#) And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was [of the age] of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

1 - The Church & Her Options - Our Simple Choice

2 - The Church & Her Outlook - Our Strategic Chance

3 - The Church & Her Outbreak - Our Successful Charge

We need to expect astonishment; we should pray for astonishment, we should plan for astonishment. The Lord is still alive, he still wants to amaze us, have you been amazed at the Lord lately? If you inspect your life, has it become complacent, has it fizzled out spiritually, you may need a good dose of astonishment. In the space below ask God to amaze you:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "If carrots are so good for your eyes, then why are there so many dead rabbits in the road?"

Anonymous

"Free Encouragement - Day 81"

1Sa 30:4 Then David and the people that [were] with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.

1Sa 30:6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

The situation was very sad, the army of David had been off fighting the enemy, while they were gone the Philistines had come in and destroyed

Ziklag, this was where the army of David had left their wives, and their children. As David and his men came in sight of Ziklag they noticed the smoke ascending, upon arriving into the city they saw it had been plundered. A further inspection found that all of their children were gone; none of their wives came out to greet them. The Philistine army had taken them as captives, how awful this situation would have been.

As the men began to weep for their loved ones, something strange occurred; there was a rumbling in the camp to hold someone accountable. As David heard the murmuring, he noticed the looks, he could see the disgust of all the men, they wanted to blame David, this was so unfair, but it was true. The heart of each man was torn for his loved ones, including their leader; his family was taken captive also. Then David done one of the most wonderful things that scripture has ever revealed, he began to encourage himself. This was not your normal encouragement, he encouraged himself in the Lord!

The mighty psalmist began to talk about the greatness of his God, the past greatness, the greatness that he experienced in the shepherds field as a young lad. He began to reminisce about facing the giant down in the valley; he remembered how his God took that giant down with one mighty fling of a stone. He remembered the lion and the bear that tried to still the little lambs from his fold, but his mighty God gave him the strength to kill both the lion and the bear. As he began to encourage himself in the Lord his God, he regained his focus and asked God if he could go and recover his loses, the Lord told him to go and recover it all, and so he did.

“Life is a trip; carry band-aids.”
Crystal Saff

"Free Encouragement - Day 82"

[1Sa 30:4](#) Then David and the people that [were] with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.

[1Sa 30:6](#) And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

1 - The Reason for David's Encouragement

2 - The Results of David's Encouragement

3 - The Rewards of David's Encouragement

4 - The Reassurance of David's Encouragement

We must remember that self encouragement is personally needed and biblically noted, so practice it. In the following space encourage yourself in specific areas of need:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "From there to here, and here to there, funny things are everywhere."
Dr. Seuss

"When You Pray - Day 83"

Mat 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

The scriptures give us clear instructions when it comes to our prayer life; we are to be people of prayer. The Christian does not have an option concerning

prayer; we are to pray continually, clearly, pray with clear expectation, pray with clear expression. Prayer is the wheels that make the church function, prayer is our unseen power. We should have a place for prayer, a place that is set aside just for praying; it should be place that breeds prayer, a place that births prayer, a place that beckons prayer. We should have a plan for prayer, a personal time set aside just for prayer, let nothing hinder this time. We should have a purpose for prayer, it should not be vain words, useless communication, it should be specific.

The Christian has the greatest resource, that my friend is prayer. We had the greatest teacher concerning prayer, he should how to pray, and he also showed us the practice of prayer. If we were to be honest a lot of teachers teach things that they usually fail to practice, not so with our Lord, he taught prayer, but he also practiced praying. In reading our bible, the Lord speaks to us, in praying we speak to him, we lay out our needs, we express our praise, we just spend time with him.

How important is prayer in your life dear friend, is it practiced daily, is it mingled into to your day to day living? I wonder if some of us would say, I pray but only in times of difficulty, times of despair? The practice of prayer should be habitual but never a ritual, it show be the norm but never normal? How often do you pray dear friend, is this time meaningful, is it personal?

The consequence of events shall define your path.”

Unknown

"When You Pray - Day 84"

[Mat 6:6](#) But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

1 - Prayer Is Sometimes Denied - He Tells Us No

2 - Prayer Is Sometimes Delayed - He Tells Us to Wait

3 - Prayer Is Sometimes Different - He Tells Us of Other Options

4 - Prayer Is Sometimes Direct - He Answers Our Prayer As Requested

In the passage below you may want to make prayer a priority, you may want to set aside some time for personal, persistent, permanent, private praying:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "The mind is the worst of charlatans. On Friday, it will be your closest friend but by Sunday, it will poison your coffee."

Amy Paschal

"Praise Him In Spite Of - Day 85"

[Act 16:25](#) ¶ And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

The two servants were locked up in the inner most part of the prison, they

were bleeding, they had just been beaten. The men had done nothing wrong except preach in the name of their master, Jesus Christ, they refused to be silent. As the men looked around the situation looked bleak, the prison was beyond penetration, even if it were, and they were not going anywhere due to their feet being placed in stocks. In the very midst of this horrible situation, the two men began to pray, after praying they started singing, not just any singing, but spiritual singing. The men began to praise God, how could this be, why would this be, why should this be?

The men were in prison, but they were not in spiritual bondage, in their eyes these men were as free as any two men could be. The men decided to praise God in spite of the situation, in spite of the beatings, in spite of the stocks that were hurting their ankles, on spite of their bloody and battered backs. The men were not prisoners of the Philippians government, they were prisoners of the Lord their God, no amount of pain, nor pressure would change their association with him. In the very midst of it all they broke out into a worship and praise service, this was unthinkable, this was unbelievable, it was so strange, yet so true.

Have we come to the place in our Christian life that we will praise him no matter what comes our way, can you, will you? We must realize that most of life is filled with despair, danger, difficulty, if you only wait for the good times, you may not get the chance to praise him. We must decide to praise him in spite of , in the midst of, no matter what, praise him today, praise him tomorrow, praise him privately, praise him publicly, praise him personally, just praise him.

“A false face is always hidden behind a smile.”

Kazi Shams

"Praise Him In Spite Of - Day 86"

[Act 16:25](#) ¶ And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

1 - The Condition of Praise

2 - The Choice of Praise

3 - The Comfort of Praise

4 - The Concept of Praise

We must learn to practice praising him, we must learn to promote praising him, we must learn to praise him in spite of the situation, and can you learn to do that? The two servants give us a great example of how, when, and where to praise. In the space below let him know how you feel about praising him:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "I never want to grow up, I never want to get old, I never want to die. I want my body to be frozen for eternity, I want to be eternal. I've never celebrated any of my birthdays, for me it was always a sad day."

Alix Henriol

"The Question of Grace - Day 87"

Rth 2:10 Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I [am] a stranger?

In this wonderful passage we find Ruth working in the fields of Boaz, she had no idea who the man Boaz was, but in her thinking she stumbled upon his field. As she was gathering barley with the reapers a man appeared and took notice of the little Moabitesh girl in the midst of his field. The man Boaz quizzed his workers about this beautiful stranger and they informed him that this was the daughter in law of Naomi. Upon hearing their reply, he immediately knew that she was a widow due to her husband's death back in Moab.

Boaz started acting a bit giddy, he seemed to take a liking to this stranger, in reality it was love at first sight, and do you believe in love at first sight? I will never forget seeing a beautiful dark haired girl walking down the hall of my high school, she sparked something in me that made me inquire of her, that spark turned into a fire, that fire turned into a marriage that is still going after 26 years. I certainly believe in love at first sight, and so did Boaz. He informed all of his men to leave her alone, he told Ruth that when she was thirsty to come to him for water, when she was hungry to come and share his bowl. In the midst of these events Ruth could not comprehend how this great man Boaz could shed his grace and goodness upon her.

I am still amazed how that our Lord could love me, I know who I am, he knows who that I am and he still loves me, that my friend is unbelievable. I can relate to the question of Ruth, why me, what did I do to deserve this wonderful thing called grace. I can tell you my friend what I did, I did absolutely nothing, everything that I have done was wrong, was worthless, was wicked, but thanks be to God that he loved me anyways. The grace of God is not to be deserved, not to be earned, and not to be equaled, it is a free gift. As the little gal headed home with her arms loaded down with a load of barley, she may not have understood all that was going on, but I bet she sure was grateful that she had meet this man called Boaz!

"The clearest form of communication is silence!"

John Rambo

"The Question of Grace - Day 88"

Rth 2:10 Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I [am] a stranger?

1 - The Grace of God Personally Sought Me - I Cannot Fathom It

2 - The Grace of God Powerfully Saved Me - I Cannot Forget It

3 - The Grace of God Plentifully Satisfies Me - I Cannot Fund It

Have you ever questioned the grace of God in your life? Often times we may question the grace of God in other people, but many of us would dare to think that we deserve the good grace of God, not on your life my friend. In the space below thank him for his marvelous, matchless, majestic, manifested saving grace:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Have the strength to show mercy."

Greg Evans

"Dropping Some Handfuls of Purpose - Day 89"

Rth 2:15 And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not:

Rth 2:16 And let fall also [some] of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave [them], that she may glean [them], and rebuke her not.

The boss man informed his workman to do something that was completely out of the ordinary, he told them to watch the little Moabitesh girl and see that she left with a full load. The corners of the fields were left for the poor to glean this was God's welfare system for the poor, it was expected that the poor would come and gather the barley that was left in the corners. It was also part of their culture to leave whatever was dropped; this would also go to the poor. The workmen were told to do something else that was completely out of the norm, he told them to watch for Ruth and if she was gathering barley behind them they were to conveniently drop a handful so that she could pick it up for her own.

The Lord knows how to paint a picture of his mighty love for his church, he loves you my friend. As you and I go through life every now and then he will send a blessing our way, we do not deserve it, we haven't done anything special he just wants to bless us. Have you ever considered how much he loves you; have you ever wondered why he pours out his blessings on you? Ruth had not done anything to earn these handfuls of purpose, but she sure did enjoy picking each little drop of barley up. Could it be that that promotion you just received came from God, maybe that raise you just got was from God, is it possible that he has dropped a few handfuls your way and you did not even know it?

It is a wonderful thing to be saved, it is even better to know without a doubt that you are saved, but it is even better to enjoy all of his benefits, he has loaded us down with benefits. The salvation that you and I have is better enjoyed than endured, let us all enjoy his might handfuls of purpose.

“And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.”

Nelson Mandela

"Dropping Some Handfuls of Purpose - Day 90"

Rth 2:15 And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not:

Rth 2:16 And let fall also [some] of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave

[them], that she may glean [them], and rebuke her not.

1 - God's Blessings Are Undeserved

2 - God's Blessings Are Unforeseen

3 - God's Blessings Are Unlimited

Thank him for his wonderful blessings, tell him how you feel about his loving kindness, God is so good. It would do us all good to continually consider those handfuls of purpose that he intentionally sends our way:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership."

Nelson Mandela

"Doing Good Is Never Bad - Day 91"

[Act 10:38](#) How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

The great apostle Peter is talking about the object of all of his preaching that

object was no one other than the Lord Jesus Christ. In this text he describes how that Jesus was the anointed Nazarene, anointed with the Holy Ghost and with mighty power, who went about doing well. The Lord sets the example for all of his followers, he set the standard, he drew the line and he drew it straight. He showed each of us something that we can do from day to day, that my friend is how to be good. As I inspect the life of Christ he always did well, he was even good to his enemy.

It would bring out the best in each of us if we were to cultivate this in our lives, cultivate the desire to do good, instead of speaking evil about our fellow man, and find something good to say about them. We should treat people good in the workplace, we should treat the waitress well down at the diner, we should treat the person running the register good, and we should treat the gas attendant good. It is just as easy to treat someone good as it is to treat them bad. If we were to be honest with ourselves we expect everyone to treat us good, but often we fail to return the favor, right? How did you respond the last time your order was wrong down at the steakhouse, did you tell them off, did you use that to get out of tipping them. Often we fail to consider that the waiter or waitress has just come to work and their life is literally in shambles, but seemingly nobody cares, especially their Christian customers, right?

In the coming days we should decide to go about doing good, you want to be like Jesus, do well, do it today, do it when you feel like it, and do it when you don't feel like it. I may not be able to perform any miracles, but I can do well, I may never walk on water or raise the dead, but I certainly can do well. It is never wrong to do well, it is always right to do well; doing well is a good thing to do!!!

“The Greatest Enemy Anyone Can Have Is Himself.”
Junior Contreras

"Doing Good Is Never Bad - Day 92"

[Act 10:38](#) How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

1 - The Advantage of Doing Good - It Is Right

2 - The Applause for Doing Good - It Is Recorded

3 - The Association of Doing Good - It Is Recognized

I want to challenge you to make a vow to do well, expect yourself to do well, enable yourself to do well, encourage yourself to do well. If you want to be like Jesus, go and do well, do it for him, do it because of him, do it in his name. In the space below list some areas that you will strive to do well, then go out and do it:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "One of the weaknesses of our society is that history is still news to most people."

Grant Fairley

"Where Are the Mighty - Day 93?"

[Jdg 6:11](#) ¶ And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which [was] in Ophrah, that [pertained] unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide [it] from the Midianites.

Jewels for the Journey

[Jdg 6:12](#) And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD [is] with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

We find a peculiar event taking place down at the winepress, here we see a man by the name of Gideon threshing wheat, the wheat was supposed to be threshed upon the hillside, not down by the winepress. It would benefit us to understand why this event was happening this way, Gideon was a big chicken, do you believe that, he really was!!! The Midianites were giving Israel a very difficult time, they were the big bully during those days and Israel could not do anything about it. The angel of the Lord was about to change things, so he appears and sits down under a big oak tree and watches Gideon. He sees the young man working and hiding, then he says one of the most humorous things to Gideon, he tells Gideon that the Lord is with him, and that Gideon is mighty man of valor. I wonder what Gideon thought about this, was the angel joking; he had to be kidding, right?

The young man had been chosen of God to set his people free from the Midianites yoke. It was something that made no sense; it was totally unthinkable that God could use this boy to do such a major task. The boy himself thought that he was the least of the least; he thought the request was an impossible request; the request had to be a mistake. The angel reassured Gideon that he was the chosen leader; he was God's anointed for this present hour. I would dare say that many times God sees more use for us than we would ever see, God sees the heart, and he inspects what nobody else has the capability to inspect. God has a special calling for your life, your family doesn't see it, your church may not even see it, but God does.

The Lord does not make mistakes my dear friend, those that he sends he also supplies, the person that he picks, he also provides. Are you willing to listen to him; are you available if he comes your way? One thing that I have noticed in the scriptures is that God always picks someone that is involved and already working. Gideon may not have had the proper self esteem, but his God did, he may have thought himself to be useless, but God thought him to be useful!!

The only regrets in life are the risks that were not taken.
Jacob Ball

"Where Are the Mighty - Day 94?"

[Jdg 6:11](#) ¶ And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which [was] in Ophrah, that [pertained] unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon

threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide [it] from the Midianites.

[Jdg 6:12](#) And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD [is] with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

1 - The Meekness of Gideon - His Perception

2 - The Mightiness of Gideon - His Power

3 - The Matchlessness of Gideon - His Place

In the space below ask God to show you certain, specific areas that he may need to use you, just ask him:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "It is better to live with your past than to live in the past."
Justin Emrick

"Our Anchor of Hope - Day 95"

[Hbr 6:19](#) Which [hope] we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and

stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

As Christians we have not been left to make it on our own, it is not up to our own selves to make it from day to day. The Lord has provided us with specific tools for our journey, these tools are the right tools, and they are the best tools. One of these tools is a thing called hope; specifically it is called an anchor of hope. The great thing about this anchor is the place where it is fastened, this anchor is fastened first of all to our very own soul, it is steadfast, it is secure, and you can count on it. The second place that this anchor is fastened is very odd, most anchors are located somewhere below the object that is being anchored, but this anchor is the only anchor that I know of that spans the universe, it is anchored within the veil, literally inside the throne room.

Dear friend you can rest easy in knowing that this anchor is secure, it is secured on our end by the Spirit of God, and it is secure on the heavenly end by the Son of God, now that my friend is secure. If my salvation depended upon myself I would be the most hopeless man in the world. If my salvation depended upon others to keep me saved I would be lost tomorrow, but thanks be to God that I am secure due to the blood of Jesus Christ. I can rest easy in trusting Jesus, I have a wonderful hope in knowing that I am safe, I am saved, I am stable. It is an awesome thing to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that I am saved, my hope is in the Lord, and my confidence is in the Lord. What price could we pay to obtain this great hope, what could we do to deserve this mighty hope?

Thank God for my hope, he is worthy of all praise, to him be the glory, he has supplied me with a tool that is so useful, so needful, my hope is so wonderful. We probably take our hope for granted, we don't have to secure it, we don't have to supply it, we don't have to share it, and we just have to apply it. The hope of God is readily available, just use it, and just apply it!!!

“Loneliness is not measured by the number of people in the room with you.”
Amy Paschal

"Our Anchor of Hope - Day 96"

[Hbr 6:19](#) Which [hope] we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and

stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

1 - The Provision of Our Hope - The Supply

2 - The Intention of Our Hope - The Security

3 - The Direction of Our Hope - The Saviour

The writer challenges us to lay hold of our hope, it is useless if we do not use it, it is not a spare tire for emergencies, and it is the most important tool that we can use. Dear friend grab hold of your faith, it is there do not neglect it; in the following place list some areas that you need to apply your hope in God:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Our past will affect our future as long as we keep it in our present."
Jesus Villasis

"He Knows - Day 97"

Jewels for the Journey

Pro 5:21 For the ways of man [are] before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.

The writer of proverbs tells us something that we often forget, he reminds us of something that often we desire to forget. That something is this, the Lord knows the way of man. our steps are taken before his eyes, he ponders every move that we make. Often we fail to realize that our God is an omniscient being, nothing gets by him, and nothing is ever hidden from him. The writer is trying to stir our minds up and get us to focus on the truth that truth is that he knows. He not only ponders our good deeds, he also ponders our evil deeds, he records them, he remembers them, and sometimes he reveals them.

In our hometown they have just posted cameras on certain traffic lights, most of the time people forget about these lights. In the process of time it is business as usual around these traffic lights, those in a hurry run through the red lights, some even turn without stopping. As this happens from day to day no patrolmen are around, it seems as if everyone is getting by with doing wrong. Then as they go to the mail box they find a written citation with a picture, sometimes the pictures reveal things that the recipient would never want anyone to see. Those that thought they were getting by only fooled themselves; there was a price to pay for violating the laws of the land.

As you and I go from day to day, dare we forget that our God is an all seeing God? He is in total view of our going and our coming, our sitting and our standing, remember he knows, nobody else may ever know but my dear friend he knows. It may make us feel awkward, but nobody will ever have to answer for not going where they shouldn't have been, don't go, don't do it. The best way to live is to live clean, the best way to not get dirty is to stay away from dirt, and the best way to stay pure is to shun impurities, right?

“A positive attitude may not solve every problem but it makes solving any problem a more pleasant experience.”

Unknown

"He Knows - Day 98"

Pro 5:21 For the ways of man [are] before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.

1 - The Eyes of God Are Always Searching

2 - The Eyes of God Are Never Shut

3 - The Eyes of God Are Absolutely Sure

We need not get the wrong idea of our heavenly father, he is a God of abundant love, but he always stands on the truth. He will not overlook sin, he will not willfully tolerate sin, and he can never bless sin. We must do our part, we should live right, and we should always strive to walk upright. As the Lord ponders our steps, we should always walk in a way that is pleasing to him. In the space below ask the Lord to help guide your steps:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Life is a marshmallow, easy to chew; but hard to swallow."
Unknown

"Watch Out For the Midianites - Day 99"

Idg 6:6 And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD.

The text describes the dire situation that Israel was facing, due to her waywardness, due to her sinfulness God allowed her enemy to become a thorn in her side for seven years. It had gotten so bad that the children of Israel had made themselves hiding places in the mountains, in the caves; it was very difficult times in the lives of God's chosen seed. The Midianites were pushing them around on a daily basis, it was a daily challenge, it was constant, it was critical, and the Midianites seem to be unbeatable. The Midianites had developed a stronghold in the lives of God's children and it seems that some of them are still living today. As you inspect your life, if you were to be honest, would we find that in some area, in some specific arena of your life, there are Midianites?

If the Midianites has established a stronghold in your life, you are the worse off for it. He will bully you around, he will bring spiritual poverty into your life, and he will bring heartache and despair. He will wear you down to the point that eventually you will allow him to have free reign in your life. We all know what a Midianite looks like; we all know what a Midianite will do to us, if so why do allow him into our life. The obvious answer would be pride, we think that we are stronger than we really are; we think that we are more spiritually mature than we really are. We know that the Midianite has a desire to destroy us; we know that he wants to kill us, but we let him in anyways. The Midianites greatly impoverished Israel and the same thing will happen to you if you do not expel him from your life.

Let's call them out for who they are, it could be a place, it could be a person, it could be a pleasure, it could be a job, it could be position, and it could be a thought, a deed, or something that I have not mentioned. I will promise you this, you know what it is, or who it is, or where it is, you really do know, right? The Midianites had free reign for seven full years, seven years of defeat, agony, and hiding, that my friend is a long time to be bullied around!!!

"It's easier to find excuses than to find courage."

Sam Van den Abeele

"Watch Out For the Midianites - Day 100"

[Jdg 6:6](#) And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD.

1 - The Invasion of the Midianites

2 - The Intimidation of the Midianites

3 - The Identification of the Midianites

4 - The Immobilization of the Midianites

If we would be honest, our Midianites must go, they must go today, it is past time to get rid of them. It would be proper if you would ask the Lord to help you dispose of the, help you defeat them, help you ditch them. The Lord wants you to have victory, can you have victory with the Midianites having free course, absolutely not, get rid of them today, and ask him to help you:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "A mighty oak will fall in the breeze but a blade of grass can weather the worst of storms."

Unknown

"The Fleece of Gideon - Day 101"

[Jdg 6:40](#) And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.

The young man Gideon had just been called by his God to set the Israelites free from the Midianites bondage. As this call began to weigh on the young man, his self esteem got the best of him, Gideon thought himself to be nobody. It amazes me how the Lord calls the nobodies of life and makes them into somebody's of life; he has a knack for doing that. God is not looking for people with ability, he is looking for people with availability, always remember it's not you anyways, it's him. As this call began to weigh this young man down, he wanted to know for a fact that this call was from God. We could all learn from Gideon, many condemn him for laying out the fleece, but we should be praising him for wanting know his calling was from God. How often do we fill positions thinking that we are in God's will, how often do we fail and blame God, when he never called us to do it in the first place?

The young man had to know, he could not go without assurance, he would not go without heavens approval, would you? Gideon done something that has confused many dear saints over the years, he challenged God and laid out a fleece, this has upset many people over the years. The only problem with what Gideon done is that it did not upset God!!! If God didn't get upset over the fleece, why should we as feeble human beings. It has been debated along theses lines, will God answer a fleece, and he did for Gideon. We often say that this is a sin; it was not a sin when it came to Gideon. We often debate that this is a sign of immaturity, actually this ended up being a sign of assurance. I have heard some say, I am past the stage of laying out fleeces before God, that is all good and well, but Gideon was not past it, neither was his God!!!

It would do us well to know God's will; it would do us well to have assurance in this will. Is it okay for me to lay out a fleece before God, try him and see, he is a God that changes not, he is God that refuses to respect some more than others. I fully believe that God wants you to have assurance in your life; he wants to lead you to complete victory.

“Accident is the name of the greatest of all inventors.”

Mark Twain

"The Fleece of Gideon - Day 102"

[Jdg 6:40](#) And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.

1 - The Fleece & its Human Aim

2 - The Fleece & its Heavenly Acceptance

3 - The Fleece & its Hasty Answer

4 - The Fleece & its Hearty Approval

The young man laid out fleece after fleece and God answered him each time, are you in the place where you need a definite, direct, deliberate answer from God, in the space below try him and see what he can do:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great."

Mark Twain

"It Might Glitter but It's Not Gold - Day 103"

Jewels for the Journey

[2Ch 12:9](#) ¶ So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he took all: he carried away also the shields of gold which Solomon had made

[2Ch 12:10](#) Instead of which king Rehoboam made shields of brass, and committed [them] to the hands of the chief of the guard, that kept the entrance of the king's house.

The king Shishak had invaded Jerusalem and stole the treasures right out of the house of God, and even from the king's house itself. In the process of rumbling through the great treasure he took the gold shields, Solomon had furnished the gold for these shields. The shields were a beautiful sight to behold, 300 in all, 300 bright shining shields, the shields were to be used as the King went from place to place. The king would leave the palace and the guards would be displaying the great gold shields, it was such a sight, as he returned to the palace there they would be once again.

Instead of king Rehoboam trying to go and get the shields back, he done one of the most foolish things a man could ever do, he made some shields out of brass. As the King would enter and return, there the guards would be holding these fake shields, they may have shined, they may have glowed, they may have glittered, but my friend they were not gold. How many of us have lost the gold of our lives to Satan, to the world, to the flesh, instead of reclaiming our lost treasures we replaced them with fake treasures? Can you identify with this story, can you see the brass shields in your life, and I would dare say that you know just what they are and where you lost the real thing?

It would do us all much good to realize that everything that shines is not always silver and everything that glows is not always gold. Often we settle for polished brass when God wants us to have so much more. In order to have the best we must fight for it, defend it, if it ever gets stolen we must hastily go and reclaim it!!!

“A lie can run around the world six times while the truth is still trying to put on its pants.”

Mark Twain

"It Might Glitter but It's Not Gold - Day 104"

[2Ch 12:9](#) ¶ So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he took all: he carried away also the shields of gold which Solomon had made

[2Ch 12:10](#) Instead of which king Rehoboam made shields of brass, and committed [them] to the hands of the chief of the guard, that kept the entrance of the king's house.

1 - The Forfeiting Of the Gold Shields - The High Cost

2 - The Faking Of the Gold Shields - The Hushed Cover Up

3 - The Forsaking Of the Gold Shields - The Hideous Crime

In the space below ask the Lord to show the brass substitutes in your life ask him to help you remove them, it is sad but true that we live in a day of synthetics, we imitate the real thing:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "I have a higher and grander standard of principle than George Washington. He could not lie; I can, but I won t."

Mark Twain

"Those That Dare To Dream - Day 105"

[Gen 37:5](#) ¶ And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told [it] his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

Of course most of us are so familiar with the story of Joseph, at least the story concerning Joseph and his coat of many colors. As we also should know that was just the beginning of Joseph's great story, the story really gets going when he has his first dream. The young boy was hated by his brothers, they despised him due to his father's favoritism, and this favoritism was wrong yet true. In the very midst of this hatred Joseph began to have dreams, he shared these dreams with his brothers, then with his father. In the dreams his brothers would have to serve him, this surely angered them, and then he told his father that he must bow down to him one day. I would suggest that Joseph felt so out of place from that day forward he would be despised.

As time passed, things began to happen in the life of Joseph, his brethren hated him for his dreams, but he dreamed on, he claimed his dreams and would not let go of them no matter how many scoffed at his dreams. In the coming days his brothers tried to kill him, instead they placed him in a pit and eventually sold him as a slave, did this stop Joseph, no way he dreamed on. The vagabond band travelled down to Egypt and sold Joseph to Potiphar, the captain of the king's guard, did this stop Joseph no way he dreamed on!!! The story goes on, eventually Potiphar's wife claims false charges of rape against Joseph, off to prison he goes. Did this stop Joseph, of course!

In the prison Joseph has the opportunity to interpret some of Pharaoh's dreams, I would have turned this request down, but not Joseph, dreams was his line of work. Upon interpreting the king's dreams, things change for Joseph, life is about to get a whole lot better for this dreamer. In the past the revealing of his dreams took him under, but in the future the revealing of his dreams would lift him up. If we could talk to Joseph today, he would tell us to dream on, dream big, dream no matter what. Dream whether people like our dreams or whether people dislike our dreams, just dream!!!

"It is nobler to be good, and it is nobler to teach others to be good and less trouble."

Mark Twain

"Those That Dare To Dream - Day 106"

[Gen 37:5](#) ¶ And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told [it] his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

1 - Joseph Received His Dreams

2 - Joseph Revealed His Dreams

3 - Joseph Remembered His Dreams

4 - Joseph Reached His Dreams

In the space below share your dreams with God, if he gave you those dreams you can be rest assured that he wants you to achieve those dreams, tell him, share them with him:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: “Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured.”

Mark Twain

"Lift up Your Eyes the Groom Is Coming - Day 107"

Gen 24:63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels [were] coming.

Gen 24:64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel.

The servant had been sent to find a bride for his son; this is a wonderful story and depiction of Christ and his church. The Father of Isaac wanted his son to have a particular bride, a bride that was right for his son, one that would want to be his bride, even though she had not seen him. The servant goes and finds the perfect bride, he inquires of her if she was willing to be his master's bride and upon receiving this request she immediately responded in a positive manner. The servant had first asked her parents, but they told him that this answer had to come from Rebekah, and so is it with our salvation, it is a very personal decision.

After the bride made her decision, the servant loaded her down with gifts of silver, gold, and raiment; this would exemplify the exact thing that happens the moment of our salvation. The Lord loads us down with all of his heavenly benefits, such as grace, mercy, peace, security and all of the eternal riches of glory. The story also says that the moment she answered yes to becoming the bride of his master's son, the servant bowed down and worshipped, and this symbolizes the passage from our new testament concerning those rejoicing in the presence of the angels upon a sinner being saved.

This journey was all about the Bridegroom, every step was about him, every thought would have been about him, every waking moment would have been about him. I can see the anticipation of Rebekah, I can sense her anxiousness, how would Isaac be, what would he look like, was it really as good as she had heard? The journey was taking her down paths that she had never traveled, was the Groom around the next curve, was he waiting over the next mountain? I suppose that she often asked how much longer, are we getting closer, did the servant tell her the time was drawing near, did he tell her to prepare herself the groom was just beyond the horizon?

“There is no sadder sight than a young pessimist, except an old optimist.”

Mark Twain

"Lift up Your Eyes the Groom Is Coming - Day 108"

[Gen 24:63](#) And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels [were] coming.

[Gen 24:64](#) And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel.

1 - The Bride Accepting the Groom - Her Decision

2 - The Bride Anticipating the Groom - Her Desire

3 - The Bride Adoring the Groom - Her Delight

As they traveled from day to day, did the servant tell Rebekah to be ready the groom could leave his place of dwelling and come to meet them along the way? Are you ready for the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, thank him for his great love:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: “I have no color prejudices nor caste prejudices nor creed prejudices. All I care to know is that a man is a human being, and that is enough for me; he

can't be any worse.”

Mark Twain

"The Danger of Doing Right - Day 109"

Est 1:12 But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by [his] chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

The king was in the midst of a great party, all of his servants were there, all of his leaders were in attendance, the party had been going now for eight days, and then he had a bright idea. He would get his wife the queen to come she off her beauty before all of the men at his party. This idea seemed okay with the king, but it did not go over so well with Vashti, the king's wife, she firmly rejected this request. I wonder if Vashti understood the repercussion of her decision, I wonder if some of her maids told her to go ahead and grant the kings request. I would dare say that the Queen knew of the kings anger problem, his anger was like a bomb ready to explode at any moment, she knew how out of control he could become in his outrage. I suppose that Vashti contemplated the outcome of her telling the king no, she could be banished, she could be killed, was it worth it, was she willing to stand firm in her beliefs?

As Vashti refused the kings request, it caused a mighty stir throughout the palace, the music may have stopped, whispers filled the room, then all eyes would have been upon the king, what would he do, this was his wife? The king done exactly what many expected him to do, his anger got the best of him, in return he received bad advice and banished his beautiful wife from the throne. The real question must be proposed to Vashti, was it worth it, should she have given in, should she have gone against her beliefs? We must ask ourselves this same question, will we give in and compromise if we know there is danger in doing right? It is easy to say that we will stand by our beliefs, but would we really do it in the midst of great loss?

As Christians we will be confronted with opportunities for compromise, the consequences could be enormous; the results could be very damaging? We must not be deceived, often there is a great price for doing that which is right, it got Christ killed, his disciples were beaten and ran from town to town. The church must teach us to do right, the church must demand its membership to do right, and we should expect each other to do right!!!

“Do the right thing. It will gratify some people and astonish the rest.”

Mark Twain

"The Danger of Doing Right - Day 110"

[Est 1:12](#) But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by [his] chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

1 - The Story of Vashti - Her Beauty

2 - The Stand of Vashti - Her Beliefs

3 - The Sorrow of Vashti - Her Banishment

4 - The Success of Vashti - Her Bravery

The story should challenge each of us to stand on our beliefs, never allow compromise to enter in. We must do right when it benefits us and when it may bruise us, just do right. In the space below ask the Lord to help you always do what is right:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: “In the beginning of a change, the Patriot is a scarce man, Brave, Hated, and Scorned. When his cause succeeds however, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a Patriot.”

Mark Twain

"Forsake Those That Frustrate - Day 111"

Ezr 4:4 Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building,

Ezr 4:5 And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

The people of Jerusalem were trying to rebuild the walls, but there was a faction that wanted to weaken the hands of those willing to rebuild the fallen walls. It was a very demanding job, it would be very laborious, it would drain them, but the people intended on finishing the job. As the workers prepared to rebuild, the frustration faction was busy in rallying their troops, we must realize that often it is easier to rally those that hinder the work than those that help the work. In life we observe that bad news travels faster than good news, the days local news is 99 % bad news & usually the other 1 % is commercials. This faction even hired counselors to frustrate the people, we must be careful, Satan may have planted people in your life to frustrate you, and you may never know this to be true.

We will always face opposition in living for Christ, but sometimes old Satan may send the frustration faction your way to hinder you. It will take clear focus and fortitude to withstand their assault. The Lord tells us to put on the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand, we should do all to stand, don't quit, don't run, just remain standing. We must stand, we must keep on working, and we must not grow weary in well doing. As we sense opposition coming our way, we must be wary, it could be the frustration faction, fully intending to bring you down. The frustration faction operates from a different game plan, they will not tempt you to gross sin, they are smarter than that, no way will they use that approach. This faction will not try to fight you face to face; they will come at you through subtle ways, ways to make you grow weary, ways that will make you get frustrated.

I wonder how many of us are fighting the frustration faction and had no idea about it? You have no desire to depart and sign up for the pleasures of this world, you are not intending on selling out to Satan, but you just feel fatigued and frustrated?

Quote: "My father taught me to work; he did not teach me to love it."

William Adams

"Forsake Those That Frustrate - Day 112"

Ezr 4:4 Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building,

Ezr 4:5 And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

1 - The Aim of the Frustration Faction - To Weary You

2 - The Awareness of the Frustration Faction - To Warn You

3 - The Abandonment of the Frustration Faction - To Welcome You

In the coming days be sure to have your guard up, have your radar on, the enemy has a plan just for you, expect him to come after you. In the name of Jesus Christ you should be able to withstand this hellish assault, just ask Christ to keep you aware of the enemy, help you to avoid them:

1 - _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Quote: “Hard work is the key to success, so work diligently on any project you undertake. If you truly want to be successful, be prepared to give up your leisure time and work past 5 PM and on weekends. Also, have faith in yourself. If you come up with a new idea that you believe in, don't allow other people to discourage you from pursuing it.”

Charles Lazarus

"Bound By Bitterness - 113"

[Hbr 12:15](#) Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble [you], and thereby many be defiled;

The passage warns of us of a very grievous sin that gets a free pass, this sin will ruin a person. The root of bitterness often goes unnoticed, it rarely gets any attention, it is rarely discussed, but it is like a deadly virus that is silently killing its victims. As we discuss this mighty sin, some may ask is this is so, why is this sin so great? The sin of bitterness is hidden beneath the surface, it is covered up, it cannot be seen in a literal sense. The problem with bitterness is that it has to have a reason; the bitter person has to have something to be bitter at. Often the object of this bitterness has no idea that the bitter person has so much venom toward them. The bitter pill is difficult to digest; it literally destroys the body that is trying to digest its poison.

The strange thing about bitterness is that when it is planted in a life, after it has been watered, when the bitter heart has become fertile ground, other roots spring up. The good thing about a root is that it can be removed while it is in the beginning stages of growth, a small sapling can be pulled up with ease, but as it takes hold the longer it's roots take hold, the greater difficulty we have in plucking it up. The other roots that grow along with bitterness are easy to identify, hatred, anger, malice, backbiting, division, jealousy, envy, unhappiness, the list could go on I suppose. I wonder if you have let this bitter root into your life, has it entrenched itself within your heart? If it is there how well are you hiding it, are you doing good at disguising it?

The real problem with bitterness is how it swells up at times in our life; it literally can affect our health. It will take a person to the grave; it can bring forth the deepest form of depression. As you look over your life, is the bitterness worth the pain, are you not tired of carrying this heavy burden around? I wonder if you would not be better off to bury this thing and leave it in the grave, move on, get over it. I have

found that some people are bitter with God, their spouse, their child, their job, a promotion, a promise, a pain, and sometimes the church, what is your object of bitterness?

“Banning gun shows to reduce violent crime will work about as well as banning auto shows to reduce drunken driving.”

Bill McIntire

"Bound By Bitterness - 114"

[Hbr 12:15](#) Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble [you], and thereby many be defiled;

1 - Bitterness Must Be Fertilized & Attended

2 - Bitterness Must Be Faced & Admitted

3 - Bitterness Must Be Forsaken & Abandoned

As we wrestle with this green eyed monster of bitterness a decision must be made, will you let it flourish or will you cut it off, pluck it up by the roots? In the space below ask God to give you the courage to face the truth and the will power to do what is needful, get rid of the evil root of bitterness:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Labor disgraces no man, but occasionally men disgrace labor."
Ulysses S. Grant

"It's Not For Sale - Day 115"

1Ki 21:2 And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it [is] near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; [or], if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.

1Ki 21:3 And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee.

The wicked king looked out of his palace window and saw a beautiful vineyard, this vineyard was just a small plot of land, but the king admired it and wanted it. As the king attempted to purchase the land, the owner of the land, a man named Naboth, immediately told the king absolutely no!!! He did not even have to consider the matter, he realized the heritage of his land, he had saw this land passed down from generation to generation, he had heard his father tell stories about this land. The king was very tactful in his request, he told Naboth that he wanted to change the vineyard, he wanted it to be an herb garden. He would give Naboth a better vineyard or Naboth could name his price and the king would pay it.

If the king had better land why would he trade it to Naboth for lesser land? The king wanted to change the whole heritage of this vineyard, this vineyard had always been a nice beautiful place to grow fruit from the vine, not herbs. I hope you can see the symbolism of this passage; our enemy wants the best that you and I have. He will do anything to purchase it. He will do anything, try anything, say anything, offer anything, his tactics are unlimited, so be ready. The church has lost many vineyards to the enemy; he has stolen some of our great landmarks and corrupted them. Each one of us will be engaged by Satan, he will try to find out what your price is, do you have a price. Often we say that our testimony is not for sale, our Christian pureness is not for sale, our virtue is not for sale, but do we really mean this, do we?

The great thing about the testimony of Naboth is that he had the real thing, when he said not for sale, he really meant it, he meant it so much that he died for it!!! The Christian values that you have may have been passed down throughout your family, are you willing to let Satan buy you out, does he know your price, do you have a price?

“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”

Thomas Edison

"It's Not For Sale - Day 116"

1Ki 21:2 And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it [is] near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; [or], if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.

1Ki 21:3 And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee.

1 - Naboth & His Pointed Request

2 - Naboth & His Plain Response

3 - Naboth & His Poised Resilience

We must strive to guard our Christian heritage, if we don't who will? In the space below ask God to help you understand the importance of refusing to sell out at Satan's demands:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Don't tell me how hard you work. Tell me how much you get done."
James Ling

"The Fairest Of Ten Thousand - Day 117"

[Sgs 7:10](#) I [am] my beloved's, and his desire [is] toward me.

The passage tells us of the great love affair between the young Shulamite girl and her king. The two loved each other more than words could express, though they were separated at times, their love was for each other. The young lowly Shulamite girl desired only her beloved and she knew that he had desires only for her. I wonder how often we fail to remember just how much our Lord really does love us. This fabulous love is an unending love, it is an unfailing love, and it is an unfading love, that my dear friend is an awesome love. The young girl knew that one day that the object of her affection would come for her. In all honesty this is what she lived for, thoughts of him consumed her, but on the other hand she was all that he lived for, thoughts of her consumed him. The two of them had a desire that was beyond description, she loved him and he loved her, that my friend was enough.

In all actuality the young girl had no idea that her young lover was the king Solomon, she loved him for who he was, and not for what all he could offer her. The young girl fell in love with the man, not his massive amount of money. One day she was outside and looked down the road and out of the wilderness came a stranger, his entrance was a thing to see, it was noble, it was a sight to be noted, who was this stranger? Upon taking a closer look it was her love, the fairest of ten thousand to her soul, how could this be, it was the king, and she had fallen in love with a king. The same goes for you and I, in the end we have received more than we would have ever bargained for, we only wanted to shun hell, but we secured heaven. We stepped out in faith and trusted Christ, but in the coming days we realized that we got the best end of this deal, he only got an old sinner, but we got a wonderful Saviour, his riches, his benefits, his heritage.

The greatness of this passage is that he desires me, I will never comprehend that he desires to see me, spend time with me. I was on my way to a place called hell, but upon trusting him I am now headed to heaven. He has been so good to me, He is my beloved and I am his, which excites me. I sure did get more than I ever asked for, did you, did you know it would be this good, am I the only one that thinks this salvation is an awesome thing?

“Don't let someone become your all in all; because when they're gone you have nothing!”

Kenya Mitchell

"The Fairest Of Ten Thousand - Day 118"

[Sgs 7:10](#) I [am] my beloved's, and his desire [is] toward me.

1 - The Beauty of This Love

2 - The Benefits of This Love

3 - The Bestowing of This Love

In the space below tell him how much you love him, thank him for his wonderful benefits, he has loaded us down with love, mercy, grace, kindness, he sure has been good to me, what about you? Just tell him how thankful that you are:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: “Love does never want to lose faith, never wanting to give up, and never truly moving on. True love is hoping and praying in the deepest part of what's left of your heart that they feel the same.”

Courtney Jo Wright

"The Freedom of Forgiveness - Day 119"

[Psa 86:5](#) For thou, Lord, [art] good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

The passage tells us of the goodness and greatness of God, he is good, he is always ready to forgive, and he is also plenteous in his abundant mercy. I wonder if you can ever think of a time when God has not been good, can you ever bring forth a time when God has failed to offer forgiveness. I suppose you could never submit a time when God's mercy was not available, freely offered? It is so awesome to know how fantastic God is in offering forgiveness. He is ready to forgive, if you need forgiveness it is there for the asking. I also realize that forgiveness is not the normal reaction of our flesh. I suppose that most of us would forgive in most circumstances, but could we forgive in every situation? I realize that this is a harsh and pointed statement, but dear friend God is ready and available to forgive. As we grasp this message, is it startling, is it unnerving to think along these lines? I can sense the thoughts that some are thinking, I believe in forgiveness, but not in everything. That my friend is fine, but it is not God like, as the Lord was hanging on the cross, one of his last requests was this, “Father forgive them”.

I am by no means being preachy to the reader, but it may be that the reader is living a life full of guilt, due to failing to forgive. The person that refuses to forgive desires to carry a heavy burden, this burden will rule over him, it will bear heavy in his day to day life. I have noticed that some of us have a major issue with forgiving, not in forgiving our enemy, not in forgiving our family, not in forgiving our friends, but in forgiving ourselves. Dear friend, the Lord has forgiven you; the other party has more than likely forgiven you, why will you not forgive yourself? How often are

we our own worst enemy? The saddest person in the world is the person that lives in misery due to not forgiving themselves; this is not only true but terrible.

We need to take lessons from our own heavenly father, he freely and forever forgives, we could learn great things from him. If we were to be honest, some of us have failed to forgive some family member, some person that so much needs that forgiveness. Is it worth the burden, the mighty weight, is it worth it? Often we carry this burden; we lay it down but as soon as we see this person we immediately pick it back up!!!

“Falling in love is awfully simple, but falling out of love is simply awful.”
Anonymous

"The Freedom of Forgiveness - Day 120"

[Psa 86:5](#) For thou, Lord, [art] good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

1 - Forgiveness Exemplified

2 - Forgiveness Extended

3 - Forgiveness Experienced

In the space below if you need forgiveness ask for it, if you need to forgive expose it, if you need to forgive yourself, express that fact, forgiveness is so needful, but often so neglected:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "I don't know why they call it heartbreak. It feels like every part of my body is broken too."

Chloe Woodward

"Our Hearts Desire - 121"

[Psa 37:4](#) Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

[Psa 37:5](#) Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring [it] to pass.

I will never get over the pleasure of giving my daughter the things that she has wanted the most; I find great joy in pleasing her. I will never forget searching for her first car, we done most of our shopping over the internet, she would change her mind from week to week. Then one day she found her car, it was a Toyota Echo, it was such a small car, but it was so different, so the search was on. As I looked from page to page seemingly this choice of car was going to be very difficult. The car had to have an automatic transmission, on top of that it was very economical and people were buying them as fast as they could be found. We were going to buy the car for her birthday, February 14th, Valentines Day, but seemingly no car fitting our needs was to be found. Then one day while looking over the internet, I found the car it was 75 miles away, but it was located at a Toyota dealership, but it was only early December. We decided to give her the car on Christmas morning, in the mean time she was under the impression that her little grey Echo had been sold.

I will never forget her going through a ten minute scavenger hunt on that Christmas morning, she found a note telling her to look out the side window of our house, we thought she was going to faint. I believe my wife and I were just as excited as she was, she was excited due to receiving the car, and we were excited due to giving her the car. I believe that God gets excited just to give us the desires of our heart; he finds joy in doing this. We need to commit our life unto him, live a life that fully trusts in him, in doing so he will see that we are taken care of, not only

taken care of but fully satisfied. We are not talking about a health and wealth gospel, but we are talking about a God that loves his children and finds satisfaction due to powerfully supplying the desires of their heart.

Dear friend the Lord loves you, he knows who you are, he also knows what the desires of your heart are, he truly knows. We should find a sense of great satisfaction in knowing that he knows. The Christian life should not be endured, it should be enjoyed, it is not a life of utter despair, but one of ultimate delight. Delight thyself in the Lord, get close to him, find him, follow him, he is the right way to go, go all out, but be sure to go.

“Love cures people, both the ones who give it and the ones who receive it.”
Dr. Karl Menninger

"Our Hearts Desire - 122"

[Psa 37:4](#) Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

[Psa 37:5](#) Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring [it] to pass.

1 - The Christian and His Godly Direction

2 - The Christian and His Given Desires

3 - The Christian and His Great Delight

As I look back over the years there has been many times when we had to tell our daughter no, of course there will be more times in the future. I can also find great satisfaction in looking back and seeing all of those times that we were able to tell her yes, those were wonderful days. We never told her no unless there was a good reason to tell her no, sometimes she never understood how we could tell her no, but throughout the years she has learned to trust us. Tell him your desires in the space below:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Love and stoplights can be cruel."
Sesame Street

"It's Time to Come Down Off the Mountain - Day 123"

[Mat 17:9](#) And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.

The story tells us of a special event in the life of Jesus and his disciples, Peter, James, and John. The three had followed Jesus up to the top of the mountain; there they saw their Lord and master transfigured in front of their very eyes. The three men saw a glimpse of his holiness, they also saw two great patriarchs of the past, Moses and Elijah, and this was a sight to behold. As soon as this event had happened it was over and something simple but significant occurred, they had to come down from the mountain. On the way down the Lord told them not to share the mountain events with anyone else until he had risen from the dead. I am sure that this request really puzzled the three disciples, but nevertheless down the mountain side they went.

The significance of this great descent is this; the men were needed at the foot of the mountain. It is good to go to the mountain tops and have our personal spiritual encounters with Christ and God, but we are needed back down at the foot of the mountain. At the foot of the mountain there was a young man throwing himself into the fire, the crowd down at the foot of the mountain could not help him. This crowd that came down with the master immediately helped the young man out, he was helped and healed. If we have touched

Jesus we must come down and touch others for him, often times we like it more on the mountain, but our Christianity is need out in this lost and dying world. The world needs the Jesus that you and I intimately know, he is of great value to them, and we have met him, now they must meet him.

Dear friend we need the mountain experiences, but the world needs the one on one experience of a lost person having the opportunity to receive salvation. I cherish those private encounters with my Lord, but I also love those human encounters with lost people. It is wonderful to be up on the mountain, but it is needful to come down and relate to a lost and dying world!!!

“Comfort me with apples, for I am sick of love.”
King Solomon

"It's Time to Come Down Off the Mountain - Day 124"

[Mat 17:9](#) And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.

1 - The View of Their Upward Ascent - Value Of Their Meeting

2 - The Value of Their Downward Descent - Value Of Their Message

It would be good for us to understand that we are needed in society; the Lord gives us private, personal encounters, so that we can help people that have not been up on the mountain. In the space below ask the Lord to take you to the top of the mountain, but also ask him to help you see the needs of others as you come back down:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: “Love is as much of an object as an obsession, everybody wants it, everybody seeks it, but few ever achieve it, those who do will cherish it, be lost in it, and among all, never; never forget it.”

Curtis Judalet

"The Protection of God's People - Day 125"

[Isa 54:17](#) No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue [that] shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This [is] the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness [is] of me, saith the LORD.

The text say's that no weapon for against us shall prosper, and every tongue that rages against us in judgment he shall condemn, that is a promise from God. I have a friend in the Phillipines that is a local pastor, he is a man of great faith, and just recently he saw the fruition of this bible verse. Lucito was invited by some people of a particular town to come and share God's word with them, most of this town are either Muslims or of the Catholic faith. It was previously planned that the meeting would become rowdy and insults would be heralded against God's little missionary, and he would experience much shame in this meeting. As the man of God began to speak, the plan was about to start, then the Holy Spirit arrived on the scene, the plan was deemed null and void. Lucito shared the gospel with the 35 people in attendance and when the offer was made to receive Christ, 15 of these people accepted Jesus as their Saviour, that man friend is a wonderful example of God honoring his word.

How did this happen, what changed the intentions of this crowd, did not God honor his word, did he not destroy their intentions? The Lord will watch over his people, he is in full control; we can walk knowing that he will watch over us. I could share story after story concerning my dear friend in the

Philippines, he often faces stoning, he often walks in the very midst of the valley of the shadow of death, but he does walk on. He walks in trusting his God, trusting the word of God, fully expecting his God to take care of him.

The Lord may be asking you to walk into the very mouth of the lion, if so you must walk on, do it without fear, and do it trusting that he will take care of you. We must not walk in fear, but in power and in full soundness of mind, he will take great care of his little children. Is the Lord asking you to work in hostile conditions, is he asking you to witness in hostile conditions, if so just go ahead and do it!!!

“Wishing will never be a substitute for prayer.”

Ed Cole

"The Protection of God's People - Day 126"

[Isa 54:17](#) No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue [that] shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This [is] the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness [is] of me, saith the LORD.

1 - The Promise That God Gives

2 - The Protection That God Guarantees

3 - The People That God Guards

I assume that someone is questioning this process, you may say but what about those that lost their lives in serving God, what about those that the enemy actually killed, what about them? The Lord protected them until it was time for them to pass on over, that my dear friend is not up to us, we are to go, he must decide when it is time to finish. Ask him to protect you in the space below, he will watch over you:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "If you are not as close to God as you used to be, who moved?"

Unknown

"A Time Such As This - Day 127"

Est 4:14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, [then] shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for [such] a time as this?

The queen was being pressed by her uncle to reveal her true identity to the king, she must tell him that she was a Jew, her people were the same people that the king was about to have destroyed. This would have been a very difficult decision for Queen Esther, she was loyal to her uncle Mordecai, but she was also aware of her safety in the palace. The enemy of her people, an evil man named Haman had deceived the king into signing an edict to kill every Jew in their country. The edict had been signed, the process was about to begin, the Jews would soon be destroyed, Mordecai hastened to the palace to ask the queen to use her position to stop the edict. How would Esther respond to his request, if she reveals her true identity, she could face death along with all of the Jews. If she withheld her identity, all of her people would be destroyed.

The uncle finally asked his young niece to consider this final observation; she could very well have been born for this one task. Her place in life might have been for such a time as this, this could be why she was now in the palace

as the king's wife. As Esther heard this plea, something about it convicted her, she knew that her uncle was right, but did she have the courage to act upon this courageous request. In the end she asked the Jews to pray for her, she would reveal her identity; if she died she would die trying to save her people.

Have you ever wondered what your place in life might really be, does God have a specific task for you to do? You could have been born at any time in history, but God allowed you to be born now, during this age, why is that? I wonder if God has allowed you to be in your position for a certain reason, he may be prompting you right now to consider this reason!!!

“If a man cannot be a Christian in the place he is, he cannot be a Christian anywhere.”

Henry Ward Beecher

"A Time Such As This - Day 128"

[Est 4:14](#) For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, [then] shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for [such] a time as this?

1 - The Terrible Fright of Esther

2 - The Tremendous Faith of Esther

3 - The Timely Fortitude of Esther

4 - The Terrific Finish of Esther

In the space below ask God to help you realize your specific area of service, it could seem trivial but it may be the key to a mighty move of God, go ahead and seek his will, you may be here just for such a time as this:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "We can stand affliction better than we can prosperity, for in prosperity we forget God."

Dwight L. Moody

"What Are You Trying To Hid - Day 129"

Gen 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden

The couple had been involved in sin for just a few hours, then they heard the Lord walking in the midst of the garden, in return they done something that they had never done, they hid behind a tree. The couple realized that they were naked, not just naked, but naked in the presence of God, so they hid. It should be noted that sin will cause us to do strange things; it will make us hid things that we had never hidden before sin became involved. Adam and Eve had always been delighted to see the Lord walking in the midst of their garden, but things were so different now. Sin had changed all of their innocence, they no longer felt comfortable in his presence, sin had changed them, and sin had corrupted them.

As they heard him coming they hid behind a tree, but he called them out and made them tell him why they were hiding, he made them reveal what was wrong. It would benefit us greatly to realize that we cannot hide our sins from him, he is God, he knows all and he see's all, and do we really believe this? The trees of the garden could not conceal their nakedness, nor can the things that

we try to hide behind shield our sins from God. He walks right in, he approaches us often to make us admit the sin in our lives which my friend is something that we often need.

Upon God asking them why they were hiding, the couple had an opportunity to come clean and so they did. Upon confessing their gross sin, the Lord was ready to remedy the situation, just as he is upon our confession, he is ready to forgive, he is ready to clean us up, and send us on our way. We may need to inspect our lives, are we in hiding, is the tree big enough to cover our sins, if not his blood is big enough to remedy the sin and relieve the situation, is it not?

“God is a circle whose centre is everywhere and circumference nowhere.
Timaeus

"What Are You Trying To Hid - Day 130"

[Gen 3:8](#) And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden

1 - The Covering of Their Sin

2 - The Confessing of Their Sin

3 - The Cleansing of Their Sin

We need not try to hide our sins, we most definitely need to confess our sins, he is ready to forgive us, to clean us up, and that is a promise from God. He is faithful and just to forgive you, try him, and ask him today. Come out of hiding and get to the Saviour, he is the answer to your sins, tell him today, confess them to him, do it right now:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "It's not that the Christian faith has been tried and found difficult, but rather it's been found difficult and left untried."

G.K. Chesterton

"The Prayer Bottle - Day 131"

Rev 5:8 ¶ And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four [and] twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

The passage before us takes us right into the very presence of Jesus Christ, he is our precious Lamb, a worship service is about to break forth. The four beasts are there, the twenty four elders are there, in their hands they have harps and golden vials, these golden vials will be the object of our devotion today. In these gold vials or golden bottles we find something that often goes unnoticed, in the we find the prayers of saints. In these bottles we find your prayers, my prayers, these prayers have spanned the ages, they have endured the test of time, here they are stored up. I wonder why our prayers are stored in these gold bottles; could it be that God wants to save these prayers? Could it be that sometime in the future he will take us down the streets of heaven, open the door of a certain room, and pull out one of these bottles and hand it to us? As we inspect this bottle we find our name engraved upon it, as we open its lid, there comes forth a sweet aroma, its odor is so pleasant to us. Then we ask the question, Lord what is in this bottle, what has produced such a fragrant odor, he tenderly answers us, my dear child this is every prayer that

you have ever prayed, wow, that my dear friend would be awesome.

We must learn to pray even more, knowing that he is storing our prayers in golden bottles; this should inspire us to pray. The golden bottles have been placed in the very presence of the Lamb of God. Upon seeing my bottle, he knows how often I have come to him in prayer; he knows the purpose of every prayer. I wonder if some bottles will be bigger, I wonder if some bottles will be more fragrant than others, I wonder if some bottles will be heavier than others. I want to see my bottle of prayers; I want to smell its fragrance one day, do you? It should prompt us to pray, we should have a burning desire to come to him in prayer. We must place a great importance on prayer, Jesus did, so did the apostle Paul, so did the other disciples, they even called the apostle James "camel knees" due to the calluses that had formed on his knees from praying.

"Never do that tomorrow that you can do today."

Benjamin Franklin

"The Prayer Bottle - Day 132"

Rev 5:8 ¶ And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four [and] twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

1 - The Placement of Our Prayers

2 - The Protection of Our Prayers

3 - The Promotion of Our Prayers

As we go from day to day, let us make prayer a part of our life. We must understand that our prayers are eternal; they will be stored up forever. We should incorporate prayer into everything that we do, in everything we should learn to pray. In the space below offer up a prayer to our Lord, it may be prayers of thanks, of praise, of petition, of clarity, just tell him:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Dogs laugh, but they laugh with their tails."

Max Eastman

"A Good Name - Day 133"

[Psa 52:9](#) I will praise thee for ever, because thou hast done [it]: and I will wait on thy name; for [it is] good before thy saints.

It is a wonderful thing for a person to have a good name, a good name assures us that the person is dependable and trust worthy. The psalmist declares that he will praise the name of God forever, he will upon this worthy name, because it is a good name. I wonder if you have ever considered the value of God's name. In his name our eternal being is hanging, for if his word is not worthy to be trusted, we could have bought into a lie. In his blessed name we placed all of our hope, all of our dependence, all of our assurance; it surely means a lot to trust in a name. Is he worthy of all of this trust, all we can do is check out his previous history, does he live up to what he says? As we go back and inspect his actions with other people we will find that he has always lived up to his word.

In his name all of eternity hinges, heaven above and hell beneath, that is a serious thing to have riding on just a name. The bible tells us that there is something about that name, there is no other name in this universe or any

other universe whereby we must be saved. In the name of Jesus sinners have been snatched out of the mouth of hell, in his name they were changed. In his name the church has been functioning now for over 2000 years, in his name 12 men turned this world upside down. This world has seen mighty men come and go, but the name of Jesus has been the object of songs, sermons, and saints now for thousands of years. It is because of his name that the bible is the number one seller from year to year.

I can go as far back as eternity will permit and nobody, no being, no part of creation can lay a charge of wrong doing against our God, he has never done wrong, is incapable of ever doing wrong. He swears in his own name, because he is the highest extent of excellence, he is unable to find a more higher or holy being as himself, wow!!! I want to trust in this name, he is so worthy, he is so awesome, in his name I find comfort, joy, and consolation.

"The Green Bay Packers never lost a football game. They just ran out of time."
Vince Lombardi

"A Good Name - Day 134"

[Psa 52:9](#) I will praise thee for ever, because thou hast done [it]: and I will wait on thy name; for [it is] good before thy saints.

1 - The Name of God Is a Holy Name

2 - The Name of God Is a High Name

3 - The Name of God Is an Honored Name

We can place all of our being in his dear name, the name that raised the dead, caused the blind to see, and helped the deaf to hear. In his name the hungry were feed, the bound were set free, the thirsty found water, all in his name. In the space below tell him how thankful you are for his, high, holy, honorable name:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Look at a day when you are supremely satisfied at the end. It's not a day when you lounge around doing nothing, it's when you've had everything to do and you've done it!"

Margaret Thatcher

"Joy for the Journey - Day 135"

Pro 15:23 A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word [spoken] in due season, how good [is it]!

We must be so careful with our words, for our words can either produce joy or heartache. It is the most powerful force on the face of this earth, the power of a word. The trite little saying goes as follows, sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me, that is such a big lie. It may work for kids, but it is not much good past the age of 3 years old, because words hurt so badly. A word spoken in the wrong way is a heavy load for many to carry. A father can destroy his child by speaking unkind words, a mom can influence their child to a life of sorrow and defeat in speaking harsh and hateful words to them. A teacher can cast a child into utter destruction by the words that they share with their students. A word spoken in an evil way has initiated the beginning of some to a life of evil means, evil desires, and evil intentions. We must be careful little mouth what you say, be careful little ears what you hear, for in saying we have great power, and in hearing our lives can be affected.

If we want to inspire others, we must guard our words with care. If we want

to have a positive influence on others, choose your words with caution. We would be amazed how a word spoken in due season has changed someone's life. How many little league players have made it to the major leagues due to someone speaking a kind word to them? How many statesmen have achieved success due to someone speaking a word of encouragement to them? How many of our Olympic athletes have excelled due to a word fitly spoken in a trying time? It is just as easy to say something good as it is to say something bad!!! It does not cost us anymore or any less to say something encouraging. We all need a good word every now and then, actually we need them often, I do, how about you?

"If you don't invest very much, then defeat doesn't hurt very much and winning is not very exciting."

Dick Vermeil

"Joy for the Journey - Day 136"

[Pro 15:23](#) A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word [spoken] in due season, how good [is it]!

1 - Kind Words Are Powerful

2 - Kind Words Are Precious

3 - Kind Words Are Profitable

In the coming days we need to select our words with care. I will never forget how a word in due season changed my life. One day in my driver's education class, my teacher asked me if I participated in any sports, I answered him no with a sheepish grin, no not with my size. I weighed 133 lbs soaking wet, he invited me to run track, and so I did, all because of a word spoken in due season. In running track my life was soon to change, it gave me something to do with my time, and more than likely kept me out of prison where many of

my former friends would end up. In the space below, ask him to help you speak some kind words:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: “The real glory is being knocked to your knees and then coming back. That's real glory.”

Vince Lombardi

"Come Before Winter - Day 137"

[2Ti 4:21](#) Do thy diligence to come before winter. Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren.

We are catching a glimpse of a dying man's last wishes; the aged apostle has come to the end of the way, not because of his age, but because of his faith. The apostle Paul is confined and secured firmly to a Roman soldier, but he is not a prisoner of Rome, but of Christ. The apostle is running out of time, his day of execution is fast approaching, the end is so near. He is inquiring of some of his brethren to come and visit him, he wants his coat, his books, and his real passion is for the parchments, the lovely word of God. He also has a desire for his brethren, but they must hurry time is running out. We must understand that not only was his day of execution swiftly coming, but winter was drawing near. If the men waited until winter it would be too late, the ports would freeze over, there would be no passage way open for them to travel. If the men waited until winter and the men came to visit him in the coming spring, it would be too late, he would be gone. The men had to come and they

had to come without delay, without reservation, if they were to see the apostle on this side of heaven, the time was now.

I would propose to the reader that it could be nearing winter time in our lives; we may be faced with decisions that need to be made now, not in the future. Our hasty decision could be the difference in someone's life; it could be the difference in heaven or hell in a person's life. If you decide to postpone this need it may be tragic in the life of a loved one, a friend, a co-worker, a stranger. It would serve us greatly to know that winter is coming and it is coming at a fast pace. We will know when winter is coming if we are sensitive to the spirit's leading. He will direct our steps if we will let him. Have you considered why God keeps putting a specific person in your mind, your thoughts constantly linger back to a certain person is there a reason for this? It could be sent from the very throne of God, he wants you to go. Go today; go with haste, for winter is coming!!!

"Nobody who ever gave his best regretted it."
George Halas 1895-1983, Pro Football Coach

"Come Before Winter - Day 138"

[2Ti 4:21](#) Do thy diligence to come before winter. Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren.

1 - The Wish of Paul - Please Come Now

2 - The Wisdom of Paul - Winter Is Coming

3 - The Worry of Paul - It Could Be To Late

As you go throughout this day please consider this devotion, it is soul searching and very personal, but it could be very strategic if you obey the Lord!!! In the space below ask the Lord to show you if he needs you to go to someone before winter comes:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Some people say I have attitude - maybe I do...but I think you have to. You have to believe in yourself when no one else does - that makes you a winner right there."

Venus Williams

"When We Feel Hedged In - Day 139"

[Lam 3:7](#) He hath hedged me about, that I cannot get out: he hath made my chain heavy.

The writer is revealing his innermost thoughts to us, he feels that God has hedged him in, seemingly there was no way out. How many times do we get to the point in our life where we feel that God is totally against us? The writer uses the word hedged about; this word portrays bringing in the brick masons and the building of a wall. When the wall is finished there seems to be absolutely no way out. I would dare say that in the midst of these times our faith gets tested beyond measure. The writer felt the heavy chains weighing his body down. We must realize that there will be times in our life that every fiber of our faith will be stretched, what will you do in those dark, difficult times? If we are hedged in by our God, why has this hedging occurred in our life? Have we committed a specific sin, are we out of God's will, what is the purpose?

Often we will be hedged in to bring us back into the will of God, could this be the reason you are hedged in? Sometimes we have let sin become entrenched in our life, we have become friends with this sin, God wants this sin removed, and could this be the reason for your hedging? I would dare say that many times God is trying to make us into something more perfect. So he has to hedge us in to get our attention. If and when we ever get hedged in, it will be tough days, it will seem like our spirituality has fled into the wilderness. The Christian that gets hedged in will feel as if darkness has engulfed your life, your steps will feel heavy and your hope seems too be removed.

This story should make sense to you and me, for if God could not hedge us in, we would be free to ignore God. If not for the hedging power of God we would often walk of our own accord, we would feel obligated to fulfill our own agenda. Without his hedging affect in our lives, we would be subject to the evil desires of gross sin, with no repercussion. In all honesty we should be thankful for his hedging power, but we may not have risen to those heights just yet.

"The man who has no imagination has no wings."

Muhammad Ali

"When We Feel Hedged In - Day 140"

[Lam 3:7](#) He hath hedged me about, that I cannot get out: he hath made my chain heavy.

1 - The People of His Hedging

2 - The Pain of His Hedging

3 - The Purpose of His Hedging

If and when your time of hedging comes, you need to remember that it is sent from God. it is sent specifically to you, it may be painful, but it will be sent with a distinct purpose in mind. The old saying is often true, no pain no gain, unfortunately that has proven to be true in life. We are prone to take things for granted, we ignore God and nothing happens, we sin and seemingly

nothing happens, we plod on, so God has to hedge us in. When he hedges us in, after the process is done, things will be delightfully different in our life. In the space below ask God to show you some areas that need attention, before his hedging comes:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "The greatest good you can do for another is not just share your riches, but reveal to them their own."

Benjamin Disraeli

"Running the Race - Day 141"

[Hbr 12:1](#) ¶ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [us], and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

The writer wants to encourage each of us to run our race, run it with patience. In running we must lay aside the weights and the sin that would defeat us or hold us back. In my high school running days I will never forget placing five pound ankle weights upon each ankle. I would wear them around my ankles all during the school days; I would even run with them during practice, but never during the actual race. The text is trying to get us to lighten our load, we are to let loose of things that would hinder our Christian race. As I trained to run, I had to watch my eating habits, some of the food was not that bad, and it was just not good for a runner to eat. The same holds true in your life as a Christian, some things that hinder us would not be called

sinful, just hindrances.

I learned what I could eat, some foods would benefit me as a runner, and some foods brought me much pain once the race began. I also learned that there were certain things that I needed to shy away from, these things would always bring defeat to me as a runner. I was always so glad to remove those ankle weights, the moment I did my steps were so much lighter, and my pace was so much faster. In running I also had to find out which race I needed to run, I found out that I was not very good at sprinting, I was not very good at jumping high, or jumping long. As I kept trying to find my little niche, I soon found that the distance events were my best events. I found out that I could run for hours at a time, those runners that would leave me in their shadow in a one hundred yard sprint could not stay anywhere close to me when it came to running for several miles.

"You can't expect to prevent negative feelings altogether. And you can't expect to experience positive feelings all the time...The Law of Emotional Choice directs us to acknowledge our feelings but also to refuse to get stuck in the negative ones."

Greg Anderson

"Running the Race - Day 142"

[Hbr 12:1](#) ¶ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [us], and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

The Christian life is a lot like distant running, we must prepare ourselves to run just as the long distance runner, he has to run with patience. I ran a marathon in 1989, I will never forget the energy of some at the start of the race, some were laughing, and some were running backwards and taunting other runners. I thought I was in trouble because I did not sense that I had their energy, as we went past the ten mile marker those that taunted had quit taunting, the backwards runner was lagging behind. As we went past the 24 mile marker, people were lying on the sidewalk; the backwards runner was finished, he was laying down holding his belly. I finished my race with joy, I

didn't win the race but I did finish the race!!!

1 - We Must Find Our Course

2 - We Must Finish Our Course

We must prepare ourselves to run, and then we should run realizing God wants us to run. In the space below ask God to help you find your particular place to run:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel."

Carl W. Buechner

"He Loves Me - Day 143"

1Jo 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins

The greatest illustration of love is this fact; we are saved not because we loved God, but the fact that he loves us. I will never get over that fact, he loves me even though he knows me, and he loves you even though he knows you. He loved me when I deserved to be sentenced to a sinner's hell; he loved me when I had nothing to offer him in return. I have noticed in life that many people will accept certain people in their life knowing that they could reap benefits from this relationship. This was not the case for God; he loved me knowing that I was going to get all of the benefits of this relationship. I could never earn this love; I could not even adequately express my gratitude for this

wonderful love. The thing that separates Christianity from all other religions is the thing called love; its whole foundation is built on love. The God of our faith expressed his love in sending his son, the son expressed his love in dying upon the cross for us, and the Spirit expresses his love in drawing each of us to the son.

This love is an amazing thing to understand, nothing can separate us from this love, it is utterly impossible for God to stop loving us, why you may ask, God is love!!! He loves us daily, he loves us freely, and he loves us personally. I have noticed that sometimes our love is fleeting, it only last as long as things go good. The very moment someone lets us down, watch out there goes our love. The love of man is a very fickle trait; it can be so high today and so low tomorrow. The same is not true with the love of God, he is the same today as he was yesterday, and he will be the same thousands of years down the road.

I am glad that my salvation did not hinge on my goodness, but completely upon his goodness and his awesome, alluring, almighty love. That my dear friend is love, it's a godly love, it is something man can only consider, and man can only contemplate this great love. The souls of man hinged upon the love of God, many say that they have a willing love, but do they?

“The best way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.”

E. Joseph Cossman

"He Loves Me - Day 144"

[1Jo 4:10](#) Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins

When it came time to redeem man, God had the option of turning away; he could have withheld his son, who could have condemned him for doing so? As the time for action was near God said so be it, I love them more than they will ever know. He let his precious son hang upon Calvary for every sinner to have the chance for salvation. That is love, unquestionable love, unselfish love, unequalled love, and unapproachable love, a love that is royal and real.

1 - The Mystery of This great Love

2 - The Mention of This Great Love

3 - The Manifestation of This Great Love

In the space below thank him as much as you can for this fabulous love, the love that saved us, the love that sustains us, it is the most awesome love that can every run through the human mind:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Any fact facing us is not as important as our attitude toward it, for that determines our success or failure."

Norman Vincent Peale

"The God of Hard Things - Day 145"

[2Ki 2:10](#) And he said, Thou hast asked a **hard thing**: [nevertheless], if thou see me [when I am] taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be [so].

The prophet was about to leave this world and his servant wanted a double portion of the Godly power that he displayed. I wonder what will come our way in this New Year, if you can solve it or achieve it on your own; you probably do not need God's help. When Elisha asked for a double portion, Elijah told him that he had requested a hard thing, but he did not tell him it was impossible, he went on to say, "nevertheless". It would be hard, but it would be possible, it would be out of the realm of man's capability, but not out of the realm of God's capability.

As you face life and all of its delightful, sometimes difficult days, will you remember that your God is the God of hard things? He is the God of hard things for the dear Christian that has reached their wits end, be careful and not place too much confidence in your self, trust in the God of hard things. Elisha refused to let others dictate what he wanted from God. We need to display this kind of boldness as hard things stand before us. Life is full of obstacles, but through the mighty grace of God we can turn our obstacles into opportunities. It may look as if it is impossible, hopeless, but God is the God of “nevertheless”, he can come through in your situation.

“Is death the last sleep? No, it is the last final awakening.”

Walter Scott

"The God of Hard Things - Day 146"

[2Ki 2:10](#) And he said, Thou hast asked a **hard thing**: [nevertheless], if thou see me [when I am] taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be [so].

1- He Is Approachable - Trust To Him

2 - He Is Able - Try Him

3 - He Is Awesome - Thank Him

In the space below I will list some areas where I will need the God of hard

things to reveal his power:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Nothing is sadder than the death of an illusion."
Arthur Koestler

"Is There Not A Cause? - Day 147"

[1Sa 17:29](#) And David said, What have I now done? [Is there] not a cause?

As David looked out upon the battlefield he was offended that nobody was willing to fight this giant, he was the enemy of God and must be brought down. The young boy went from man to man, he desperately challenged each man to stand up in the name of his God and slay this pathetic babler. As David went from man to man his oldest brother came and scolded the young boy, he asked him why he was not back home tending to the sheep. He accused David of being filled with pride, in all actuality David had shamed his brother, he had shamed the Israeli army, and he was the only one willing to slay this heathen.

As David made his plea, someone ushered the young man into the presence of the King. Upon talking with the King, the young lad was picked, and permitted to slay the babbling giant, and as you well know he did.

The object of this devotion is the question that David proposed to his eldest brother; he asked him "is there not a cause". Of course we all know the answer of his proposal, it is most definitely yes. We must realize that there is a cause to stand up and be accounted for, in the name of Christ. We cannot sit back and let the enemy keep winning victory after victory, we must demand that this will no longer happen. The young man was ready to take a stand, though his stand would be unpopular, he would take a real stand. He spoke up until he was heard, that is often the best thing to do, just keep on until someone hears that there is a real problem. The biggest issue that we face today is that lots of people are crying out, speaking of trouble on every hand, but nobody has the solution to the problem. The young shepherd boy knew the real king and he had the answer to the problem.

The giants of our day are looming big, they seem to be unable to be penetrated, but is that really the case? In David's eyes this giant seemed to be so small, how was this, because in his eyes his God was so large. The evil forces of today can be eliminated, they can be defeated, now is the time, we must see the cause today!!!

"Death lies on her, like an untimely frost upon the sweetest flower of the entire field."

William Shakespeare

"Is There Not A Cause? - Day 148"

[**1Sa 17:29**](#) And David said, What have I now done? [Is there] not a cause?

1 - The Critics of David's Anger

2 - The Cause of David's Anger

3 - The Consequences of David's Anger

4 - The Celebration of David's Anger

We must see the need to have a cause, and then we must stand up and see that this cause is fulfilled. In the following space below ask God to give you a just and honorable cause, ask him to give you the courage to make a difference:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "First our pleasures die - and then our hopes, and then our fears; and when these are dead, the debt is due, Dust claims dust - and we die too."
Percy Bysshe Shelley

"What Is Truth - Day 149"

[Jhn 18:38](#) Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault [at all].

The Lord was in front of Pilate and he told him those that hear the truth would also hear Christ, then Pilate asked the mighty question, what is truth? This question has been asked in the past and will be asked again in the future. It would seem that every generation has its own standards; they have construed their own system for right and wrong. The only concrete belief

system must be one that is based upon something without fault and its standard bearers must be of the utmost integrity, its foundation can have no flaws. The only true system for right and wrong is the bible, God's holy word. This little book, with sixty six various compartments, various writers compiling its flowing story, this book is the book that has eternal truth. Our bible is without flaws, without any inadequate guidelines, it is the standard for truth. If you want to know truth, all you have to do is pick up the book; this book will never lead you in the wrong direction. In all honesty Jesus was telling Pilate I Am the Truth, the truth is standing in your very presence right now, it is so close that you can touch it.

In life we find that many people do not believe in absolute truth, they believe in a system that changes, it could be this way today and that way tomorrow, can that really be called truth? If you need to change the truth to fit into your situation go ahead, it is okay, but as Christians we know this system is absurd. The real standard of truth is unchanging, it will be the same today as it was yesterday, and it will be the same in the ages to come. Is this important, of course it is, this will help us be consistent in living our Christian life, and without this standard of truth our Christianity would be useless. We need a set standard for our guidelines, societies guidelines may go up and down, but the guidelines of God's word has never been raised, nor will it ever be lowered. You will never find that it has never fluctuated, it will be measured the same from generation to generation.

“Nothing can happen more beautiful than death.”

Walt Whitman

"What Is Truth - Day 150"

[Jhn 18:38](#) Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault [at all].

In your life do you accept the word of God to be the truth of God? How important is this book in your life, do you often go to it for direction, when faced with conflict can this book help you? In our day to day living we need a set standard to lead us in living straight, because most of this world is living so

crooked!!!

1 - The Doubters of Truth

2 - The Definition of Truth

3 - The Demands of Truth

4 - The Disciples of Truth

In the space below ask God to help you understand the importance of his word in your life; ask him to help you be receptive to its leading. If we will allow him, this standard will never lead us down crooked paths:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Sunset and evening star, And one clear call for me! And may there be no moaning of the bar when I put out to sea."

Lord Alfred Tennyson

"Forsaken For the World - Day 151"

[2Ti 4:10](#) For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

In this text the apostle Paul is telling the whereabouts of his fellow laborers, identifying who they are and where they are. Then he mentions one that distinctly stands out, his name is Demas. This man Demas is mentioned three times in the scriptures, once before this text and once after this text. He was one

of the apostles dependable helpers, apparently Demas had proven he was worthy to participate in the ministry. He was a commendable person, someone that Paul was proud to be associated with, but one day something changed all of this. The apostle's travels carried him from city to city and Thessalonica was one of those cities that they spent much time in. Upon leaving this city during one of their visits, something strange was going on with Demas, he did not want to leave, and he had tasted something in this city that pulled at his heart.

The man Demas forsook his partners in the gospel ministry, his love was no longer with them, nor was his love for Jesus, his love was back in Thessalonica; his love was for this world, not the one to come. I suppose that Paul tried to talk to Demas, but to no avail, his mind was made up and his heart was fixed upon the love of this world. I would say that this disturbed the great apostle; I wonder how often he prayed for this brother, this fallen brother? What had happened in the city, was it the money, was it the bright lights, and was it the easy life? What could make a man walk away, what dear friend would make you walk away, what is the object that could corrupt your love, what could change your love, what can challenge your love for Jesus?

The story of Demas is never really reported again, though the apostle does mention him once again in a later book. Did this man Demas repent and return did God deal with him in a harsh manner; was he loved back into the fold? If you leave and forsake Jesus, what will it take to bring you back? Will the price of your departure be fatal, will your departure be final, what could bring a man back once he leaves? Often a man never knows the answer to that question, and would be the better off if he never had to find out!!!

"An honest God is the noblest work of man."
Charles J. Ingersoll

"Forsaken For the World - Day 152"

2Ti 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

1 - The Reason for the Departure of Demas

2 - The Remorse over the Departure of Demas

3 - The Results of the Departure of Demas

4 - The Reality of the Departure of Demas

The story has already been written concerning Demas, but your story has not ended, how will the rest of your story be dear friend? In the space below ask him to help you ignore the bright lights of this world:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "He mounts the storm, and walks upon the wind."
Alexander Pope

"Potential - Day 153"

[Jer 30:17](#) For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, [saying], This [is] Zion, whom no man seeketh after.

The text before us tells of a coming day when Israel will be laying in desolation, in

the eyes of society her days were over, she was considered as an outcast. The Lord tells Israel that during those days he would restore her health, he would heal her wounds, and he would restore her to those days of glory. The difference of society and the Lord was this, society only saw what Israel was before their eyes, but the Lord saw what this nation could be. He knew that this nation had great potential; he saw it in them in spite of how they currently were acting. The best coach in the world is not the coach that sees things as they currently are, but he sees what his team can be with his help and a bit of work. The key word to any type of coaching is potential, the same goes for teaching, and the same goes for anybody striving to do better. The definition of Potential is as follows, possible as opposed to actual, capable of being or becoming, possibility, it could happen. The nation of Israel was chosen not due to her size, her credibility, her worth, her magnitude, but because of the Potential that the Lord saw in her.

The Lord knows your potential, he knows who you are now, but he knows who you can be with his help. We often limit ourselves, we often limit our expectations, most of us are lacking in self esteem, but the potential is there due to our God. We have numerous examples of this word possible potential in the bible. We see it in Moses, he was very incapable to do the job, but when all was said and done he had the potential due to his God. The man Abraham was unable to even have a child, much less birth a nation, but the potential was there due to his great God. The little lady by the name of Ruth was an outcast, but with the help of her God the potential was there for her to be the great grand mother of a little red headed boy by the name of David, he would be the future king of Israel.

What is your potential dear friend; I did not ask you what you were capable of, but what is your potential in God? What are you capable of with his help, with his backing? It could happen with his help, with his backing, with his input, the Lord knows what he can do in your life. He knows the capabilities, he knows what you can become, and he alone knows the possibility.

“God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb.”

Laurence Sterne

"Potential - Day 154"

[Jer 30:17](#) For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, [saying], This [is] Zion, whom no man seeketh after.

1 - Potential Defined

2 - Potential Demonstrated

3 - Potential Developed

4 - Potential Desired

In the space below ask him to help you start focusing on your potential, not the actual, but the possible:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "If there were no God, it would be necessary to invent him."
Voltaire

"When the Can not's Meet the I Can - Day 155"

Exd 4:10 ¶ And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I [am] not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I [am] slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.

[Exd 4:11](#) And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?

The story before us portrays Moses standing before God at the burning bush. The Lord is calling Moses to go and set his people free, the conversation goes back and forth, with Moses offering up every excuse he could think of using. Finally he tells the Lord that he cannot talk eloquently, he had a problem with stuttering. This calling was impossible. Then the Lord tells him that he was the creator of his mouth, he could empower Moses to speak. In this passage we see the man clinging to this thought, I cannot do this, but we also see the other side of this passage, we see the one pushing this thought, you can now. He wanted Moses to know that he could do it now, it may not have been possible a few moments ago, but it was possible now, he could now.

How many of us go through life telling God the same thing, I cannot, I am not able, it is not possible, no way, not me? How many of us have forgotten that God has the ability to change things, we cannot, but he gloriously can. The bible tells us several times that with God all things are possible!!! If we were to be honest we place too much stock in our inabilities, when we should be placing all of our stock in his abilities, right? The bible is full of people that told God the same words, I cannot, but with Gods help the can not's had an encounter with the can do's, and look what God has done in their lives!!!

Have you recently told God no, have you insulted his integrity by ignoring his vast power? He may be trying to enlist you to the gospel ministry, he may be calling you to some form of missionary work, he may be sending you to another state, country, another job, another church, but you tell him the same words, I cannot? Is this fair to you, is this fair to God? Are you willing to sit upon the throne and diminish his power in your life?

"I'm not funny. What I am is brave."

Lucille Ball

"When the Can not's Meet the I Can - Day 156"

[Exd 4:10](#) ¶ And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I [am] not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I [am] slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.

[Exd 4:11](#) And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?

1 - The Call of God Is a Special Call

2 - The Call of God Is a Supplied Call

3 - The Call of God Is a Successful Call

4 - The Call of God Is a Specific Call

The Christian life can be lived with excuses or with excitement, the choice is yours. In the space below ask the Lord to help you remove the excuse, change your vocabulary from I cannot to I can:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Courage is the first of the human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees all the others."

Winston Churchill

"Is Worship An Afterthought? - Day 157"

[Exd 4:31](#) And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

The Lord has sent the children of Israel a redeemer, hope was in sight and help was on the horizon. After 400 years of Egyptian slavery, things were about to pick up for God's children. The messenger of God told them of God's plan, the people believed this plan and done something that many of us overlook, they bowed their heads and worshipped. It may surprise many of you, but often worship is only an afterthought, it is usually something that we do out of habit. The Lord had just declared to deliver these people, immediately they bowed their head in worship to him. If you were to inspect your life, how did you react the last time God done something special in your life? When he touched your family member and healed them, how did you respond? The promotion that just changed your life; what was your reaction to God? The new home that you had been praying for just got approved, how did you respond to this answered prayer? We often need his help, but what about when he comes through?

The sweet thing about worship is we can respond to the goodness of God in our lives. We should look for reasons to worship him in our daily lives as well as in his house during church services. He can be worshipped only by those that desire to worship him, it is not mandatory, nor obligatory, and it should be freely offered. How long has it been since you freely offered words of praise to the wonderful name of our Lord? He sure is good to us, we have much to be thankful for, much to be worshipful for, so lets worship him. We need not thing we can only worship him during the good days, we must worship him no matter the situation. The prophet Isaiah went into the temple when the king had died, he probably went in to grieve, but ended up in a worship and praise service.

“Why not go out on a limb? Isn't that where the fruit is?”

Frank Scully

"Is Worship An Afterthought? - Day 158"

[Exd 4:31](#) And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

1 - The Option of Our Worship

2 - The Object of Our Worship

3 - The Opportunity of Our Worship

4 - The Outcome of Our Worship

In the coming days we must worship him, worship him daily, decisively, daringly, deliberately, just go ahead and worship him. He is worthy of all of our worship, most of us are probably behind in worshipping him, we need to start getting caught up. In the space below you may want to express something's in your life that he is worthy of receiving worship for:

1 - _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Quote: "The courage of life is often a less dramatic spectacle than the courage of a final moment, but it is no less a magnificent mixture of triumph and tragedy. A man does what he must- in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures-and that is the basis of all morality."
John F. Kennedy

"Tomorrow - Day 159"

Exd 8:9 And Moses said unto Pharaoh, Glory over me: when shall I intreat for thee, and for thy servants, and for thy people, to destroy the frogs from thee

and thy houses, [that] they may remain in the river only?

Exd 8:10 And he said, **To morrow**. And he said, [Be it] according to thy word: that thou mayest know that [there is] none like unto the LORD our God.

In this text we find something rather absurd and in a strange sense humorous. Pharaoh is in the midst of the Egyptian plagues; his whole nation has been overwhelmed with frogs. The frogs are in their beds, the frogs are in their ovens, you can find them in the rivers, in their highways, and frogs were everywhere. The prophet of God goes to Pharaoh and asks him when he would like to see the frogs go away, the answer that was given makes no sense at all. The great Pharaoh told Moses tomorrow, he was willing to endure one more night with the frogs. I have no idea why he would not have asked Moses to remove them immediately, get them out of his land now, and do it with all haste. Why do you suppose he wanted to wait one more day, why was he willing to sleep with the frogs for one more miserable night? Do you think that he wanted to defy God for one more day, show God that he could tolerate his punishment for a bit longer? Can a man challenge God and win. Has anyone ever been able to stand up to God?

I wonder how many of us have done the same thing in our lives, ignore God, and resist his leading, refuse to do his will. How many times have we endured his chastising, just to spend one more night wallowing in our sin? We may have more in common with Pharaoh than we would like to admit. The Lord would have removed the frogs at the bidding of Moses; the prophet was waiting on the king to call off the frogs. In life we face decisions that will bring the comfort of God or the chastising of God. It seems that the king had not gotten to the place that he was willing to submit to the will of God. I have observed that God will not make a man submit to his will, but he will make a man wish that he did submit, the choice is always up to the man.

“In difficult situations, when hope seems feeble, the boldest plans are safest.”
Livy

"Tomorrow - Day 160"

Exd 8:9 And Moses said unto Pharaoh, Glory over me: when shall I intreat for thee, and for thy servants, and for thy people, to destroy the frogs from thee

and thy houses, [that] they may remain in the river only?

Exd 8:10 And he said, **To morrow**. And he said, [Be it] according to thy word: that thou mayest know that [there is] none like unto the LORD our God.

1 - The King & His Answer

2 - The King & His Affliction

3 - The King & His Anguish

4 - The King & His Absurdity

The problem with accepting the frogs for one more night was that it would bring greater sorrow in the future. In the end the king's stubbornness caused the death of his very own son. In the space below if you are harboring any type of sin; you may want to ask him to remove it today, not tomorrow:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Courage is the best slayer-courage which attacketh, for in every attack there is the sound of triumph."

Friedrich Nietzsche

"Mine Own Vineyard Have I Not Kept - Day 161"

Sgs 1:6 Look not upon me, because I [am] black, because the sun hath looked

upon me: my mother's children were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards; [but] mine own vineyard have I not kept.

The story portrays the Shulamite girl, she is describing herself to us, and seemingly she did not have much to offer. The story gives us some insightful information about this young girl, her family despised her, they looked down upon her. In despising her, they placed her over their vineyards; she was to care for them. The girl with very low self esteem takes this task seriously; she strives to keep these vineyards up to par. The sad thing about this story is that she failed to keep her own vineyard. The young lady made sure that her brothers and sisters vineyards were profitable. In tenderly and tactfully caring for their vineyards, her vineyard was overlooked, it was overtaken with weeds, the vines were lacking in grapes. The vineyards that she watched over for others was flourishing, growing by leaps and bounds, it would have been so appealing to the human eye. This was not so for her very own vineyard, her vineyard was unappealing, unbecoming, undesirable, a thing to ignore as one passed by.

I wonder if you and I can learn anything from this Shulamite woman. In caring for others how many of us have neglected our own vineyards. I suppose the greatest regret of most ministers would be along this line of thinking, they have labored in other people's vineyards, but their vineyard ends up lying in waste. He has labored in the vineyards of counseling and his family falls by the wayside. He has labored in the vineyards of visiting others and his family was ignored, he failed to labor in his own vineyard. I suppose this would apply to many of us? We are laboring in the vineyards of economical gain, but we lost the thing that money cannot buy, right? How many coaches have labored in the vineyard of coaching, desiring to achieve success, but their vineyard ends up in the scrape heap?

I need to ask you this specific question, are you laboring in your own vineyard? If you are caught up in caring for other vineyards, will you be ready to watch your vineyard fall by the wayside?

"It is the bold man who every time does best, at home or abroad."

Homer

"Mine Own Vineyard Have I Not Kept - Day 162"

[Sgs 1:6](#) Look not upon me, because I [am] black, because the sun hath looked

upon me: my mother's children were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards; [but] mine own vineyard have I not kept.

It is one thing to labor in the vineyards, but one must not neglect his own vineyard. How often are we looking at the beauty of other vineyards, when all it would take and our vineyard would be just as beautiful with a little tender care? How many of you parents have spent time laboring in the vineyards for other children and end up losing your very own children. The same goes for teenagers, our husbands, our wives, be careful on which vineyard you spend all of your time in!!!

1 - The Importance of Our Own Vineyard

2 - The Interest of Our Own Vineyard

3 - The Inspection of Our Own Vineyard

In the space below ask the Lord to help you be the keeper of your very own vineyard; it is of the utmost importance:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "He who loses wealth loses much; he who loses a friend loses more; but he who loses his courage loses all."

Miguel de Cervantes

"Be Sure To Get Back Up - Day 163"

Pro 24:16 For a just [man] falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

The just man may fall, he may even fall seven times, but he will get up, this is a mark of his righteousness. The fool will declare that he has never slipped, that he is absolutely perfect. The honest truth of the matter is that we may fall, many of us will fall, but the fact of the matter is we are expected to get back up. We must realize that the enemy wants to knock you and I down, that is his job. I need not remind you that he is doing a pretty good job, right? It would benefit us to be very cautious in criticizing our brethren when they fall, we could be the next one that falls. The just man may get knocked down, but he will get back up, again, and again, until he is able to stand up on firm ground. We may want to find out who is doing the knocking down, and then learn to avoid him or stand up to him. the football coach and his assistant went to watch some recruits, one of the recruits was getting knocked down, but he would get back up, over and over again. The assistant asked the coach if they wanted to sign the young player that was getting knocked down, the coach responded very firmly no!!! The assistant asked him why, he said lets recruit the one knocking him down!!! If we can't recruit the one knocking us down, and then let's make sure we learn how to stand up to him.

Is there certain things that cause you to get knocked down, certain places, certain people, certain reasons, learn to avoid them? The word of God tells us to resist the devil, don't invite him, but resist him. If you get knocked down, get back up, if he knocks you down again, get back up, if he tries to it again, you may want to consider moving!!! It is the fool that refuses to realize the power of Satan, but the bigger fool is the one that realizes his power and still ends up getting knocked down. If you would have it, Satan probably knows you better than you know yourself, right? In the coming days you may want to note how the enemy comes at you, get to know his ways, and then you can counteract his strategy.

“Behind an able man there are always other able men.”
Chinese proverb

"Be Sure To Get Back Up - Day 164"

Pro 24:16 For a just [man] falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

1 - The Just Man Falling Foolishly

2 - The Just Man Rising Faithfully

3 - The Just Man Standing Firmly

4 - The Just Man Fighting Feverishly

In the space below ask the Lord to help you resist the enemy, ask him to give you the ability to arise upon falling, ask him to help keep you from falling:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have already done."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"Something's we need to get nailed down - Day 165"

[Isa 41:7](#) So the carpenter encouraged the goldsmith, [and] he that smootheth [with] the hammer him that smote the anvil, saying, It [is] ready for the sodering: and he fastened it with nails, [that] it should not be moved.

The text before describes the heathen idol worshippers that have just encountered the almighty God, rather than turning to him, they reorganize and try to secure their idol. These men come together and try to encourage one another, then they try to nail their god down, make him secure to stand before our God. The thing that I would like for us to consider is this, do you have anything in your life that needs to be nailed down? Often we do as the heathen we try to nail down the wrong things. The temporal things of life cannot be nailed down; they are fleeting, unfit for eternity. I would suggest that we inspect our lives and only secure those things that are worth securing. We must look for the important things and nail them down, the spiritual things of life and nail them down, it would behoove us to do this. The world spends so much time trying to nail down the things that cannot be nailed down.

Every man must consider what is worth nailing down. I would challenge every reader to nail down his salvation, do not take a chance with your soul. Eternity is too important to risk, what man would not desire to get this matter nailed down? What about the souls that God intends on you winning, have you got them nailed down, are you even trying? It would be an awful thing to go to heaven and not take someone with us, many of us have never considered nailing this down. What if nobody had witnessed to you, what if no one presented the gospel to you? As many of you read this text you are playing the dating game, have you considered the person that God intends on you marrying? It would be of grave importance to you to get this matter nailed down, you do not want to marry some other persons blessing. If you marry some other persons blessing, they will become your burden rather than your blessing. It would benefit you to nail down your church, go to the right church, and get this matter nailed down.

“In family life, love is the oil that eases friction, the cement that binds closer together, and the music that brings harmony.”

Eva Burrows

"Something's we need to get nailed down - Day 166"

Isa 41:7 So the carpenter encouraged the goldsmith, [and] he that smootheth [with] the hammer him that smote the anvil, saying, It [is] ready for the sodering: and he fastened it with nails, [that] it should not be moved.

1 - It Would Be Good To Nail down Our Faith

2 - It Would Be Good To Nail down Our Future

3 - It Would Be Good To Nail down Our Flesh

4 - It Would Be Good To Nail down Our Finish

The Lord wants you and I to be secure live a life of complete satisfaction, personal assurance, we can only do this by getting something's nailed down. We must get serious about the things that require seriousness, do it now, and do not put it off. As I write this devotion, my mind keeps thinking about the person that is about to make the wrong choice for his or her spouse, you better make sure you have it nailed down. In reading this some of you are considering the direction that God is asking you to go, but you are still unsure, you better get it sure. A man cannot preach without this assurance, the mission field will be a very foreign place to the man that is there without assurance, get it nailed down or don't do it. In the space below ask the Lord to help you nail those areas down that the Spirit is going to bring to your attention:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "A mother's love for her child is like nothing else in the world. It knows no aw, no pity, it dares all things and crushes down remorselessly all that stands in its path."

Agatha Christie

"The Half Has Not Been Told - Day 167"

[2Ch 9:6](#) Howbeit I believed not their words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen [it]: and, behold, the one half of the greatness of thy wisdom was not told me: [for] thou exceedest the fame that I heard.

The great Queen of Sheba has visited the great king of Israel, upon viewing the entire mighty splendor, taking the grand tour of all of Solomon's assets; she tells him that the half has not been told. It was one thing to hear of his splendor, but it was another matter to see it for ones own self. In her great awe she tells the king that he is even more famous than his fame, now that my friend is famous. It was better to be viewed than it was to be voiced; the eyes could comprehend it more than her mouth could confess it. Upon looking at his wealth, his animals, all of his servants, his houses, she confessed that she was now a believer. In her country the word had spread about the wealth and wisdom of this King Solomon, but she was very skeptical. The more people that visited her country, the more that she heard, the more she became enthralled. There eventually came a point in her life where she had to go see it for herself, and then she would determine if this story was true.

The same holds true concerning Jesus Christ, it was thing to hear about him, but another to meet him at to know him for oneself. The great story of Jesus is often ignored by the sinner, they have a sense of him, but they really don't know if all of this Christian stuff is true. The story of Christ is the most wonderful story of all, but it is normally ignored by most people. The day comes that those hearers must find out for themselves; the search now begins to find out the truth. The sinner now finds Jesus, then they become saved, and after this the sinner wonders why he did not get saved earlier, why is this? The half had not been told in their life, the real story only comes to fruition once they experience him for themselves.

“In truth a family is what you make it. It is made strong, not by number of heads counted at the dinner table, but by the rituals you help family members create, by the memories you share, by the commitment of time, caring, and

love you show to one another, and by the hopes for the future you have as individuals and as a unit.”

Marge Kennedy

"The Half Has Not Been Told - Day 168"

[2Ch 9:6](#) Howbeit I believed not their words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen [it]: and, behold, the one half of the greatness of thy wisdom was not told me: [for] thou exceedest the fame that I heard.

1 - The Half Has Not Been Told About His Name

2 - The Half Has Not Been Told About His Fame

3 - The Half Has Not Been Told About His Claim

4 - The Half Has Not Been Told About His Aim

5 - The Half Has Not Been Told About His Reign

In the space below praise him for his mighty name, he is so worthy of all of our praise, he deserves it. It would do us good to revisit that day when Jesus saved us, that may rekindle how awesome he has been in our lives:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "I take my children everywhere, but they always find their way back home."

Robert Orben

"The Fallen - Day 169"

[Rev 2:5](#) Remember therefore from whence thou art **fallen**, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

The church of Ephesus was being challenged to remember where they used to be, they had fallen from a previous state. The place that they used to be was a better place, it was more beneficial place, it was a brighter place. The writer challenges them to remember this place, then repent and return to that place. The thing was that they had fallen, it could have been a fall of deception, it could have been a fall of relaxation. It is a fatal and deadly sin for the Christian to fall due to complacency; it is not only fatal but often happens due to its slow movement. The believer that falls due to coldness is often the hardest to reach, they fail to so it coming. It is like a person lying out in the sun, slowly but surely they are being burnt up by the sun, but often do not see the results until later. The church at Ephesus was a good church, they were so busy, and they were doctrinally sound. In their service, in their soundness, in their salvation these saints became starchy, saved but satisfied, sound but solemn, sure but self sufficient.

If you were to be honest has your life become dull, dry, has your view become distracted? Is your relationship meaningful, does Christ still stir you up; are you still in love with him? When you get a glimpse of Calvary are you still thankful for his saving work, I am not asking you if you get emotional, but does thoughts of Christ move you? The normal expectation for many Christians is to be sure of their salvation; make sure they are hell proof, then just coast on home. If that is your situation, you are missing out on so much dear friend. He tells this church to remember, return, and then repent. It is good to be busy, but it is another thing to be busy in getting that fire back into your life. Do you need to stroll down memory lane, would this do you any good, remember who you used to be, remember how the Lord saved you?

Quote: “The reason grandparents and grandchildren get along so well is that they have a common enemy.”

Sam Levenson

"The Fallen - Day 170"

[Rev 2:5](#) Remember therefore from whence thou art **fallen**, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

1 - The Fallen & Their Message

2 - The Fallen & Their Memory

3 - The Fallen & Their Move

4 - The Fallen & Their Master

Is it time for you to make a move, time for you to get back up and get back to the place where you are in love with the Master? He so loves you dear friend, can you say the same, say it and honestly mean it? We know that Christ loves us, most of us have this fact settled, but do we really love him, do we work because we love him, attend church because we love him? It is all about that love, his love for us, then our love for him!!! In the space below ask him to help you settle this matter, ask him to help you secure that personal love for him, do it now, ask him:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: “Children begin by loving their parents. After a time they judge them. Rarely, if ever, do they forgive them.”

Oscar Wilde

"The Hardship of Waiting - Day 171"

[Psa 62:5](#) My soul, **wait** thou only upon God; for my expectation [is] from him.

The Psalmist challenges his soul to wait upon the Lord, he encourages himself to trust in his God. The hardest part of life is waiting; this thing called waiting renders us helpless. How often have we gotten ourselves into trouble because we refused to wait? The waiting game is a very difficult thing for most of us, it is difficult. If we were to look through the bible how many of God's children got into trouble for not waiting? The first sin that ever occurred happens due to Eve failing to wait; you may be asking how this could have been. If Eve would have waited upon the Lord and talked to him concerning her conversation with the serpent, chances are she would not have sinned. The great friend of God failed to wait to have his first son; this is still causing much grief even today. The aging Abraham should have trusted God and waited on him. The family that left Bethlehem and went down to Moab got into trouble due to not waiting for the famine to break. After spending ten years in Moab, the husband died, the two sons died, all because of not waiting upon God to move in their hometown.

I wonder if you may be battling the waiting game, if this is true you need to understand the rules. The best rule to understand would be this one, don't worry about what you cannot control. If the test result is four days away, what can you do to change its arrival? If you feel the urge to worry, will it make it happen any faster, will it change the conclusion? I suppose that some people worry if that do not have anything to worry over. We must learn to let patience control our lives, this patience comes from the very throne of God. We must let patience have it's free course, this is a Godly patience, one that promotes trusting. It is not every man or woman that is willing to wait upon the Lord. Often we make wrong business decisions because we failed to wait, we have settled for relationships that ended up being wrong because of our

failure to wait.

“Children are the bridge to heaven.”

Persian proverb

"The Hardship of Waiting - Day 172"

[Psa 62:5](#) My soul, **wait** thou only upon God; for my expectation [is] from him.

As you inspect your life right now, have you ran ahead of God, is the evidence of your hasty decision still glaring at you? In all reality failure to wait upon God is flat out disobedience, it is disruptive, it is detrimental, it often leads to defeat in our life. How many ministers have left early instead of waiting for God? How many have taken a new church without fully waiting for his leading? I suppose that the reader could be battling this exact thing right now, dear friend please wait; ask him to give you patience!!!

1 - The Difficulty of Waiting - Intimidates Our Flesh

2 - The Design of Waiting - Inspires Our Faith

3 - The Despair of Waiting - Incites Our Fears

In the space below ask the Lord to give you the ability to wait, to wait with all patience. In the coming days you may face situations that will challenge you to wait, but you go ahead and wait. You may need to ask him to stir up your faith, to stir up you personal measure of faith:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Babies are such a nice way to start people."
Don Herold

"Beware Of the Gossiper - Day 173"

Pro 17:9 He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth [very] friends.

It is so wonderful for someone to help a person that has committed a sin, to love them back into the fold. It is so needful for us to be in the restoration business, those that sin need to be restored. The bible is full of examples of the fallen sinner being restored; those that restore exemplify the love of God. We live in a world that likes to kick the sinner down, they like to kick the sinner out, and they like to kick the sinner around. It is not everyday that we hear of the sinner being restored, it is not in every church that we hear of the sinner being restored. The sad thing is that in spite of the sinner committing a specific sin, we have people that like to go around and gossip to others about this sin. We must beware of those that gossip; these kinds of people destroy friendships, disrupt churches and cause strife no matter where they go. I have always been amused at the gossiper; they always use secretive measures to arrive at gossiping. It often starts as an object of prayer, or an inquiry of utmost concern.

The skilled gossiper is normally very faithful to attend church services, they do not want to miss any opportunity, and unfortunately this is often the case. The gossiper knows how to spread his or her venom in subtle ways, in many cases they are not the loudest or the most noticed, just always there ready to get your ear. I want to let the reader know this fact; it takes two to gossip, nobody can gossip unless someone lends their ear unto them. If we know that a gossiper is in our midst, avoid giving them a platform, resist the tendency to allow them to speak. The gossiper knows those that know the truth about them, we make them feel uncomfortable, uneasy, that are not readily willing to approach us, be thankful for this!!!

“What do we teach our children? . . . We should say to each of them: Do you know what you are? You are a marvel. You are unique . . . You may become a Shakespeare, a Michelangelo, a Beethoven. You have the capacity for anything.”

Pablo Casals

"Beware Of the Gossiper - Day 174"

Pro 17:9 He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth [very] friends.

Do you have a problem with gossiping, if so it is a sin, it is a deadly sin. The sin of gossip has destroyed many lives, it often gets ignored, and we often allow it. Those that live to gossip are often the biggest murderers in the country, in that they continually commit character assassination. If we were to be totally honest most of us have never committed literal murder, but many of us have slain men with our tongues. It is a terrible thing to kill people with our tongue, we seem to get by with it, society will never judge us for it, but God knows the murderers among us!!!

1 - The Gossiper & His Message

2 - The Gossiper & His Motive

3 - The Gossiper & His Mistake

4 - The Gossiper & His Methods

In the space below ask God to help you overcome any tendencies to be a gossiper. Ask the Lord for strength to resist this sinful urge, realizing that gossiping is not from God:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "One laugh of a child will make the holiest day more sacred still."
Robert G. Ingersoll

"When You Cannot Go Back - Day 175"

[Jdg 11:35](#) And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art one of them that trouble me: for I have opened my mouth unto the LORD, and I cannot go back.

In this passage we find Israel going to war with their enemy the Ammonites and they could not find the appropriate leader to lead the way. As they searched for a leader someone mentioned the son of Gilead, his name was Jephthah. This man Jephthah was dwelling in the land of Tob, he had been run off and rejected by his brethren because his mother was a harlot. The bible declares that Jephthah was a mighty man of valor. I wonder how coincidental it was that this was the second man from Gilead that was a mighty man of valor. As the man Jephthah went on his journey to the land of Tob, he began to build a band of warriors, these men were vain men, but they were followers of the mighty man of valor. It would be good to mention that all great leaders will have followers, whether that leader is a good person or not. The children of Israel asked Jephthah to lead them, upon on much debate he said that he would only if God would use him to deliver Israel.

As Jephthah is heading to the battlefield he makes a mighty vow to God. He tells the Lord that if he would bring victory unto Israel, upon his return home the first thing that came out of his house would be sacrificed to the Lord. The story goes on as planned and the Lord brings mighty deliverance unto Israel. The war is over and Jephthah is heading back home, as he neared his home, the door is opened and out comes his daughter. This is not just one of his children; it is his only child, the child that he loved beyond measure. As this

event unfolded right before his eyes, Jephthah remembered his vow to God, his heart was ripped out due to the person that walked out of that door. In all honesty what would he do, this was his daughter, and even God would not expect him to honor this vow, right?

“Those who love the young best stay young longer.”
Edgar Friedenberg

"When You Cannot Go Back - Day 176"

[Jdg 11:35](#) And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art one of them that trouble me: for I have opened my mouth unto the LORD, and I cannot go back.

As Jephthah gathered himself, he done something that seems so strange to most observers, he declared that he had made the vow unto his God and he could not go back. The point is this, not that this was his daughter, but that one should not make a vow to God and not keep it. How often do we propose to sell out to God and then renege on our part of the bargain? The commitment that you recently made to God is a serious thing, not something to be taken lightly.

1 - The Man & His Valor

2 - The Man & His Vow

3 - The Man & His Victory

4 - The Man & His Virtue

In the space below ask God to help you from going back, you cannot go back on your commitments:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "What God is to the world, parents are to their children."

Philo

"When the Enemy Wears You Down - Day 177"

Idg 16:16 And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, [so] that his soul was vexed unto death;

The mighty man Samson is being worn down; here we have a he man with a she problem. The mighty man got into more trouble than he ever expected when he chased after the wrong woman. Samson could have chosen most any girl from among his own people, but in his weakness he chose one that was living among the enemy. The enemy approached Delilah and bought her off, they found out what her price was, and then they paid her to give Samson into their hands. As this great undercover work began, Samson acted as if it was a game; he foolishly tried to deceive his girlfriend. He told Delilah many false reasons for his strength, she tried all of them and none of them proved to be true. The mighty man found out that no matter how powerful one seems to be, no man can play with sin and not get burned. The bible tells us in another place, can a man walk upon hot coals and not be burned, and can he take fire into his bosom and not get burned. I want to make a statement that will always prove to be true, you can never play with sin and not end up on the losing end. This will be true today, tomorrow, and one thousand years from now, it is true of the mightiest of men and the weakest of men. Sin is a dangerous thing to play with; it is full of venom and will destroy all of its victims.

I have noticed men and women throughout my Christian life play with sin, some got by before years, some went down immediately, but in the end all of them lost. I love to watch animal planet on the television, one of my favorite shows is the Crocodile Hunter, the great Steve Erwin. I would dare say that his death was no surprise to most of us, even though his death was actually a freak accident; we all expected it to come. We supposed it would be at the fangs of a

snake or in the massive grip of the jaws of a crocodile, we all knew that it was coming. We should never be surprised when a person goes down to sin, sin displays no preference, it does not discriminate, it will open its massive arms and take down the most noble and noted opponent, will it be you, could it be you?

“God could not be everywhere, therefore he made mothers.”

Jewish saying

"When the Enemy Wears You Down - Day 178"

[Jdg 16:16](#) And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, [so] that his soul was vexed unto death;

1 - The War That Samson Fought

2 - The Woman That Samson Fooled

3 - The Way That Samson Fell

4 - The Wisdom That Samson Forsook

In the space below as the Lord to help you avoid the wiles of the enemy, do not let the enemy wear you down:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: “Few things are more delightful than grandchildren fighting over your lap.”

Doug Larson

"Just Say No - Day 179"

[1Ki 13:7](#) And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward.

[1Ki 13:8](#) And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place:

The wicked King Jeroboam was offering Incense unto the Lord upon an altar that was used for evil, this was not acceptable. The Lord sent an unknown, an unnamed prophet to deliver his message. The prophet told the king his replacement was forthcoming, he would sacrifice the evil priest upon this altar. He also noted that this altar would be overturned and its ashes would be poured out. As the king heard this message, he became very upset, he raised his hand to give his approval to lay hold of the prophet and God smote him. The king looked at his hand and it was withered, the Lord had dried it up, it was rendered useless, no longer was it to be affective. The king realized his grave mistake and asked the prophet to pray that God would restore his hand, and so he did, and so did God. The king saw the power of this prophet and wanted to take him home for dinner, and then he would reward the prophet. The mighty prophet made a bold statement; he refused even if the king offered him half of his house. He would not go with the king, nor would he be caught eating his food or drinking his water. The prophet knew when to say no, and he also knew why to say no. The message was from God and the miracle was from God, it had no price, all of the glory would be toward the prophets God.

If the enemy cannot defeat you, they may decide to team up with you. If they suddenly change their tactics and quit waging war against you and want to become pals with you, run!!! We must know when to say no, it is never profitable to team up with the enemy, just ask Peter. The mighty apostle was never observed cursing until he was found standing at the enemies' fire. He never denied his Lord until he was found in the middle of the enemies' camp.

"A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out."
Walter Winchell

"Just Say No - Day 180"

1Ki 13:7 And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward.

1Ki 13:8 And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place:

We can ask Lot if it is worth saying no to the enemy, he would tell us to be careful in where we look, where we dwell, and where we settle down. It is just as easy to say no as it is to say yes, it is more profitable to tell the enemy no.

1 - The Decision of Just Saying No

2 - The Danger in Not Saying No

3 - The Despair of Not Saying No

4 - The Dignity of Always Saying No

In the space below are you facing decisions that require you to say no, say it with authority and with God's approval? Just ask God to help you have the courage to tell the enemy no. The enemy could be someone that you love young man or young lady, it very well could be:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "When a friend is in trouble, don't annoy him by asking if there is anything you can do. Think up something appropriate and do it."

Edgar Watson Howe

"David Never Got Past Uriah - Day 181"

[1Ki 15:5](#) Because David did [that which was] right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any [thing] that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

We all know that David was noted in the bible as a man that was after God's own heart, he loved God as no other man, and God most definitely loved him. The little shepherd boy was noted for killing a lion and a bear that entered into his sheepfold. The same young boy was chosen by the prophet to replace Saul as the future king of Israel, he was just a young teenager at this time. The greatest fame of David is when he killed the mighty giant, hit him right in the forehead with his slingshot, then he chopped his head off with the giants own sword. The fame of David had spread all around the kingdom, God loved him, the people loved him, and in some instances even the enemy loved him.

In the midst of all of his fame, the young man committed a gross sin, it seemed to be insignificant at first but it steamed rolled into something that would haunt him the rest of his life. The king looked across his empire and observed a woman bathing and sent for her to come and visit him. The woman came, her name was Bathsheba, David and this woman conceived a child. The results of this fact introduced David to the horrors of sin, he found out that sin will take one farther than he desires to go. The king had Uriah the Hittite killed, he was Bathsheba's husband, in killing him, and the king could conceal his sin, right?

One year passed by, the child was now one year old, David had taken Bathsheba as his bride, everything was grand, and until Nathan the prophet of God came

and confronted David. The king may have fooled everyone in the kingdom, but he failed to fool God. The child would die; the king would pay for this hidden sin for the rest of his days. The sword would never leave his family; the throne would be rendered from his hand. His own son would rape his sister, his other son would kill his brother, his son would come after his throne, and he would end up dying on the battlefield. All of this because David tried to cover up his sin and kill Uriah.

“Treat your friends as you do your pictures, and place them in their best light.”
Jennie Jerome Churchill

"David Never Got Past Uriah - Day 182"

[1Ki 15:5](#) Because David did [that which was] right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any [thing] that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

I suppose many of us have Uriah's in our lives, we think that nobody knows, but God does!!! We hope to live a good life, though we have sin that goes unconfessed, we have hidden sin. The sin that David tried to hide, his God brought it out into the open. Dear friend David never got past Uriah the Hittite, it haunted him for the rest of his life, even still today his story is being told.

1 - The Great Story of David

2 - The Great Sin of David

3 - The Great Sorrow of David

4 - The Great Shame of David

In looking at this story, we must realize that David was a good man, he committed a gross sin, God fully forgave him, but Uriah haunted David the rest of eternity. It is one thing to be forgiven, but is another thing to live with the consequences. In the space below ask God to help you avoid any Uriah's in your life:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Since there is nothing so well worth having as friends, never lose a chance to make them."

Francesco Guicciardini

"Ever Felt Like Quitting - Day 183"

[Jer 9:2](#) Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for they [be] all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men.

In this passage we find that the prophet Jeremiah has reached the point of throwing in the towel. He wanted to flee to the wilderness and open him up a motel for the wayfaring traveler. If this were possible he would be free from his heartache, free from the worries, free from the heavy load of being the prophet of Israel. He wanted to quit, turn in his resignation, he really had not asked for this job, it was pressed upon him. The people were above listening, they were beyond leading, they were literally to the point he thought they were beyond loving. The prophet was tired, his faith was tested, and he just honestly felt fatigued. In conditions like these, people will make irrational decisions. The prophet needed to step back and get a dose of reality, his job was only to speak the word, he was not responsible for their response, or for the end results. We live in a goal oriented world and to a certain extent that is good, but we should be careful of this in our Christian life. In the Christian life we are to plant seed, and not every harvest comes forth as we expect it to.

I have noticed in this day and time with all of our modern day tools, most of us go from before daylight until after dark. We are so busy that we end up facing burn out on a regular basis. I see this church workers, Sunday school teachers, bus drivers, choir members, deacons, and so often in pastors. We set high goals,

we seemingly try to achieve them in our flesh and this will burn us out very rapidly. The prophet Jeremiah was not very successful in the eyes of his culture, he never experienced a great revival, and he did not even have any converts at all. He constantly went about weeping, he was known as the weeping prophet, he wept for the people that ignored him and abused him. I suppose that with all of these events wearing upon him, he proposed to himself to just quit, go ahead and resign. I wonder if God thought he was a failure, I can answer my own question, most assuredly not; he had done exactly what the Lord had called him to do.

“There's no way that moving in with your parents is a sign that your life is on track.”

Jerry Seinfeld

"Ever Felt Like Quitting - Day 184"

Jer 9:2 Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for they [be] all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men.

The Lord wants you to plod on, so often we want to go so fast we burn out, we need more plodders, people that continually plod from day to day.

1 - To Avoid Burn Out - Refresh Your Mind

2 - To Avoid Burn Out - Refocus Your Ministry

3 - To Avoid Burn Out - Renew Your Motive

4 - To Avoid Burn Out - Resist Your Misjudgment

In the space below ask the Lord to help keep you refreshed and focused so that you will be profitable for the ministry. He wants you for the long haul, this race is like a marathon, ask him to help you pace yourself:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Human beings are the only creatures on Earth that allow children to come back home."

Bill Cosby

"What If Peace Is Not an Option? - Day 185"

Rom 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

The text before us encourages the Christian to live peaceably with all of mankind. He is to try and promote an atmosphere of peace if at all possible; this would be pleasing to the Lord. I know that the reader is thinking you do not know my situation; you have no idea of the circumstances that I am facing. I must agree with you, I have no idea; your situation may be one of utter hatred and strife. The bible does not say that you have to live peaceably with all men, but that you must try to do this. On the other it does not say for you to live in constant strife and bickering with your fellow man, does it. The entire passage tells us not to take vengeance into our hands; vengeance is up to the Lord. If this is the case what should we do, how do we handle difficult people? It may do you well to understand that it is beyond your power to change people; we can change the environment, but not the person. If we were to be honest it takes two to have a good argument or a major disagreement. It takes two to cause discord at work, it takes two to fall out with each other. The best thing for us to do is practice the love of God. If we must go to the ultimate extreme, do this avoid them, that is so right just avoid

them. I know that may go against the grain, but what will it hurt if you overlook their loud words or their glaring looks.

In our society we are geared towards winning and losing, we always must have the winner and the loser. We must realize that we are not the loser if we overlook those that want to argue, if we avoid those that cause discord, or the one that is spreading rumors. In all honesty we will be much better off if we just stay away from them. It is not possible to live in peace with all of mankind, but nobody comes out smelling good if you fight a skunk!!! If you were to stand up to those that want to verbally abuse you, you possibly could win the battle, but is it worth the stink. I don't know about you but I like to avoid skunks, they are so offensive to me.

"I hate housework! You make the beds, you do the dishes - and six months later you have to start all over again."

Joan Rivers

"What If Peace Is Not an Option? - Day 186"

[Rom 12:18](#) If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

It is difficult for many Christians to display meekness, dear friend meekness is not a sign of weakness, just the opposite, and it is the sign of great strength.

1 - The Demands for Peace

2 - The Diplomats of Peace

3 - The Detractors of Peace

4 - The Demonstration of Peace

We must remember that it is not up to others in how we respond to them, which may be hard to swallow but is true. If we bump a cup or tip it over whatever is inside the cup will come forth, the same is true of us as Christians,

and you want to know what is inside of a person, let them get bumped. In the space below ask God to help bring peace in all of your relations. If peace is not an option ask him to help you rise above the fray. It may be appropriate for you to confess to the Lord that you have not been a proponent of peace, ask him to help you find the inner strength to do this:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "My son has taken up meditation - at least it's better than sitting doing nothing."

Max Kaufman

"When Things Don't Go As Planned - Day 187"

[Job 29:2](#) Oh that I were as [in] months past, as [in] the days [when] God preserved me;

In this passage we find the mighty patriarch reminiscing about his former days, the good old days, if you will the best days of his life. He tells us how great it used to be, he was looked up to by the multitudes, the young men sought his wisdom, and the elderly respected him. He says those days were the days when God had placed a secret touch upon him. He washed his steps with butter, the rocks poured out rivers of oil for him, and yet he was rich beyond measure. When he visited the gates of the city the young men hid from him the elderly stood up in his presence, even the princes remained silent in his presence. He was help for the poor, he was a blessing to those on the verge of perishing, he was feet to the lame and eyes to the blind, and he brought joy to the poor widows. Then Job makes a statement that many have made, he says that he shall die in his nest and multiply his days as the sand. What he meant was that I have life by the horns and I don't plan on letting go. He was ready for retirement and life seemed to be going great and so it was looking mighty fine to this mighty man called Job.

Then one day he had a visit from the arch enemy of all mankind, old Satan himself, life was about to change in the life of Job. It seemed as if all of his plans went down the drain, he lost all of his wealth, in moments his health was drained, and he was standing before 10 coffins. In moments life was turned upside down for this man called Job, in front of him was his seven sons and his three daughters, and he was heading for the graveyard. This was not in his plans, he had not expected things to go this way, what would he do? In all honesty everyone in Job's community was watching him to see how he would respond to this. He had so often and so easily given advice to them in their calamity, what would he do? How would the mighty patriarch respond, what would his reaction be, did he have a remedy for this situation?

"To encourage my little kid to eat I'd sometimes say: "Just pretend its sand."
Anonymous

"When Things Don't Go As Planned - Day 188"

[Job 29:2](#) Oh that I were as [in] months past, as [in] the days [when] God preserved me;

As things began to unfold in the life of Job, sudden destruction had just bankrupted him emotionally, physically, economically, literally it was all gone, what would he do. The mighty man done the most difficult and unusual thing, he fell down and worshipped. Job refuses to get mad, he decided to trust in his God, he felt as if he should just worship his God, wow!!!

1 - The Great Plan Of Job - Life Looked Great - His Legacy

2 - The Great Pain Of Job - Life Looked Grievous - His Loss

3 - The Great Picture Of Job - Life Looked Glorious - His Love

It would benefit each one of us to realize that we are not in charge; life can change in a moment. We fail to remember that we are only participants in this thing called life. If not for the grace of God giving us air to breathe we would

all be gone in minutes, what if we had to make our heart beat constantly, what if you forgot to do this for ten minutes? What I am saying is you are not in charge; you do not have life by the horns!!! In the space below ask God to help you trust him, realizing that things can change in mere moments:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Never lend your car to someone you've given birth to."
Erma Bombeck

"Do Not Settle For Less - Day 189"

2Ki 13:18 And he said, Take the arrows. And he took [them]. And he said unto the king of Israel, Smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed.

2Ki 13:19 And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed [it]: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria [but] thrice.

The king was about to receive a blessing for the prophet of God. He tells the king to take his quiver of arrows and strike the ground, ever how many times he smote the ground without stopping would be how many times the king would defeat his arch enemy. The king only struck the ground three times; this made the prophet of God very angry. He told the king he should have struck the ground at least five or six times. What is the significance of this story to us in our day? We must understand that we have a very big God; he is unlimited in his mighty power. We act as if we are limited to Yugo's when he wants us to be in a Lexus, not literally but figuratively. We often act like our God is dead, he is alive my dear friend, and desiring to work in our behalf. It seems to me that we are afraid to approach God with the impossibilities of life.

He is waiting to help us out; his eyes are running to and from looking for people he can work on their behalf, he really does. We are to try God, test him out, and prove him to be God. I am thinking specifically about the pastor that needs to build but he may not have the land or the money, is that the end of the story? I am thinking about that young man or young lady that is going off to school, but the money ran out long ago, is the story finished? If this is you, what will you do, throw in the towel, or will you put God to the test?

The issue of this matter is this; do not settle for less, if you settle for less it is your own fault. The prophet of God became angry at the king for not asking for more. I wonder if the Spirit of God gets mad at us for not asking for more. The Lord will not send you where the Lord will not supply you!!! I want to challenge the reader to test his trust today.

“The happiest moments of my life have been the few which I have passed at home in the bosom of my family.”

Thomas Jefferson

"Do Not Settle For Less - Day 190"

2Ki 13:18 And he said, Take the arrows. And he took [them]. And he said unto the king of Israel, Smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed.

2Ki 13:19 And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed [it]: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria [but] thrice.

This devotion may be the very thing that you needed to get your eyes off of the problem and get them upon him. He is such an awesome and able God, give him a chance to work on your behalf today.

1 - Our Faith Must Be Examined

2 - Our Faith Must Be Exposed

3 - Our Faith Must Be Expanded

4 - Our Faith Must Be Expressed

In the space below ask God to grow your faith and give you the Godly boldness that you need to get the job done.

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Keep in mind ... to a dog you are family, to a cat you are staff."
Anonymous

"Just Be Faithful - Day 191"

[3Jo 1:5](#) ¶ Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

The aged apostle John is encouraging a man called Gaius to keep on keeping on, continue walking in the truth. He gives this man a great compliment in that he commended him for his faithfulness. He did not just praise his faithfulness but in how he was faithful. Gaius was faithful in whatsoever he did, not just in the big things, not just the noted things, but in everything. I wonder if this could be said of each of us, faithful in everything that we do. The greatest need of our day is faithfulness; it seems to be a virtue that has ceased in our Christian community. I have noticed a great change in our churches over the past ten years and it is not for the good of our faith. I have witnessed faithfulness being replaced with excuses or an air of laxness. It makes no sense to me how people can be more faithful to the recreation center than to their church. I have watched people ignore their church duties and spend that time at the dance studio. It's as if some people are continually

on vacation, they need to come back to church just to rest.

I have never understood how we can put everything before serving God. If it's ball we will go all out playing ball, even if the child is sick he will go to the ball field, for we are so committed. If it is a school project we will see it to the bitter end. I don't want the reader to misunderstand; we should be committed to anything that we put our hands upon. The problem that I see is this; we must display this same commitment in our Christian responsibilities. If you are going to do something for God, go all out and do it, please don't do it halfway or halfheartedly. I think that our Lord deserves better than halfheartedness, I think he deserves more than partial faithfulness. I wonder if your spouse or your girlfriend would accept you telling them that you will be committed ninety percent of the time or half the time. I suppose ones relationship would be in jeopardy over a halfhearted commitment, right?

“The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.”

Henry Ward Beecher

"Just Be Faithful - Day 192"

[3Jo 1:5](#) ¶ Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

I know of people that would walk through utter darkness and rain while on crutches just to see a deer in the woods. This same person will sit for hours upon hours and do this day after day displaying the ultimate commitment, but cannot give God the same faithful commitment!!! I know of softball players that will pay over three hundred dollars for a ball bat but would hesitate in giving ten dollars to their church in the name of their God, how pathetic is this?

1 - The Requirements of Faithfulness - Expected

2 - The Report of Faithfulness - Documented

3 - The Resolve of Faithfulness - Committed

4 - The Rewards of Faithfulness - Contented

In the space below ask God to help you be faithful in everything that you do. If you were to be honest, have you been faithful in everything that you are doing for the Lord, if not ask him to help you:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Unconditional love; loves your kids for who they are, not for what they do; it isn't something you will achieve every minute of every day. But it is the thought we must hold in our hearts every day."

- Stephanie Marston

"Jesus Is Worthy - Day 193"

[Rev 5:9](#) And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred,

The aged apostle is now caught up into heaven, here he sees the book that no man could open this book nor look upon it. The writer also tells us no man in heaven or in the earth could look upon or open this book. The apostle says that he wept bitterly due to nobody being able to open this book. Then one of the elders told John not to weep that there was one that could open the book, he was the Lion of the tribe of Judah, he was the Root of David, and he had prevailed and could open the book. In the midst of this John looked and saw a Lamb, not just any Lamb but the Lamb that had been slain and was now alive and alive forevermore. The Lamb took the book and sit down upon the throne and all of the beast and the elders began to praise him with this mighty message, "Thou Art Worthy" and so he was, and so he is, and so he will be for

all of eternity. Thank God that the lamb was worthy, in this vast universe nobody else could lay claim to this, nobody else could receive this praise. The Lamb is worthy, he is worthy of my praise and your praise, he is deserving of my best and your best. I fail to find the words to describe his worthiness, I would exhaust the dictionary, and the English language is inadequate to describe his might worthiness.

He will be worthy when all of the best men of this world have fallen by the wayside. He will be found worthy when the most noble and purest Christian has been forgotten. He will be found worthy when this world has ceased to be and eternity is in its billionth cycle. Christ will be found worthy when Satan has changed his mind and wants to get saved. Our Lamb will still be found worthy, give him all of your praise. The heavenly participants sung a new song, one that had never been uttered. The title was something like this "Thou Art Worthy". The verses went something like this "Thou Art Worthy". The chorus went something like this "Thou Art Worthy". Do you understand what I am trying to say dear friend, the Lamb of God is worthy?

"We had a very successful trip to Russia we got back."
Bob Hope

"Jesus Is Worthy - Day 194"

[Rev 5:9](#) And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred,

1 - He Was Worthy in His Nomination

2 - He Was Worthy in His Name

3 - He Was Worthy in His Nature

4 - He Was Worthy in His Nobility

In the space below give him a word or two of praise and thanksgiving because of his worthiness. I will never be noted for much worthiness, but

Christ will always be accepting and deserving of any praise afforded him. He is worthy:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Enjoy life. Think of all the women who passed up dessert on the Titanic."

Anonymous

"The End of the Story - Day 195"

[Rev 20:10](#) And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet [are], and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

I wonder how many of us have been caught up in reading a book or watching a movie and due to time restraints needed to see how it was going to end, so we either watched the final part or read the final chapter? Then as we go back and watch the drama unfold we are at peace knowing that all is going to be okay, because we know the ending. I want to tell each one of the readers that it is okay, I have read the final chapters of the book and the ending is so wonderful. The arch enemy and villain will lose and the champion will ride in on a white horse. The battle between the good guys and the bad guys plays out for thousands of years, but in the end the men in black are ultimately cast into hell. The men in

white achieve freedom due to the greatness of their hero; he displays his love for them as no other hero has ever done before. The good thing about this story is that it cannot be found in the fiction section, it is found on the number one seller list, it has achieved this place year after year. This story is greater than the writings of Shakespeare; it is nobler than the writings of Plato. This story has changed the lives of men since before it was even penned to paper. It will be the object of discussion in thousands of families even today, professors will argue its credibility, presidents will seek its insight as they seek guidance in leading their nations.

I have read the end of the story and you can take comfort in knowing that everything will be all right. It has been settled even before the first act of this story had even begun. The conclusion of this story was settled before its participants even knew they would be participating. The enemy and his doom have been settled he received his knockout punch at Calvary and has been staggering ever since the resurrection, one day he will go down for the final count. As things begin to look utterly hopeless for the underdog, one day her hero will come and swiftly take her away to a land that is beyond her wildest dreams. Dear friend you can take consolation in this story, this story was written for you and because of you.

“My doctor gave me six months to live, but when I couldn't pay the bill, he gave me six months more.”

Walter Matthau

"The End of the Story - Day 196"

[Rev 20:10](#) And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet [are], and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

1 - The Hurtful Beginning of This Story - The Vileness of Man

2 - The Hopeful Saviour of This Story - The Victor of Man

3 - The Horrific Scene of This Story - The Villain of Man

4 - The Happy Conclusion of This Story - The Victory of Man

In the space below thank him for his wonderful power in putting our enemy in his proper place. It is a fact that everything will work out in the end, for I have read the end of this majestic story:

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "Gray hair is God's graffiti."
Bill Cosby

"We All Make Mistakes - Day 197"

[Phm 1:10](#) I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:

[Phm 1:11](#) Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:

In this wonderful story we have a runaway slave that has stumbled upon his master's friend. The slave is named Onesimus, the master is named Philemon, and the friend is none other than the apostle Paul. The story played out along these lines, one day Onesimus decided that he no longer wanted to be a slave so he would run away; as he left he went to Rome. As he made his rounds in

Rome, he stumbled upon his master's friend, the great apostle Paul. The apostle talked to Onesimus and he became a Christian, and this resulted in Paul writing his friend Philemon. In his letter he expressed his sincere appreciation of their friendship, and told of the conversion of Philemon. He was going to ask his friend to do something that seemed to be abnormal; he wanted him to receive his slave back. He did not want him to just take him back, but to take him back as a brother, a saved brother. The apostle told his friend to do this on his behalf if he could find no other reason. I wonder why the apostle was willing to do this, could it be that he knew we all made mistakes, we all deserve a second chance.

I wonder if some of us are facing similar circumstances, do we need to give someone a second chance. We may ask ourselves do they deserve this opportunity. Are we really under any obligation to forgive them, should we go out of our way to help them out? How many parents are struggling with this decision right now, on the other hand dear son or daughter should parents have the opportunity of a second chance. Are they the only one's not allowed to make mistakes? We expect the best from those closest to us right, they should never mess up, right? We seem to have short memories, we want people to give us a second chance, but many of us fail to offer the same opportunities.

“Goethe said there would be little left of him if he were to discard what he owed to others.”

Charlotte Cushman

"We All Make Mistakes - Day 198"

[Phm 1:10](#) I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:

[Phm 1:11](#) Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:

It hurts so bad when someone close to us fails us, but do we not love them enough to realize that even they could make a mistake? It is the ignorant and the foolish that expects those closest to them to be perfect!!!

1 - The Fall of Onesimus

2 - The Friend of Onesimus

3 - The Forgiveness of Onesimus

4 - The Future of Onesimus

In the space below you may want to list some people that have failed you in making mistakes. In all probability these people may have hurt you when they messed up, but you may not know how bad it hurt them when they fell. The pain that you feel may be very insignificant to the pain that they feel. You should ask God to help you go to them and forgive them:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: “Most plagiarists, like the drone, have neither taste to select, industry to acquire, nor skill to improve, but impudently pilfer the honey ready prepared, from the hive.”

Walter Colton

"I Am Thankful He Included Me - Day 199"

[Eph 2:17](#) And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

The salvation of God has appeared unto all men, it has been preached to the Jews and also to those of us that were considered strangers, and we were considered to be afar off. In the eyes of many we were not supposed to get this great opportunity. As I look throughout the scriptures I have found that the Lord has always made room for the strangers, those forgotten by society. As the children of Israel marched out of Egypt a mixed multitude went out with them. As the law of God was written, it always allowed for the foreigner, the stranger wandering in the land of Israel. When the cities of refuge were

initiated, the law made allowance for the stranger that may have committed manslaughter, he would have place to find refuge. The good thing about the salvation of mankind it is for every person that has ever been born. I am so glad that he appeared unto me, I did not deserve it, but he has allowed it through his awesome and wonderful love. I am known of God, I will never come to terms with this noble thought, and the God of this universe knows me!!! I may never be known of the president, or by a congressman, or by the governor, but I am known of God. If nobody else were to trust in Jesus he would have still died for just you, just me. The song says that he loves me; he displayed this love when he died upon Calvary for such a miserable sinner as me.

I am glad that the Lord Jesus Christ made allowances for the strangers, for people like us, if not for his wonderful love and grace we would all go to hell. I have noticed that all through the scriptures Jesus always had time for those that were not seemingly acceptable. He often found them in their miserable condition and helped them or healed them. I am so thankful that he came to me in my lost condition; nobody else had the answer for my state other than him.

“There is not a single outward mark of courtesy that does not have a deep moral basis.”

Goethe

"I Am Thankful He Included Me - Day 200"

[Eph 2:17](#) And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

It is one thing to be loved by those that are close to you, but it is even greater to know that God himself loves us. He loves me continually, eternally, and faithfully and his love is beyond description. I know why I love him, but I struggle with how he could love me.

1 - The Love of God Deliberately Sought Me

2 - The Love of God Definitely Saved Me

3 - The Love of God Delightfully Secures Me

4 - The Love of God Devoutly Satisfies Me

In the space below thank him for what he has done for you, especially in saving you. Do you remember how things used to be before he found you? Are you not glad that he sought you out and saved you from a place call hell? He is worthy of all of our thanksgiving and all of our praise!!! Do you remember the day he saved, where you were at, how old you were? List these in the space below and just tell him thanks:

1 -

2 -

Journal Notes:

Quote: "I can't stand a naked light bulb, any more than I can stand a rude remark or a vulgar action."

Tennessee Williams

Day 100

"Why Are You Still Here"

[Phl 1:24](#) Nevertheless to abide in the flesh [is] more needful for you.

The apostle Paul tells the Philippians that he is in a fix, he would like to go on to heaven, but he must stay and finish his job. It would be far more profitable for him to die and go on to heaven. The Lord had chosen for the apostle to hang around for a little while longer. We should ask ourselves why was this, why did he need to stay, he was of all people ready to go own home. The Lord had need of Paul, his

Jewels for the Journey

work was not yet finished. The apostle was still needed in taking the word from church to church; he was still a vital part in spreading the gospel from place to place. I can imagine that Paul grew weary in well doing, all of his traveling, all of his suffering, it would have worn any man down. I wonder how he felt as he was being beaten and left for dead; he was run out of nearly every town that he entered. As he was shipwrecked in the midst of the sea, did he ask God to take him on home, I dare say that most of us would have done this. I wonder how the mighty apostle felt as he went without food day after day, did he ask God to take him on home. In the middle of his ministry he had trained young man after young man and many of them fell by the wayside, did this make him want to go own home? As he went from place to place his very own people hated him with a passion did this make him want to go own home? I wonder how bad it had gotten in the life of Paul before he asked his God why he did not let him go own home?

I suppose that the reader is facing these same issues, maybe it is the Sunday school teacher, maybe it is the pastor, maybe a faithful church member. How many of you have asked God to take you own home, how many have questioned why the Lord has not taken you on? I want to tell you the reason that you are still here my dear friend, it is because God is not done with you!!! He may want you to keep right on teaching, keep right on preaching, keep right on singing, and keep right on serving. If you don't teach who will teach the little kids at your church? If you don't preach will the next man reach the ones that you need to reach? If you quit serving will the work go on or will it slowly fall by the wayside? Do you trust God to do that which is right; I mean really place all of your trust in his knowing what is right and what is wrong? I dare say that God has left you here because your work is unfinished; you are still needful to the function of his kingdom. If you as a youth pastor were to quit today, would the youth of your church be taken care of? What If you give up the nursery, who will train the little ones about the Lord? We must realize that to abide in the flesh is more needful, probably more needful than you will ever know!!!

1 - We Need Workers That Will Try

2 - We Need Workers That Will Trust

3 - We Need Workers That Will Transcend

4 - We Need Workers That Will Triumph

In the space below ask God to help you understand why he still has you here. We will never be the committed worker until we understand why and what we are supposed to be doing, once you find out, go and do it:

1 - _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 101

"Is Temptation A Sin?"

[Luk 4:13](#) And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

I think that we are fooled into thinking that temptation is a sin. If this were the case, we would be in

Jewels for the Journey

major trouble because Jesus Christ himself was often tempted by the devil. In this particular setting Jesus has been in the wilderness fasting, in the midst of his fasting Satan comes to him and tempts him in very specific areas. He was thirsty and hungry, so Satan tried to use this against him. As Satan tempted Jesus he used the most subtle means that were available. The devil knew that Jesus could perform miracles, so he asked him to turn the stone into a piece of bread. He wanted Jesus to bow down to him, this would have violated everything that Christ stood for and Satan knew this. The point of this text is this, Satan knows when you are at your weakest point. He knows which areas that he should try to tempt you in. The Lord showed us how to handle temptation; he always countered the temptation with the word of God. If you want to make it through your areas of temptation, learn the word of God, hide it in your heart. The bible says that the psalmist hide the word of God in his heart so that he would not sin against God. It may do you good to remember this truth, Satan will come at you time and time again, he does not take no for an answer.

I wonder if you know where you are most vulnerable to temptation, is a particular place? Do you find yourself being tempted more when you are with a particular person? Is it at a certain event or a certain outing, maybe a get together? It could be the computer or the telephone, it very well could be when reading certain books? I will promise you this, you may not know where you are the most likely to surrender to temptation, but Satan knows and he has it stored in his memory bank!!! The moment you drop your guard Satan will be there to tempt you, he doesn't need an open door, he just needs it to be cracked. Satan does not need your mind to dwell upon sin; he just needs you to give it a fleeting thought. He will not wait for you to knock on sins door, he will try to get you when you pull into the driveway. Temptation is not a sin, it is normal, it is to be expected. Sin enters into the picture when you yield to the temptation; it is only temptation when the battle is still being waged, but sin when you act upon it.

1 - The Biblical Truth of Temptation

2 - The Tactical Trickery of Temptation

3 - The Critical Turbulence of Temptation

4 - The Logical Termination of Temptation

In the space below you may want to list your top areas of temptation. I know this is very personal and requires much honesty, but remember this, Satan already knows those areas. It may be good for you to ask God to help you in avoiding these areas:

1 - _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 102

"God Will Use Just About Anyone"

Jewels for the Journey

1Cr 1:28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, [yea], and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

1Cr 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

I have heard it expressed rather humorously that God is hard up, he will use just about anyone!!! I know that this is not really the truth, but it is somewhat close to the truth. He tells us in the earlier passage that not many wise after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called, why is this. He does not want them to think that they deserve the glory. I am thinking right now of some of God's choicest servants, hardly any of them were wise, mighty or noble before being called by God. If you want to see this fact look at the life of Moses, he had no confidence in his flesh, he actually stuttered. Look at what God done with this meek and lowly man. If you want to see some modern day examples, check out Jack Hyles. The day Jack was called to preach; he went before his church and told his pastor. upon hearing what Jack had to say his pastor asked him if he was sure, the pastor was not sure but God was. In this same meeting their sat a famous football player, everyone thought this man would become a famous preacher. In all honesty his name fails to come to my mind, but most all of us have heard of Jack Hyles. The young man was very little in stature, he had a speech impediment, and nobody knew him. When God got done with little Jackie Boy he was the most noted preacher in his day, had the largest church and the biggest Sunday school.

I want you to get this, God is not looking for much and most of us fit the bill pretty good. I can hear many of you say this, surely God is not calling me, I cannot do the job, and who am I? If that is your story, you my friend fit the bill, watch out God may come calling. In all honesty you probably are not much, but he is. You probably cannot do much, but he can, you may not be noted among the most noted in the community, but God is and he can make you into something useful. The truth of the matter is God cannot use some people; he will not share his glory with any man. The plan of God is sufficient to save this world; he just needs some servants to help bring this plan to fruition. I love to watch God call a person and see the reservation in that person, and then God begins to do a mighty work. As this process happens those that are observing seem to be so confounded, they do not understand how this could be. The problem is they need to look a bit higher than the man; it is not the man, but the man's God!!!

1 - The Simplicity of God's Calling

2 - The Sufficiency of God's Calling

3 - The Specialty of God's Calling

4 - The Supremacy of God's Calling

In the space below ask God to show the areas that he may be calling you. In most cases he does not call the noble, but is a noble calling. He usually does not call the mighty, but it is a mighty calling, nor does he often call the wise, but he who heeds this calling will be considered wise:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 103

"How Firm is Your Foundation?"

1Cr 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

1Cr 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

How firm is your foundation, is it firm enough to get you all the way to heaven? The most important part of any building is the foundation; if the foundation is not firm it will not hold up. We must be careful in how we build, in what we build, because the time will come when all of your work will be tested. If the foundation is not secure when the winds come and the rain begins to blow all of your works will fall by the wayside. We must first make sure our foundation is secure then the rest of the building should be okay. The point of this text is as follows; our foundation will only be secure if it is built upon Jesus Christ. This foundation is the best foundation; it was secured by the death, burial, and the resurrection of Jesus. He arose from the dead and went back to heaven, and then he sat down at the father's right hand and watches over this vast universe. The Lord settled this matter along time ago, if you inspect this foundation you will find no cracks in it, it has stood the test of time. The whole world is hanging upon this foundation; some nations have been built upon this foundation. The souls of every believer that has ever trusted Christ is hanging upon this foundation. We have witnessed men and women forsake everything that they have ever owned to invite others to get upon this foundation.

It would do us good to inspect how we are building upon this foundation. The foundation of Jesus Christ is worthy of every good work, it is worthy of every good and Godly deed. The next passage warns us to take heed in how we build upon this foundation. We must build so that it will withstand the test of fire. Our works will be judged, if we are working for any other reason than to bring glory to our Lord, we better watch out. One day the fire will put every thing we have ever built to the test, all of our words, all of our works, all of our worth will be tested. It is good to be saved, it is even better to be saved and lay good works upon our foundation. Work for him, walk for him, worship for him, do all that you can for him. It will be a wonderful thing to enter into heaven one of these days and receive our crowns and cast them down at the feet of our blessed Saviour. I am glad that I'm saved, but I want to enjoy my salvation, I don't want to endure my salvation. We must be ready when God sends the building inspector our way, he will go over all of our works with a fine toothed comb, and hopefully it will stand the test!!!

1 - Our Foundation Has Been Secured

2 - Our Foundation Has Been Settled

3 - Our Foundation Has Been Scoffed

4 - Our Foundation Has Been Substantiated

I have witnessed many foundations fall by the wayside over the years. I have witnessed some of them fall due to the winds or the storms, many of them have fallen over the process of time. This is not so with the church, she has been standing now for 2000 years and her foundation is just as secure as when she started. In the space below thank God for his great foundation:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 104

"All You Have To Do Is Ask"

Jam 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all [men] liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

The Lord is trying to tell us where to find wisdom; this wisdom is for our journey. If any person lacks in wisdom all they have to do is go to the Lord and ask him for wisdom. The Lord tells us that this wisdom will be given to all men, and it can be given liberally. The Lord will not discriminate; he wants to give his wisdom to any person that is willing to ask for it. He says for us to ask, if we ask he will generously pour his wisdom upon us. I have found this to be true throughout the bible, you can look through the pages of the great book and anybody that ever needed wisdom from God received it. As the servant of God was going to build the mighty ark, guess who give him the blueprint, you are right, it was God. Noah had no idea of how to build a boat, he had never even been near a large body of water, much less see any rain. This boat was to hold the only living humans that were to make it through the flood, what if the boat could not float? I also considered Moses in leading the people of Israel; he was to build a tabernacle that would travel with them through the wilderness. Do you know where Moses received his instructions on how to build the tabernacle, you are right, he got them from God. When it was time for Israel to set up the six cities of refuge, do you know who instructed them in how to set the cities up, of course it was God. God is not lacking in wisdom, those who need it can freely receive it, free of charge.

I wonder if you need the wisdom of God in your life right now. How many of you are wrestling with some very specific needs in your life right now, today? If you don't figure out what to do you could end up in a mess, it could bring great despair and difficulty into your life. I want to challenge you to get alone with God and ask him for wisdom, ask him to show you specifically. You will not be bugging God, he says that we are to cast all of our cares upon him, why is this? Because he cares and he has the wisdom to help you make it through your difficulty. His wisdom is free of charge; it is available to you no matter who you are, no matter where you come from. He will not exclude any person that honestly asks for his wisdom. If you are seeking counsel other than the Lord you are limiting your capabilities, he may have the answer to your problems. The Lord will not force his wisdom upon any person; it must be sought and wanted.

1 - The Wisdom of God Is Available

2 - The Wisdom of God Is Abundant

3 - The Wisdom of God Is Adequate

4 - The Wisdom of God Is Affordable

In the space below ask the Lord to give you the wisdom that is needed for the situation. All you have to do is ask him for this wisdom, it is free. The Lord knows what is best for you, and he will share that wisdom with you, all you have to do is ask:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Jewels for the Journey

3 - _____

4 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 105

"The God of Positive Thinking"

[Phl 4:13](#) I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

The mighty apostle has just revealed unto us how tough his life had been. The great preacher had learned something that many people will never learn, he learned to be content. He would be content no matter what the situation was, no matter how difficult the circumstance was, this man would be content. In the midst of suffering the preacher was going to stay contented, if things were high or if things were low he would be contented. If he was full or famished he would be contented, how could he achieve this sort of peace in his life? The answer was that he had learned to monitor his state of thinking; he refused to let his mind talk him into being in a state of discontentment. The text before us teaches us to be positive thinkers, it is very simple in its presentation but very powerful in its practice. I know that some of you are ready to deem this devotion as unacceptable, but before you do please give it some thought. It is up to you and I to apply the teachings of this book upon our lives. If you look at the life of God's people after his resurrection, they had a different mindset; some of them were completely different. If you look at the life of Peter before the resurrection, he was very inconsistent. Look at his life after the resurrection, he was a fiery force to be reckoned with, why you ask was this. He had encountered the resurrected Lord and this totally changed his life, he had not only a change of heart, but he had change of mind. He had a totally different mindset; he realized that he could do any thing in the name of Jesus Christ!!!

If you were to be totally honest with yourself, you are not having issues with your heart, but with your mind. The devil has tricked you into thinking that you are limited in what you can accomplish. You may just need to have a change of mind, you need to get your mind right. You know which church usually does the most good for the kingdom? It is the church that thinks they can do anything in the name of their God!!! The text does not say you can do anything through yourself, not through your pastor, not through your church, but through Christ. He is the source of my strength, through him and him alone I can do anything, I mean anything. What are you facing dear friend, get your mind right, realize that you can do anything through his great name. I am not talking about a name it claim it religion, but I am talking about a God that can do anything for his dear children. The battle will never been won to those which doubt it. The miracle will never be performed in the life of a doubter. The church will never grow where God's people do not expect it to grow. If he can then you can and I can, so we all can, just because he say's that we can!!!

1 - The Positive Thinker & His Mindset

2 - The Positive Thinker & His Master

3 - The Positive Thinker & His Motivation

4 - The Positive Thinker & His Moment

In the space below ask the Lord to help you change your mindset. Ask him to help you be a positive thinker, not in your own ability, but in his ability and in his mighty name, you can do it:

Jewels for the Journey

- 1 - _____
- 2 - _____
- 3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 106

"The Power of A Kind Word"

Pro 25:11 A word fitly spoken [is like] apples of gold in pictures of silver.

The writer of Proverbs tells us about the power of a word, he says that a word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. He is saying that a word spoken to the right person at the right time is very valuable, even as valuable as gold or silver. I wonder if we know the power of a gentle word. I would dare say that all of us could think of a specific time in our life where someone said a kind word to us that literally changed our life. We should be very cautious with our words; the words that come out of your mouth may change someone's life forever. A fitly spoken word very well could prevent someone from committing suicide. A word fitly spoken may help someone make it through a very difficult time. If you were to realize the power of your words, it very well could change how you use them. I wonder if the waitress at the restaurant might need a kind word, or maybe the mechanic down at the shop is in need of a fitly spoken word. A fitly spoken word is just as easy to say as the word that causes harm and heartache. It seems to me that Christians are full of venom, the world is watching us and probably do not like what they hear. I have noticed that the work place is full of just as many Christian gossips as it has lost gossips. The workplace has more Christian grippers than lost grippers and we find just as many Christian grumblers as lost grumblers!!! If things do not go your way down at the grocery store how will you react? If the parking space gets taken by the car that broke the line to get it, how will you respond?

We must look for areas to offer kind words, these words are so needful. We live in times of utter depression and misery, many of our people wake up miserable and go to bed miserable. We do not need to add to their misery, we need to offer them a kind word; you may be in their place one of these days. As you face this day you may run into someone that needs a fitly spoken word concerning their children, be sure to give them one. It could be you one day standing in the need of a fitly spoken word, your child could be causing you grief in the next few years. Be very careful in condemning that person that is struggling in their marriage, it could be you in a few months. Why not just pray for them and offer them a fitly spoken word, a word that may help them make it throughout the day. I have had days in my life where a fitly spoken word was worth more to me than all of the money in the world. I have experienced times when I was lower than anyone could have imagined, but someone came to me and said a kind word, not a word of advice, but a kind word. This little kind word helped me more than anything I could have asked for, it was better than any counselor could have proposed. A word fitly spoke is needful and beneficial, more valuable than any amount of money!!!

1 - The Power of a Gentle Word

2 - The Price of a Gracious Word

3 - The Preciousness of a Good Word

4 - The Profitability of a Guarded Word

Jewels for the Journey

In the space below why not ask God to help you realize the power of a word fitly spoken, somebody may need it:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 107

"When the Roads Fork"

Mar 11:4 And they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door without in a place where two ways met; and they loose him

In this particular passage we find the disciples on the way to finding the colt that Jesus would ride into Jerusalem. As the disciples went along the way and came upon the colt, the colt was tied up and waiting for them. As the disciples looked around they found that the colt was tied up where the roads forked. I wonder why the scriptures made this simple observance, was this something that should be considered by the reader? I wonder if these forks in the road represented the choices of life as we live for the Lord. I have noticed that as I travel down the highway of life I am often confronted with choices. I have observed that the road often forks; sometimes I don't know which road to go down. As I inspect the two roads they noticeably look to be the same, often I do not seem to be drawn in one particular direction. The journey of life will have many forks, when we don't know which road to take, we need to stop and seek the guidance of God. I don't want to spend a lot of time traveling down the road and find out I have wasted my time, I went down the wrong road. I know of men and women that have wasted their lives due to going down the wrong road. I know of some that have chased money down the wrong road. I know of some that have totally ignored the calling of God, and have run headstrong down the wrong road. As they traveled down the wrong road they encountered difficulty and doubt. Once a man has taken the wrong road he has two choices to make, he can keep on going or he can turn around and go down the right road!!!

I will never forget taking a trip to Chattanooga Tn. when I was 18 years old. I lived near Cleveland Tn. and I was going to take my girlfriend up to Cleveland and hit interstate 75 North and shoot up to Chattanooga. As we hit Interstate 75 north and traveled about 20 miles I suddenly realized I was going the wrong way. I had a choice to make, I could admit to my crying girlfriend that she was right we were lost or I could keep on going and we could have ended up in Canada. Well against my better judgment, I admitted to her that I was lost. We went back to Cleveland and started over, I asked someone how to get to Chattanooga and he told me to hit Interstate 75 south and go about 20 miles. I didn't like having to ask this man for directions, but for the welfare of our relationship I had to admit that I was on the wrong road. Do you know she ended up marrying me anyway, now that is a storybook ending? The point of this story is this, I was going down the wrong road and I had to make a choice, and so do you my dear friend!!!

1 - The Danger of the Forks in the Road

2 - The Deliberation of the Forks in the Road

3 - The Distinction of the Forks in the Road

Jewels for the Journey

4 - The Downfall of the Forks in the Road

In the space below ask God to help you figure out which road to travel down, it is a serious decision that must be made:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 108

"Can you just let it go?"

[Gen 50:20](#) But as for you, ye thought evil against me; [but] God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as [it is] this day, to save much people alive.

I suppose that one of the hardest things for a person to do is forgive someone even though they don't deserve it, do you agree? In the text before us Joseph is standing before his brothers, they are fearful for their lives. The father of their family has just and the boys were so afraid that Joseph was going to lash out against them; the boys thought payday had just arrived. The most amazing thing happened; their brother tells them not to fear. He is not going to treat them how the way they expect to be treated. Joseph goes on to tell his brothers the reason he is not mad at them, he came to the conclusion that his brothers had done everything against him in the name of evil. He could retaliate against them because God had turned their evil deeds into something good. The time that Joseph had been away from them was a divine plan of God. God had turned their evil attempt at killing Joseph, into something that would literally lead to saving their lives. Only God has the capabilities to perform such a mighty miracle, he amazes those that cannot be easily amazed. I am amazed at how much Joseph was like Jesus Christ, he displayed Christ like qualities. You may be asking how he was like Jesus; he was like Jesus in forgiving his very own brethren, when they deserved no forgiveness. The truth of the matter was this, Joseph knew how to just let it go. He knew that there was no value in holding a grudge, but what would this accomplish? I have noticed that those that hold grudges are the ones that miss out on good times with those whom they hold the grudge against.

I wonder how many of you are holding a grudge right now at this very moment. We normally only hold grudges against those that are the closest to us, normally those that we love. We have malice and hatred towards them, when we see them we feel our face heat up; the hairs on our neck stand up. If we let go of our grudge against them we would have no real reason to live, we would feel empty and defeated if we gave up our hard feelings, right. The sad part about this truth is this; the grudges may be against your son, your daughter, your mom or dad, your spouse, your best friend, your fellow church member, or even against God. I want to ask you something, are you happy, do you have peace in your heart? I wonder how good you might feel if you were to just let it go, give it up, move on? Dear friend time is running out, do you want to spend one more day holding this grudge; do you want to be separated from them for the rest of your life? Can you just let it go, is it worth it, can you not just let it fall by the wayside?

1 - Consider the Object of Your Grudge

2 - Consider the Offense of Your Grudge

3 - Consider the Option's of Your Grudge

4 - Consider the Outcome of Your Grudge

In the space below ask God to help you remove your grudge, ask him if you cannot just lay it down and leave it there:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 109 "When You See the King"

[Isa 6:1](#) ¶ in the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

[Isa 6:5](#) Then said I, Woe [is] me! for I am undone; because I [am] a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

In the year that Uzziah the earthly king had died Isaiah went to the temple, he may have been depressed and dejected. I wonder if he went to the house of God out of habit, I wonder if he had no place else to go, so he went to the temple? I suppose that Isaiah wanted someplace to go so he could get some peace over his king's death. In the midst of him going to the house of God, something so strange happened; he had a one on one encounter with God almighty. He not only saw the Lord, he witnessed him sitting upon the throne, the earthly king may have died and the throne was empty, but the heavenly throne was occupied, praise God!!! The glorious train and glory of God filled the temple, the prophet forgot his worries and was about to break out into worship. He saw the Lord and he was High, and he was Holy, and he was here. I am so glad that we have a God that can show up in the midst of heartache and turmoil, why is this? The God that we serve wants to fellowship with his dear children, he loves us, he loves you, and he loves me!!! I am not talking to you about a God that is way out yonder in the universe, an untouchable God, an unapproachable God. I am talking about the God that will show up right in your time of desperation. I am not so sure how Isaiah felt as he went into to the temple that day, but I have a good feeling in how he left the temple that day. He may have walked in defeated, but wandered out delighted. He could have walked in sad, but left singing. The best thing that you and I can do is go and see the King!!!

I suppose that we go to church and often do not even expect to see the king. I want to challenge each reader to look for the king, he will show himself if we really want to see him. The prophet not only saw his heavenly king, he also got a good look at himself. I suppose that Isaiah went into the temple that day thinking good thoughts about him self. I do not think he had those same thoughts after he saw his heavenly king. We need to see the King, then we need to see ourselves, for if we see the king he will

Jewels for the Journey

change how we look at ourselves. I don't know about you, but I need more encounters with the king!!!

1 - The Void of Isaiah

2 - The Visit of Isaiah

3 - The Vision of Isaiah

4 - The Voice of Isaiah

In the space below ask the Lord to let you have encounters with the King in the coming days, this is needful:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 110

"Do You Know Where Your Weakness Is?"

[Deu 25:17](#) ¶ Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt;

[Deu 25:18](#) **How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, [even] all [that were] feeble behind thee, when thou [wast] faint and weary; and he feared not God.**

The Lord is warning his people to remember how the descendants of Esau had treated them as they were passing from Egypt. The Amalekites refused to let Israel safely pass through their country. As the feeble Israeli nation entered their borders the Amalekites came upon them from the rearward end and smote the weakest among them. The weakest and feeblest were bringing up the rear and the enemy took them down. The ones that were lagging and slacking were the ones that went down in the battle. I want to ask you a very personal question, one that you would rather not have to answer; do you know where your weakness is? If the enemy were to come at you, where are you the most vulnerable? I would dare say that every one of us knows where we are the weakest, right? I promise you I know where I am the weakest; I have a good idea where Satan will try to attack me. The Israelites learned a very valuable lesson during this great tragedy. The lesson was this; you better give reinforcement to the weak areas of your life!!! As they traveled from place to place, I would dare say that they secured the rearward guard. I know where I have gained ground with the enemy, but I also know where I am capable of losing ground. I do not like to admit this, but I have weaknesses in my life, I am very reserved in sharing this, but I want you to know this, we all have weaknesses.

How good is your memory, how many times will you get burned before you shore up the weak areas of your life? I dare say that many of us do not want to lose any ground to the enemy, right? If so what are you doing to build a wall around the weak points? The Lord tells us to remember, do not forget, and stay familiar with how it feels to be defeated by Satan. The very moment you think that he has left you, watch out he will try to pounce upon you like a roaring lion. The good thing about this is you do not have to fear the roar of a lion, hit him in the head with the rock of God's word and he will flee!!! I want to challenge you

Jewels for the Journey

to stir up your Godly memory, let it motivate you to stand taller, live more holy. We must forsake all fear and learn to walk in bold faith, a faith that withstands the attacks of Satan. We must learn to put the devil to flight, it is not meant for us to retreat, and we must get on the offensive and tell Satan he is not welcome.

1 - The Weakness That We Must Profess

2 - The Weakness That We Must Protect

3 - The Weakness That We Must Prohibit

4 - The Weakness That We Must Protest

In the space below ask God to help you confess your weak areas and to give you strength to overcome them:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 111

"The God of the Book"

[Jhn 20:25](#) The other disciples therefore said unto him, we have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

In this wonderful passage the disciples are telling Thomas about the risen Lord. The men make a wonderful statement, the statement was this, "we have seen the Lord ", that was a mouth full. This encounter changed the life of these men forever, if we were to look at their life these men spent there last breath serving Jesus. The great thing about this statement was that the men did not have to read about this event, they were witnesses of this event. The thought that I want to bring to light is this, it is one thing to know the book, it is another thing to know the God of the book. I know a lot of people who can quote the book, they know it forward and backwards, they know what is on each line and what is between the lines, but they don't really know the God of the book. The bible is only to bring you to a relationship with God, but some people only use the book as a fact sheet. These people use the book to tell you the cans and the can not's of life. This group of people uses the book to knock you in the head; it is a baseball bat to bust heads. I know some people that only use the book for negativity, the book that they laid hold of is never positive. I know this rubs some people the wrong way, but some of this people only know the book and have never fell in love with the God of the book.

The point of this devotion is this, the God of the book is a God of love, and if you meet him you will understand this. The God of the book is a God of grace not religious abuse; he is a God of mercy and forgiveness. The disciples said this, we have seen the Lord, this excited them, stirred them up. I want to

Jewels for the Journey

see the Lord; I want to see him for myself. I want to learn the book, but I want to know and meet the God of the book. I like to read my bible, but I want it to draw me closer to Jesus, to make me like Jesus. I am amazed at how the same bible will make some people sweet and some people so stinking mean. I hope my lost friends run into saints that have meet the Lord, not some pharisaical, legalistic moron, which only knows the negative things in the book. I am conservative, I am fundamental, but I don't want to gain head knowledge of the good book, I want to see the Lord.

1 - The Encounter of the Disciples

2 - The Excitement of the Disciples

3 - The Exclamation of the Disciples

4 - The Example of the Disciples

I wonder how your relationship is with the God of the book, do you know him on a personal basis, an intimate basis, and do you honestly love the God of the book? In the space below ask God to help you know the God of the book:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 112

"Goodbye"

[Eph 4:31](#) Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

The text before is telling us to put away certain things, these things are very detrimental to have in our lives. The specifics are as follows, bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking and last but not least malice. The person that allows these things to hang around is asking for trouble, heartache, and misery. Let us look at them individually, one sin at a time, they are too heavy to pick up all at one time. The sin of bitterness is this, a bitterness that is so full of hatred that it ends up producing extreme wickedness. The fruits of bitterness are so fatal; this bitterness will ruin the Christian. The sin of bitterness will cause a man to allow vicious sin into their life, they will end up committing a sin that beyond comprehension, so wicked. The next sin that needs to be kicked out is the sin of wrath, this sin is one that causes extreme anger and boils over. This sin will provoke a man to explode, in this explosion they may do something dangerous and wicked. We pacify these people and say the only blew up for a second, so does a bomb, but look at the results. If you are easily set off and have a short fuse, how about go get a longer fuse. The people that you blow up on don't deserve your foolish behavior. The next sin is the one of anger, this anger is the kind that wants to dish out vengeance. The person that is full of anger is a very mean

Jewels for the Journey

person. The next sin is the sin of clamor, these people are always stirring up a stink, they crow louder than a crow, lots of misery.

The last two sins are vicious sins, they will destroy a person. The next to last sin is the one of evil speaking; they slander a person's good name, cause injury to them without ever touching them. The person that is an evil speaker always likes to have an audience, they love to share their lies with anyone that will listen. The last sin is the sin of malice; this sin is the one that ruins churches and destroys some of God's best pastors. If a pastor ever has someone full of malice after them, he better watch out, this person will destroy him if possible. A person full of malice ignores the bible, rejects the truth and would kill you and enjoy going to prison. The person full of malice would go to hell if they could get their way, they will not accept no for an answer. This person will lie about you and set you up if the lies aren't enough. I want to challenge you to say goodbye to these sins, please pack them up and send them away. The word put off, literally means to pick up and cast away, just as you would by throwing a stone. Pick up these sins and throw them away, and tell them goodbye. I would purchase a one-way ticket and send these sins back to the pit of hell where they came from.

1 - The Evilness of These Sins

2 - The Exposing of These Sins

3 - The Explaining of These Sins

4 - The Evicting of These Sins

In the space below ask the Lord to help you remove any and all of these sins that may have found a home in your life:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 113 "Fresh Oil"

[Num 11:7](#) And the manna [was] as coriander seed, and the colour thereof as the colour of bdellium.

[Num 11:8](#) [And] the people went about, and gathered [it], and ground [it] in mills, or beat [it] in a mortar, and baked [it] in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil.

The children of Israel were in the process of being taken to the woodshed, they were about to make a grave mistake in complaining against the man of God. The text before us portrays the mixed multitude stirring up the people, as this happened all of the people began to complain. The complaint was this, they were tired of the manna, they wanted some flesh to eat. The mixed multitude never had acquired a taste for the food that God had provided. The manna was insufficient for their taste buds; do you know what they wanted? The people had a desire for the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic of Egypt. I want to challenge you to consider this my dear friend, if you keep on desiring the things

Jewels for the Journey

of this world and have never developed a liking for the things of God, you may be lost!!! The saved man will develop a taste for the manna from God; he will desire to have the fresh oil of God. I do not want to live my life eating left over's, I want to eat of the fresh food that God provides. The Lord refused to allow to them to store the manna up for more than a day, you may ask why? The manna was to be fresh; God was teaching them that we need only enough for today. Dear friend do you understand that God only wants us to have enough for today, not for tomorrow. He provides food for today, anything more is a waste. He provides grace for today, he gives mercy for today. His blessings are for today. God operates his bakery only from day to day, his bread never goes stale, and his water never gets tepid. Do you understand what I am trying to say, you need the fresh food, the fresh oil, the fresh touch.

I suppose many of us have grown stale and starchy, we have not had a fresh filling in so long we need to look at the book to make sure our name is still in it!!! The God that I serve offers me fresh food; the book is a fresh book. The bread that I eat from it is fresh food. I want to challenge you to go get the freshness of your salvation back; you need a Christianity that is to be enjoyed not endured. How long has it been since you have had something fresh from God? He is not dead dear friend, go to him and ask him for a dose of freshness, ask him for the fresh oil. The good thing about this fresh oil and fresh filling is that it is there for the taking, no charge, no down payment, it is totally free.

1 - The Church and Her Fresh Book

2 - The Church and Her Fresh Blessing

3 - The Church and Her Fresh Bread

4 - The Church and Her Fresh Body

In the space below ask the Lord to give you the freshness of all that he has to offer, this will be a blessing to you:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 114

"If That Isn't Love"

[Gen 3:6](#) And when the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, and that it [was] pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make [one] wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

The serpent deceived the woman and she eat the fruit, from that very moment sin had entered into her life. The results of this sin was going to be very tragic, she was going to experience a thing called separation for the first time in her life. This separation would be in three phases, she would be separated from her husband, she would be separated from the garden, and she would be separated from God. If you want to know the truth concerning sin, it separates; it separates the saints from the sinner. It separates the good from the bad, the light from the darkness, the sheep from the goats. It does not

Jewels for the Journey

matter how you cut it, sin always separates, and that is the reality of sin. The woman took the fruit and told her husband what had just happened, this had to have shook Adam. I wonder how he felt as he listened to her story; it was a story of sorrow and heartache. Instantly Adam was faced with the biggest decision that any man has ever faced. What would he do? If he does not respond and respond quickly he will lose his wife and never see her again. This decision would be a catch 22, if he does not eat the fruit, he will live. If he does eat the fruit he will gain his wife, but lose his life and in doing so he would experience the same separation that she would face. The fact of the matter is this if he eats the fruit the whole world will be cast into this separation; the world will face the same fate.

As we know Adam loved his wife Eve, he felt as though this love was worth the cost of eating the fruit. The moment he ate the fruit he became a lost man, he would now experience the pangs of death and the possibility of hell. I want you to know something dear friend this is love, here we see love beyond explanation. If we were to look closely at this picture we would find that this was exactly what happened when Jesus left his heavenly father to come down to earth. He was willing to experience this separation, not out of obligation but because of his great love for us. He stepped into an arena that he was not familiar with, he stepped into an arena that would force an undeserved death upon him. In this great story we see the love of God, a love for lost mankind, a love that was not just spoken, but proven!!! As the song says, if that isn't love then the ocean is dry, this was love at its greatest height. This was a love that is above being questioned, and can never be exhausted.

1 - The Perfect Love of God

2 - The Proven Love of God

3 - The Priceless Love of God

4 - The Precious Love of God

In the space below you may want to personally thank him for this great love story, my love story and your love story:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 115

"Something New"

[2Cr 5:17](#) Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

I believe this is one of my favorite verses in the whole bible, I will never forget when I came across this wonderful text. I was struggling with my assurance and the devil was really working on me. I had only

Jewels for the Journey

been saved for around four months, while sitting on my bed I prayed a simple prayer and ask God to help me overcome all of the doubts Satan was throwing at me. As soon as I got done praying I opened up my bible and instantly God revealed this passage to my heart, from that day forth I have never doubted my salvation. The thing that helped me was this fact, I may not have felt saved, but I knew that this verse had come to fruition in my life. I knew that I was saved because I knew that I had been changed. The good thing about this change was that I had nothing to do with it; the change was totally from the god ward side. I had been trying to clean up my life, I gave up most all of my worldly vices but i was the worse off. I dare say some of you may be asking how so, the more that I quit and the more that I tried, the worse that I felt. The preacher said this why not quit trying and start trusting, I took him at his word and it changed my life. The moment that I got saved my life immediately was changed. I want to say this to you dear friend, if you did not change you did not get saved!!! I am well aware that some of you were so good, you may not have had a substantial change on the outside, but you had better of experienced a change on the inside. I know that I am saved and where I am heading, do you have this same assurance?

I wonder how a person can so that they have experienced salvation but they cannot tell you when they got saved, they cannot tell you the place, the year, how it happened. I want to aggravate your mind, impose upon your thoughts, are you saved? If you were to die today, do you know for sure that you are saved? I know of a particular person that hinged all of their salvation upon a member of their family telling them they were saved. Is that enough to get you to heaven? Is that enough to hinge all of eternity upon, someone telling you that you are saved? The thing that I am placing all of my hope in is this, I asked Jesus to come into my heart, and then as I went about my day to day living, I seemed to be a different person. I was changed on the inside first; the Holy Spirit absolutely would convict me of things that used to never bother me. I was also changed on the outside, the things that I used to desire no longer appealed to me. I wrote in a couple of earlier devotions on treating people with kindness and asked you how you would treat a waitress the messed up your order? Well today one mixed my order up and as I was getting ready to complain, the Holy Spirit brought that devotion to my mind. As I thought about being kind to her, I told her no problem I would eat it just as it was. I am not trying to brag, but I sure am glad that I got the Holy Spirit in my life. He told me to be careful in my words, if I was going to challenge others to be kind, I had to be kind. Hey I know that I am saved, do you?

1 - The Sinner & His Confession

2 - The Saint & His Conversion

3 - The Spirit & His Conviction

In the passage below if you have any doubts about your salvation ask God to help you get them settled:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 116

"The New Language"

[Eph 4:29](#) Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Jewels for the Journey

I have been taking a workplace Spanish class the last two months, and I have learned one thing, if you don't practice what you have learned it will become useless. I have learned how to introduce myself to some of my Hispanic workers, but I feel so much more comfortable speaking to them in English. I believe that the same holds true with the Christian, this salvation thing is so new. It is so difficult to let the old man be put behind us; it is even more difficult to let the Spirit of God do his good work in our lives. The hardest part for many Christians is the mouth thing, that part that God tried to clamp down behind two sets of ivories. The bible says that the hardest thing for a man to do is to control his tongue. The tongue is so much more powerful than many want to admit, it is more dangerous than a raging forest fire. The text before us challenges us to let no corrupt communication proceed out of our mouth. It also tells us to use our words to edify, to lift up other people, and use it to dispense the grace of God. Do you struggle with corrupt communication; do you have trouble encouraging people, lifting up people? I wonder how difficult it is for you to offer words of praise to specific individuals in your life, can you do it? I have observed something strange lately at my workplace; we conduct many meetings and try to gather certain information to make our workplace better. I have noticed it is easier to talk about the bad traits and very difficult to bring forth good traits, some people just feel so uncomfortable in edifying others.

As we try to avoid speaking corrupt things about others, in return we must learn to edify people, lift them up. This is a vast change that must be elevated in our lives; we must invite this sort of change. It is difficult to bury how we used to act and conduct ourselves, but with the help of God we can learn this new language. I want to learn the language of love, the language of edifying, and the language of lifting others up. If we were to inspect the life of Christ he taught us how to use this new language, he used it no matter where he went. I noticed that Jesus displayed love no matter the recipient; he loved them and tried to lift them up. I need to be more like Jesus, he always lifted people up. Jesus was not in the knocking people down profession, he would drown them with kindness and compassion. We must learn to communicate with good words; we must expect ourselves to speak well of people. You know it does not cost us anymore to say good things; it takes the same effort, the same amount of time!!! I dare say that if we would practice this, we might find more relationships developing in our lives.

1 - The Life That We Live

2 - The Language That We Learn

3 - The Lord That We Love

4 - The Loses That We Limit

In the space below ask the Lord to help you learn the language of edification, the art of speaking good words:

1 - _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 117

"Many Other Things"

Jewels for the Journey

Jhn 21:25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

The disciple whom Jesus loved greatly wrote this blessed verse, it is amazing how potent this verse is. In this tiny little verse we find out how wonderful our dear Lord really was while down here on this earth. Here John tells the reader that Jesus done many other things that if they were all put to paper, the entire world could not contain the amount of books that would need to be written. I wonder what all happened in those 3 1/2 years he fulfilled his earthly ministry? I dare not consider how many mighty miracles the Lord actually did; it seems to have been so many that John feared the thought of documenting each one. Do you realize that this entire thing was done without any of our modern day transportation, without television, without telephones? The Lord walked from town to town, he was limited in his earthly travels, and he was limited by his fleshly limitations. I am not saying he was limited as God, but limited as far as his being in a fleshly body. He could not be everywhere at one time, he can do this now. The point I am trying to make could you imagine what would have happened if he were living in our modern times. He performed all of this about 2000 years ago, and he still turned the world upside down. He is still God, he is still the able and abundant creator and sustainer of all things.

I wonder how many books could be written now. In our day and time the Lord is still performing miracles, he is still changing lives. We may not find him walking along the shores of Galilee but we can find him dwelling in hearts across this vast world. He may not be with the disciples literally in the ship, but I do know that he still calms the storms of life. In this modern age, if all of mankind would utter words of praise and honor unto him, it might literally change this world. He is still the mighty God, the all knowing, all being, all abiding God. I can testify of how could he has been to me and it very well could fill the pages of several books. If the world cannot hold all of the books that would lift up his glorious name, how can you and I hold it in? If he has been good and gracious to you, why do you not go about sharing this wonderful deed? I do not know what else to say about this matter, but I will say this, I sure am glad for my salvation!!!

1 - The Content of the Books

2 - The Complexity of the Books

3 - The Confinement of the Books

4 - The Center of the Books

In the space below thank Jesus for all of his blessings, for all he has done for you, his mighty wonderful works:

1 - _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 118

"But, He Was A Leper"

[2Ki 5:1](#) ¶ Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, [but he was] a leper.

The man Naaman was the captain over all of the Syrian army, he was a great man, his valor was noted, and his honor was among the greatest of all men. I suppose you could bring Naaman in today's society and he would be considered among the who's who of America. He would make his rounds on all of the talk shows; they would recognize how great he was. The host would make everyone aware of how he had won many wars; they would note his strategic mind. He would receive award upon award, then of course he would get to visit with the president. I dare say he would be on the Oprah show; Larry King would feature him on his show. Jay Leno would want to usher him out before his audience, of course David Letterman would let him do the top ten countdowns. I wonder if any one would make mention of the one flaw in Naaman's life, I bet nobody would be as insightful as the bible. The bible portrays all of the details of life, this is how I know it is the real word of God, and it is so honest. The man Naaman wanted to be known as a great man who happened to be a leper, but the bible portrays Naaman as the leper who happened to be a great man. I want you to know something dear friend, you may know for a lot of things, you may get all sorts of applause, but God knows the truth.

I wonder if we try to go through life fooling people, we may fool every human being that we come in contact with, but we will never fool God. Naaman went down to Israel and wanted to be healed, he went down to Israel as the mighty man of valor, the captain of the host, the man of fame. He quickly learned that this man was not going to receive any healing. The prophet of God did not even come out to greet him, this made Naaman mad. He thought of himself as someone to be applauded, he got angry when the prophet sent his servant out to greet him. Then the servant tells him to go down and dip seven times in Jordan, this really upset old Naaman. He wanted the prophet to do something great for him, he surely did not want to dip in the muddy Jordan. As Naaman went down the road his servant gave him some wise counsel. He told Naaman if he wanted to be healed, he needed to become a leper, he needed to become someone that needed help. God will not help the high minded, he will not help those who deem help unnecessary, he will not help those that mask their feeble need. If you need salvation, don't you think you need to get lost? If you need healing, don't you need to admit that need before God? If you need deliverance from alcohol do you not need to become a drunk or an alcoholic?

1 - The Nobility of Naaman

2 - The Need of Naaman

3 - The Neglect of Naaman

4 - The Nudging of Naaman

In the following space list some areas you need God's help and touch:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 119 "We Do Not Well"

[2Ki 7:9](#) ¶ Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day [is] a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household.

Here we find four leprous men that seemed to be in a hopeless situation. The men were afflicted with the gruesome disease of leprosy; due to this leprosy they were restricted in their travels. If the men traveled down the road they had to cry out, "I'm a leper" in doing this everyone one know they were in the presence of a leper. This awful disease would consume a man and eat at his body to the point he may be rendered as unrecognizable. The lepers were confined to a location outside of Samaria, and in this case it did not matter, the people inside the city were starving to death. The siege that was upon the city was meant for the destruction of everyone inside its gates. The people inside the city were facing utter helplessness; it looked as if the enemy was going to win this battle. Then the lepers realized something that made lots of sense. The men came to the conclusion that they were going to die; if they went into the city they would find no food inside its gates. If they stayed where they were, there was no food here either, so they would die in this place also. The only option that the lepers had was to march right into the enemies camp, maybe they would feed them if not they would only hasten the expected. How often have you been backed into this kind of situation? When all was said and done they go into the enemy's camp and God used this to run the enemy completely out of the country.

As the men went from tent to tent, they found each tent the same, completely unoccupied, unattended. As they begin to eat, it was a joyous occasion, the four got to feast on the enemy's food. Then they begin to go through the spoil that was left, the gold and the silver, the garments, things were looking great for the lepers. In a matter of minutes their life had gone from the lowest of lows unto the highest of highs, and then something strange happened. In the midst of this joy and celebration the men felt convicted, here they were feasting and the king's household was starving to death. I wonder how much you are enjoying your salvation. Have you considered those that are down the street that may be lost? What about the lost ones down at the workplace, or that lost one down at the school? Have you considered them, in the midst of your security and your satisfaction, have you thought about their soul, their need for salvation? I would challenge each reader to think about the lost for a moment, can you reach one of them; will you reach out to one of them? The world is dying and going to hell, do you personally care? I have noticed that many are feasting, but not many are witnessing to the lost!!!

1 - The Lepers and Their Flesh

2 - The Lepers and Their Fear

3 - The Lepers and Their Fortune

4 - The Lepers and Their Faith

In the space below ask God to help you offer your good find to the lost that are without, those facing a hopeless end:

Jewels for the Journey

- 1 - _____
- 2 - _____
- 3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 120

"Do You Use Your Gift?"

[Rom 12:3](#) ¶ For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think [of himself] more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

In this passage the writer is teaching the church of Corinth to understand what their particular gift is and get busy using it. In the church we find many different gifts, a vast diversity of areas for service. We do not all have the same gifts, it would do us well to grasp this teaching, it may help you in your Christian life. If God has called you to teach, then you must teach. If God did not call you to preach, please don't try to preach. I have often heard a person say I cannot do anything, which is not true!!! The day you got saved God placed a gift upon you, this gift is to be used to help strengthen his church. The word says that he gave all of us a specific measure of faith or a specific area to serve in. I am amazed at those who misuse their gift or their talent. Friend if God gave you a talent for singing, be careful that you use this talent for the right thing. I am thinking of a person right now that went off to bible college, God gave this person a wonderful talent to sing. As soon as graduation was finished this person loaded up and went straight to Nashville, I am of the opinion that God gave this person their talent to be used for his glory. I am amazed at all of the jealousy that is found in our churches, people that are jealous of each others gifts. If God gave you a gift use it, if he gave this gift to others be happy for them. I have noticed that when it comes to gifts, one man's gladness is another man's sadness. This ought not to be so in the house of God, we must eliminate jealousy.

I wonder if you even know what gift that God has given you, do you honestly know? If you are saved God has given you a specific gift, find out what it is. It could be the gift of teaching, serving, ministering, giving, administration, pastoring, what is your gift? I believe that every church will be supplied with people to fulfill every need of the church. As the human body has various organs for it to function properly, so it is with the church. If every church would pray for their needs, God will supply someone that has the gift to fulfill each need. If you know what your gift is, if you get busy using this gift, you will find joy and satisfaction in your life. I have noticed people try to teach Sunday school that did not have the gift of teaching, two things happen. These people do a lousy job and often they are miserable, they are involved in serving in the wrong area. Dear friend life is too short to be miserable, church is to be enjoyed, not endured. I plan on enjoying going to the house of God; I can help myself by finding out what gift I have and using it for the glory of God.

1 – The Personal Uniqueness of My Gift

2 – The Practical Usefulness of My Gift

In the space below identify the gifts that God has given you to use in his kingdom:

- 1 - _____
- 2 - _____
- 3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Page 121

"The Possibility of Believing"

[Mar 9:23](#) Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things [are] possible to him that believeth.

[Mar 9:24](#) And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

In this passage we find a father trying to find help for his son, the son is filled with an evil spirit. He throws himself in the fire, he is often having convulsions, the problem seems to be hopeless. Then Jesus Christ arrives upon the scene, and immediately everyone runs to him, Jesus consults with them about what is happening. The father of the boy reveals the problem, Jesus tells the man if he could only believe everything could be possible. Then the father says something that I find to be so wonderful, he displayed the truth in his answer. The father says with tears in his eyes, Lord, I believe; help thou my unbelief. I think business was about to pick up in this family's life. The scriptures tell us that to move a mountain all we need is faith the size of a mustard seed. Faith that is not much faith, it is so small you can barely see it in your hand. This man asked God to help his unbelief, would we do the same? I have faith most of the time, but I don't always have the proper amount of faith. The biggest hindrance of faith is unbelief; this is the enemy of our faith. Unbelief is of the flesh, it is a fruit of our unsaved nature, it is something that Satan will use to hinder our growth. Unbelief looks at the human factor in all situations; it never looks at the Godward factor. I may not see a way of deliverance if I look at the human factor, I may not see a way of deliverance if I look at the Godward factor, but I can have enough faith to trust God. I am so thankful for the man and his honesty, I can relate to his troubles. It is not meant for faith and unbelief to get along, one of them must be kicked out, evicted, rendered useless.

I want to challenge every reader to ask God to help you grow your faith; you may ask how I can do this. The bible says that faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. If you want to expand and grow your faith, read your bible. What will happen is this; you will see how God worked in other people's lives. Then you will build up confidence knowing that he can do the same in your life. I want you to understand this, God is no respecter of people, what he done for Moses he will do for you, the same goes for Abraham, Elijah, Noah, Ruth, Esther, Sarah, he can do the same in your life. We must learn to expect God to do the same for us, not because we deserve it, but because we have enough faith. Read the book, get into it, learn it, love it, and get familiar with its contents.

1 - Grow Your Faith by Reading the Word of God

2 - Grow Your Faith by Remembering the Word of God

3 - Grow Your Faith by Reciting the Word of God

4 - Grow Your Faith by Reclaiming the Word of God

In the space below as God to do two things, grow your faith and remove your unbelief, he can do it if you ask him:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 122

"It's Time to Get Serious"

[2Ki 10:28](#) Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel.

The new king Jehu had been appointed by God and had just been anointed with the fresh oil. He decided it was time to get serious about his beliefs; he was going to get rid of Baal worship and destroy anyone that wanted to worship Baal. He called all of the worshippers together; he made it sound as if he was going to accept them as a part of his kingdom. Then he appointed eighty men to gather around the building, these men were to kill every Baal worshipper inside the building. I wonder how old Satan would feel if we were to declare war upon him. I wonder how he would react if we put out most wanted posters upon his head, declare a bounty on his head. I want you to know that God wants us to be involved in defeating Satan and his evil cause. I have noticed that Satan never takes a day off, he never sleeps, he never rests. I have noticed that Satan never gives any reprieves to his opponents, he is always on the offense, and he failed the class on defense. I have observed Satan destroying lives in every community, every neighborhood, and every city across this country. What are we going to do about this, are we going to ignore these facts, will we go on with it being business as usual? I have watched Satan destroy the lives of our youth, in my home town we have one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in the state. We have one of the highest divorce rates across the nation; our high school drop out rate is noted as being extremely high. I for one am tired of standing back and letting old Satan rule the roost, it is time to declare war upon Satan.

It may be time for us to declare individual attacks upon him, it is time for us to walk into the enemy's camp and take our things back!!! I for one think that we have the backing of God to help us overcome the power of the wicked one. I want to ask you if the enemy has tried to ruin your life, are you tired of it? We must turn to God in prayer, we must beg God to forgive us for our sins, and we must get Satan out of our lives, our homes, our schools. I wonder what you can do at your school; can you help make a difference? If God showed you what to do to help you rid the power of Satan from your school, would you do it? God may want you to pray for a specific thing, or a specific person, or in a specific place, would you do it? If God showed you how to relinquish the power of Satan in your community, would you do it, could you do it? The way we can rid Satan from our society, defeat his strongholds, take back what he has stolen, is for us to get serious. We can make a difference if we want to, I want to, do you?

1 - The Enemy Must Be Found

Jewels for the Journey

2 - The Enemy Must Be Fought

3 - The Enemy Must Be Finished

4 - The Enemy Must Be Forsaken

In the space below ask the Lord to help you defeat the enemy in your life, home, community, school, ask him right now:

1 - _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 123

"In My Distress"

[Psa 18:6](#) In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, [even] into his ears.

The psalmist tells the reader what he does in times of distress, he calls upon his God. I suppose many of us try many things before we try God. We often try the advice of others, our friends, and our family, often anybody other than God. In the very midst of our troubles many of us run to counselors, many of us try to seek professional help. The problem with all of this is that we must seek the advice and the hand of God. I dare say that many of the readers are experiencing distress at this very moment; some of you had no sleep last night. As you read this devotion, some of you are planning on this being the final days of your marriage, some even the final days or even hours of your life. May I ask you this, have you tried God, have you asked God to help you in the midst of your distress? I want to challenge you with this; before you throw in the towel will you give God a chance? Is it possible that God could have the answer to your situation; he is bigger than your problem? I have hope in the Lord, he is my rock, he is my deliverer, and he is a mighty God. How long has it been since you just sat down and had a good talk with the Lord? It is possible for you to go to him and tell him all of your troubles, all of your problems. In all reality he is the one that has the solution to whatever distress you may be facing. It could be a relationship, it could be a financial struggle, it could be something with eternal heartbreak hinging upon it. In my distress I know where to turn, do you?

I have noticed that many of God's great servants learned to turn to him in times of distress, why is this? If we turn to him in the midst of our distress, we can lighten the load. He beckons us to bring all of our burdens to him, in doing so we get the burden off of us and upon him. If we hook up with him, he will carry the burden, his yoke is easy and his burden is light. I think many of us feel that were imposing if we call upon the Lord. We feel that our distress is not big enough to take it to the Lord, oh my friend how wrong you are. As I look at them mighty men and women in the bible, they knew which way to turn in times of distress. Abraham often turned to his God in times of trouble as did Moses, Elijah, David, Naomi, Esther, Mary & Martha, they all found God. It is your choice to turn to God, he is our deliverer, he is our mighty refuge, our rock that will never roll!!!

Jewels for the Journey

1 - God Is the Source of My Strength

2 - God Is the Stabilizer of My Storm

3 - God Is the Securer of My Soul

4 - God Is the Soother of My Sorrows

In the space below why not tell God about your problems, ask him to give you reassurance in the midst of your distress, he can and he will if you will only ask him:

1 - _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 124

"If Not You, Then Who?"

Isa 6:8 ¶ Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here [am] I; send me.

The prophet of God has experienced meeting his God, and the results of this meeting was threefold, he had saw the Lord high and holy, he had saw himself defiled and lowly, and he saw the nation lost and unholy. He confessed his wretched condition; he did not realize his condition until he had a personal encounter with the Lord. The God showed him the condition of his nation; it was a time of unnerving for the prophet. He realized his own nation was lost and heading to hell, what was he to do? Then he heard the voice of the Lord asking this startling question, which shall go, send, who will go for us? The question was so pointed and yet so provoking, the prophet of God felt as if he must be the one to go. I suppose Isaiah could have offered up many excuses to the Lord, he was a prophet you know. It was not like he was lazy, he was busy doing the work of a prophet, but was that enough. If he did not go for God, if he did not reach them who would? He mulled this over and before he knew what had happened, his mouth was open and he was surrendering to go to the mission field. I want to ask you the same question, if you don't go who will go? If you don't reach them, can you count on someone else to reach them? If you don't reach your family who will reach them, will another family member reach them, can you bank on that? How many of you are the only one in your family that knows Christ, if that is the case what will happen if you don't reach them?

I dare say that God has specific people in your life for you to reach, do you understand the importance of that. How many of you have a burden for a lost person, what are you waiting on, time may be running out dear friend. I will never forget failing to reach one of my dearest friends when we were about 24 years old. I met him at a local convenience store, he even brought up the subject of church, God immediately spoke to my heart, tell him about how you got saved, tell him now. I failed to obey the leading of God that

Jewels for the Journey

afternoon, and a few days later I got word that Doug had died. He not only died but he died lost and in a drunken condition. I will never forget how I felt that afternoon, I still know how I felt because I still feel it now when I think about my good friend Doug. I wonder if you will sign up to go, God is still asking the same question, whom will I send, and who will go for us? He did not ask Isaiah if he was qualified, or how educated he was, or what class he had attended for soul winning. He just wanted someone that was willing to go, they must go willingly, urgently, someone had to go. Do you have a reason to go, visualize them in your mind right now, do you see them as a lost soul heading to hell. Do you have a good reason for not going, is it worth letting them die and go to hell?

1 - The Soul Winners Plea

2 - The Soul Winners Plan

3 - The Soul Winners Passion

4 - The Soul Winners Perception

In the space below ask God to help you see the results of you going and the results of you not going, will you go:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 125

"Be Careful Of the Wild Vines"

[2Ki 4:39](#) And one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered thereof wild gourds his lap full, and came and shred [them] into the pot of pottage: for they knew [them] not.

I want to challenge the reader to consider the importance of this passage; it has some very meaningful insights for us. The story before us displays all of the sons of the prophets sitting before the prophet learning the word of God. The men were in the midst of a mighty famine, but the prophet tells them to sit on the great pot and feed the young men some soup. It is amazing to me how God always take care of his people, there was a famine but this crowd was going to be fed. As the great pot was being set up and the soup was cooking, one of the boys went out to gather some herbs to season the stew. The young man begins to gather some herbs and ignorantly stumbles upon a wild vine, this vine was full of wild gourds or wild cucumbers, these were very fatal if eaten. The young man gathers so many that his lap was full, he thought that he had made a great find. He then heads back to the kitchen, finds the great pot, and shreds them in the soup. As this happened nobody noticed what he had done, everyone trusted him to do what was right. As the men gathered to eat the soup or the stew, they noticed the soup was full of poison, if eaten it would kill them. The young sons of the prophet immediately called upon the man of God, they needed help and he was the man to help them. As we move on into this passage, do you know where to go to in a crisis; do you know where to go in a spiritual crisis? If you get a hold of something that will destroy you spiritually, what will you do? I hope you can run to the man of God and find healing and help?

Jewels for the Journey

If we were to be honest, have we let people shred poison in our pot, have we accepted wild vines within our lives, within our churches? If you stumbled upon a wild vine would you even know it, are you familiar enough with the real thing so you can identify the fake? I dare say that many of us have allowed the fake into our life because we have not handled the real thing enough. The wild vines of liberalism, worldliness, uncleanness, unfaithfulness, evil and fakery, have we allowed these to grow in our lives? We fail to inspect what we are being fed, we trust anybody with our eternal destiny. Dear father, or mother be cautious in where you allow your children to hang out, everything that names the name of Christ is not always upright and honest. If we are not careful we will allow the wild vines to poison us and end up making us useless for the kingdom of God. Be very cautious of which bible you read, I am not being mean or ugly, but just any old bible will not work. Be very careful in choosing your place of worship, your family may be hanging in the balances. Dear friend everything that glows is not gold and all that shines is not silver. We are being bombarded with wild gourds and overrun by wild vines.

1 - The Wild Gourds Were Found In the Field

2 - The Wild Gourds Were Fatal In the Food

3 - The Wild Gourds Were Forbidden In the Future

In the space below ask God to help you be familiar with the real thing, and then you can forsake the fake and the fatal:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 126

"Be Patient toward All"

[1Th 5:14](#) Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all [men].

The writer of this text is laying out some guidelines for the church to follow, if followed this will make the church operate in a manner that is pleasing to God. In this text he tells us to warn the unruly, they probably will not listen but go ahead and warn them. The writer also tells us to comfort the feebleminded, these people just need someone to listen to them, you may need to listen all day, but that is all they need to make them feel better, a sympathetic ear. Then we are challenged to support the weak, we often judge them rather than support them, but God wants us to help prop them up. Often this must happen time after time, these people will never become strong or stable, just help get them through the day and start over again the next day. Then he asks us to do something that is very difficult to do, it is not an easy accomplishment. We are to be patient not just to those that we love or the ones that we like, but we are to offer our patience unto all men. I don't know about you, but this is not so easy to do, some people do not seemingly deserve our patience, do they? If we were to be honest, none of us are deserving of the patience that God has given unto us. We were hard headed, but he gives us chance after chance, we ignored him but he continued on with us. I want to tell you that I was a hard case with God, and most likely will be a hard case in the future. I am not always an easy person to implement change, especially if

Jewels for the Journey

this change goes against the grain. I like to live life and would love to live it my way, but often times my way does not line up with Gods way. I am so thankful that God is patient with me, I don't deserve it but he sure has been kind to me, what about you. I dare say many of us have the same things in common.

I wonder how many of you parents can be so patient in the market place, down at the office, at church, but you cannot show one ounce of patience with your children, your teenager. We are so tolerant of those we work with, those that do not even love us, but display no tolerance with that young teenager that made a youthful mistake. We forget that we wrecked our car; we forget that we fixed it and did not even have the courage to tell our parents. Dear mom, don't forget that many of you committed youthful indiscretions, I am not saying it was okay, but we made the same mistakes, or many of us did. I hate being around those that became forget how sinful that they used to be. I have noticed many dignified Christians that hate sinners; they have forgotten how sinful they used to be. We must be careful that we hate the sinner and not the sin, this is wrong. The sin is our enemy, not the sinner, we must love the sinner, and we must be patient with the sinner!!!

1 - The Christian & His Charge

2 - The Christian & His Challenge

3 - The Christian & His Commitment

4 - The Christian & His Compassion

In the space below ask the Lord to help you develop an attitude of patience; it is needful for all men and helpful:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 127

"The Most Misunderstood Verse"

1Th 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Here we see some more areas that God expects us to practice in our lives, this one is probably one of the most misunderstood verse in the entire bible. I have often heard this verse quoted like this, you should give thanks because of this or because of that. It has been the cause of much grief and confusion in times of difficulty. It often goes like this, people are standing at the casket, some nut goes up to them and says the following, well I know your loved one is gone, but God says you can give him thanks because of this. I dare say that the one receiving this advice feels a sense of heat building up in their face. Then they go off and get mad at God, they have been given bad advice in the midst of a horrific time. We tell them to give thanks because their home has just burned to the ground, we advise them to give thanks because their marriage has just fallen by the wayside. The uninformed and the ignorant advise them to give thanks because they have cancer or another disease. I want to offer this to the reader; most people that offer this kind of advice have never sat where you sit. In the future they will be

Jewels for the Journey

called to sit there, and then you can go and tell them to praise God and thank him because their life is in the biggest upheaval that could be imagined. Only the ignorant or the spiritually unlearned could expect someone to give thanks because of a family death or an emergency.

The truth of this text is as follows, we are not to give thanks because of, but in the midst of, that my friend is the truth of this matter. We are to give thanks knowing that our God is in control, knowing that he knows what is best for us. If it is the death of a saved loved one, we are sad concerning their passing, but we can give thanks knowing that God will allow us to see them again. I am not so spiritual that I can give thanks because of any situation, but by the grace of God I can give thanks in the midst of the situation. I realize that I am not so big to do this, but thanks unto God that my God is deserving of thanks. He is in complete control, he was in control before the difficulty and he is still in control in the midst of the difficulty. In everything find a way to thank him; this is not beyond what God expects of us as his children. I do not want to be in the midst of this difficulty, but I sure do want to thank my God for helping me get through the situation. Have I helped you find some peace concerning this passage; do not get angry at God. I fear that someone has received false advice from an unlearned advisor, do not let this affect your relationship with God. Remember God loves you and would never hurt you, you are too important to him!!!

1 - The Difference of a Word

2 - The Definition of a Word

3 - The Desire of a Word

4 - The Delight of a Word

In the following you may want to tell God you have a better understanding of what he expects from you in your difficulty, he expects you to offer up a word of thanks, not because of but in the midst of:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 128

"Lord Do It Again"

[Psa 80:3](#) Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

In this text we find the people asking God to turn them one more time, they need his touch, they desire to see his face, and in this they will be saved. The people are asking the Lord to do it one more time, I wonder if we should not be asking God to do the same for us today. I believe we need to ask God to do it one more time in our day, in our presence, in our life, in our church. We must understand that God is not a respecter of people, he is not a respecter of denominations, he is not a respecter of beliefs, he is a respecter of the truth. I want you to consider my dear friend, what God done way back yonder he will still do it today. If he healed back yonder, he can still heal today. If he poured out his anointing way back

Jewels for the Journey

yonder he can still pour it out upon you and I today, do you believe that? I have noticed that God is a big God and has never been limited in what he can do for his people. The Lord can still send revival to our churches; I want him to do this do you. The Lord can still take a young man or a young lady and use them in a mighty way. I want to challenge some reader to consider why God has been dealing with you, is he wanting to perform something mighty in you or through you? I dare say some reader is wrestling with the call to preach, the call to the missionary field, some student is trying to decide which college to attend, please get it right. Dear God please turn us again, please do it one more time, we need you do to it in our time, in our day!!!

The nation of Israel often backed up on their God, many times they utterly failed God, but how often did they cry out turn us again, he did turn them. He will turn us, he can and he will. Some of our readers need God to turn their families, if he does not turn your family the other option is failure, God please turn them. Some mother is praying for her daughter that has become pregnant, if God does not turn the situation it could go from bad to worse, God please turn them. I wonder if some dad is praying for a son that has utterly let him down and disgraced his family's name. Lord please bring him back. I am of the opinion that God wants to turn things around in the lives of his dear children. I have found God to be so good to me. Will you ask God to turn something's around in your life; he is ready and willing if you will only let him. I have found throughout the word of God that whenever his people needed help or turning, he always came through with help and turning.

1 - The Simple Request

2 - The Sure Response

3 - The Sublime Results

4 - The Supernatural Record

In the space below please ask God to help do some turning in your life and in your situation, he can If you will ask him:

1 - _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 129

"A Place for Anybody"

[1Sa 22:2](#) And every one [that was] in distress, and every one that [was] in debt, and every one [that was] discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.

Jewels for the Journey

In this passage we find David running from Saul, he has received information to go hide in Judah, so he goes down to Judah and hides in a cave. As word spread about the whereabouts of David, his own people heard that he was in trouble. Then something wonderful began to happen, men started showing up down at the cave. As David watched men flow into his presence, he inquired of them and found that they all had similar stories. As each man shared his story, David noticed the common ground of each man, they were in distress, they were in debt, and they were discontented. The men realized that life had dealt them a rough lot in life, so each man assumed that if he was going to go under, he would go under in the presence of the chosen king. In the presence of the chosen king, all of their trials and troubles would seem insignificant. How could each man enlist in this fight and not find contentment for their lives, in the presence of the chosen king everything will be alright. I also noticed that David did not turn any of them away; none of the men were so bad that David could not use them. The mighty warrior did not question their debt, he did not counsel them considering their distress, and he did not probe for the reason for their discontentment. No the king did not do any of this, he openly accepted each man, he openly found each man a place in his army.

If you would have it, consider how the circumstances were when you came to Christ. I would dare say that most of us came to Christ in times of distress, in times of grave discontentment; we were in debt for our soul. If he had not have accepted us what would we have done, where would we have turned? The great thing about us coming to Christ, he calmed our distress, he relieved our debt, he replaced our discontentment!!! I am of this opinion, if he had not of received me I would have died and went to hell, and possibly would be in hell right now. I remember when I got saved, I was in deep despair on the Sunday morning in 1979, I was in a miserable state and I did not have the answer. I will never forget finding out where he was, I found him that day and it was the best day of my life. He received me openly and eternally, what can I give him in return for this wonderful gift, it is priceless. I am so glad that he maneuvered to where he was and there he saved me!!! Will you take a moment and stroll down memory lane, do you remember how it was for you on that momentous day.

1 - The Place That Is Revealed

2 - The People That Were Received

3 - The Problem That Was Reported

4 - The Pardon That Was Reassuring

In the space below ask the Lord to help you remember that day when you found him, oh what a glorious day:

1 - _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 130

"God Can"

Jewels for the Journey

Job 14:4 Who can bring a clean [thing] out of an unclean? not one.

In the text the writer is asking us a serious question, who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean thing, can this happen? I wonder why we see so much failure in our society in this day and time. If we were to be honest we don't see much success in our prisons today, we try reformation but it seems to be of no value. If we discussed the success of our school systems today, would you say that they are successful; I would give them a failing grade, would you? If we discussed the success in our government, how successful would you say that they are? I dare say that when man is involved we don't see much clean come from something unclean. In all honesty everything that we touch ends up being more corrupt. We have corrupted our marriages or the sanctity of marriage, we have corrupted the rearing of children, and we have corrupted the birthing of children. You may ask how is this, how did we corrupt these things; I am glad that you asked. God gave us marriage for the betterment of mankind, but we have displaced marriage with adultery, God has given us children, but we pay doctors to abort our children, God help us. In the beginning of our great nation, we used the bible to teach our kids how to read, we used to have prayer in our schools, we used to allow God to be in our schools, but not so now. In these days we have booted God out of our schools and we used a big boot to do it. In our day and time we no longer see the need for prayer in our schools, if we were to have prayer; we would have to give all of the other religions their opportunity for prayer. Is this not pathetic, Buddha had no part in making this a great nation, Mohammed was no where to be found in helping this nation break off from England.

I am not trying to be harsh or rude, but only God can bring something clean out of something unclean. I know this to be true, for he done it for me in 1979, has he done it for you? I know whom I used to be, it was nothing to brag about, I know who I am right now and I know who I will be in the future. I have seen the mighty hand of God change a man or a woman's life, this change is always for the better. I have observed God do a mighty work in the life of unclean people, when God got involved things always seemed to be different. What about you my friend, has he changed you, was it a glorious change, should you thank him for changing you? I will never get over what he has done in my life, if it was up to my family I would have went to hell. If he had of left my soul in the hands of our school system I may have never found God. If had of left it up to the doctors, I could have been aborted before birth. If it were up to the government I would only receive reformation not regeneration. The things of man cannot bring forth the clean out of the unclean, but thanks to God, he can do it.

1 - God Can Clean Up a Man

2 - God Can Change a Man

3 - God Can Convert a Man

4 - God Can Call a Man

In the space below ask God to make you into something clean, ask him to gloriously change you. If you desire to be changed he is the one that can bring forth a true change:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 131

Beware Of the Unfaithful"

Jewels for the Journey

Pro 25:19 Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble [is like] a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.

I suppose all of us have been let down at some point and time, but what about being let down in times of dire need, troublesome times. If this has ever happened to you, then you know how much it hurt and may still hurt, it's tough. In this text we find a wonderful proverb, one that cautions us to be careful in who we put our confidence in. The bible warns us about placing our confidence in man, it is a dangerous thing, if not careful we could be hurt. I could tell you story after story of people in our churches that have been hurt, often this hurt brings grief to their life. I have watched many of these people end up leaving the church, the pain from this hurt has literally destroyed their faith. I know that many of the spiritual giants reading this find this hard to comprehend, many of you have made bold statements saying that this will never happen to you. Dear friend I hope that it will never happen to you, but if it does happen to you, there may be a day that you will regret those words. I have watched preachers fall due to gross sin or shady finances, and then I have watched those that had much confidence in them struggle in their day to day living. I have watched fathers fall and destroy the faith of their children, I have watched mothers turn away and fall into loose living and destroy the faith of their children. I have observed the same thing concerning Sunday school teachers, deacons, choir directors, leaders, prayer warriors. I have watched them fall and let people down, many of these people never recovered this lost confidence. If you name the name of Christ do you not think that he wants you to live upright and honestly? It is not proper for a follower of Christ to live loosely nor foolishly, is our walk to be a narrow walk? If we only knew how many people are watching us, listening to us, observing our every word and step? If we only knew of those that hold us up as role models, those that desire to be like us. If you talk it, please dear friend try to walk it, walk it openly, walk it privately, walk it circumspectly. If you let someone down and they lose all confidence in you, it may never be retrieved!!!

I want to ask you personally if this devotion has pricked your heart, for some reason God may be gripping your heart, reminding you of the danger you are about to get in to. If you are considering a shady business deal, it could destroy all of the confidence that people have in you. If you are stealing and seemingly nobody knows, if it comes out think about all of the grief that you will be bringing to those that love you. If it is an improper relationship with a coworker or another church member, do you realize how hard it will be on those that trust you, have you really thought about it? It is so hard to gain real confidence from people, but it can be lost in seconds and mostly always never fully recovered.

1 - Unfaithfulness Considered

2 - Unfaithfulness Condemned

3 - Unfaithfulness Comprehended

4 - Unfaithfulness Challenged

In the space below ask God to free you from any unfaithful tendencies:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 132

"The Right Kind Of Reasoning"

[Isa 1:18](#) ¶ Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

In this passage we find Isaiah sharing a word from God with the reader, God is challenging the listener to come and meet with him. As they come together, they can talk, if a man will listen do divine reasoning he can be saved. We find lots of reasoning going on today, we reason with different religions; we reason with terrorist, we reason with rogue nations, infidel nations. We should have learned by now, none of this reasoning will work. The only real reasoning comes from reasoning with God, why, because he has all of the answers. If you need help turn to him. If you need to be delivered turn to him. If a man or woman is lacking in knowledge go to God, reason with him. If a person is lost quit reasoning with everyone that comes along, go reason with God. He will reason with you until you see that his way is the right way, the only way, the safest way, and the brightest way. Have you ever found it difficult to reason with some people, it is not always an easy thing to do? In all honesty most of us think that we are okay, we feel that we have life by the horns and don't plan on letting go. It is not until the Lord reasons with us that we understand the importance of personal salvation. I have found that many times we want to reason with everyone but God. We like to get advice from most anybody but him; we feel that we can convince most people to come around to our kind of thinking. In this passage we have are called to the table to reason with the Lord, for he is the mighty counselor.

It is a serious thing to ignore the Lord and to ignore his input upon our lives; he does have the original blueprint. If he has our blueprint, if he is the creator and the sustainer of our life, should we not seek his counsel? I want to challenge the reader to seek out the Lord, spend some time with him, and tell him all of your concerns. Then you must seek his guidance and apply it to your life, he will never lead you down the wrong path. The bible says for us to come now, not latter, not tomorrow, it tells us to come to the Lord, not someone else. I want you to find him, make some time for him, and spend some of your valuable time with him. The greatest thing that we can do each and everyday is to receive his reasoning, his reasoning is always true and will never hurt you. I want to ask you a personal question, are you about to make a very critical decision? A decision that could bring great gain to you if things go good or it could bring great debt upon you if it goes bad? I want you to go and seek the Lords reasoning, he will lead you in making the right decision, always.

1 - We Should Have His Advice

2 - We Should Hear His Advice

3 - We Should Heed His Advice

4 - We Should Honor His Advice

In the space below ask the Lord to help you receive his advice with all gladness:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 133

"Some Important Day's"

2Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

I suppose all of us have very important days in our lives, some of them would be classified as wonderful days, but some of them would be noted as awful days. I am thinking right now about some wonderful days in my life, I recall them with much joy and happiness. The first day I saw my wife walking down the hall of our high school, now let me tell you it was love at first sight, well at least it was for me, it took her a while to come to the same conclusion. I remember the day of our wedding it was such a joyous day, I showed up late for the wedding pictures, it was not so great a day for a few moments. I think she thought I had skipped town, not on your life. I remember coming home one day and wife told me I would be a father, now let me tell you that was a glad day of celebration. I also remember going to the hospital early on that Sunday morning in 1988. I was awakened from a good sleep, had to get up and carry my wife to the hospital, we were so excited, could it be possible that our baby would be born on Valentines Day. Well you guessed it, we had the most beautiful little girl, and she was born around 2:30 p.m. on that Valentines Day afternoon that was such a wonderful day. I also remember having some sad day's over the last forty six years; if I could I would change the results of those bitter days. I remember the day my uncle was preaching for me, he was preaching on "where there is room". He preached for twenty minutes and sat down and said he was done because he was tired, then he fell to the floor, he died right there on the spot from a massive heart attack. I remember going to the hospital that night when one of the greatest Christians I have ever know died. It was my wife's white haired granny. I am serving God today because of this little old lady; she was a prayer warrior for God. I could go on and on with stories concerning good day's and sad day's, but can I tell you this there is still some good day's yet to come, but let me also warn you there will be some sad day's in the future.

I want to let you in on something dear friend, whether you believe or not, one day Jesus is coming back to this earth. When this great event occurs it will be a day of gladness for some and a day of sadness for many others. The moment Jesus comes back many events will be set into motion. The saints will be ushered right into the very presence of God, but the lost will be condemned to the judgment of God. The tribulation will be set into motion, the beast will be beckoned, the Anti-Christ will be brought out and revealed, and so will the false prophet, Satan's unholy trinity will have their day of glory.

1 - The Participants of That Day

2 - The Purpose of That Day

3 - The Parting of That Day

4 - The Pain of That Day

In the space below write down the day of your spiritual birthday, if you cannot verify that day, make sure that you are saved, because there is coming a day that you must be saved or separated:

Jewels for the Journey

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 134

"Crossing Over"

[2Sa 19:18](#) And there went over a ferry boat to carry over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. And Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king, as he was come over Jordan;

In this wonderful passage we find a great story concerning the king and his glorious coming. The story involves King David coming back to the land of Judah; in it we see the rapture of the church. The story happened along these lines; David had to leave the throne due to his son trying to overthrow him. The king laid aside his royal garments and had to go away for a short period of time, during this time a war would be waged. In this war the king would lose his very own son, even though his son was fighting against him, the king still loved him. As the war came to a harsh conclusion, word was spread that the war was over; it was time for the king to come back to his throne. The people beckoned the king to come, they desired him to come with haste, and they longed to see the king. The king sent word back to his beloved people that he was coming; they were to expect his return any day. The king was stationed on the east side of Jordan; he rallied those with him on the east side of Jordan to follow him back home. As they made their journey back to Gilgal there was only one thing standing in their way, it was the chilly Jordan River. As the king rallied his followers to the banks of Jordan, low and behold what was but a ferry boat, this boat would usher the king and his mighty entourage to the other side. I hope you can see this with spiritual eyes, glory be to God the king is coming.

All of the great entourage got onto the ferry boat not by themselves but with the king, if the boat was to go down it was to go down with the king. I want you to hear me dear friend, this would not be a long journey, the other side was only a few seconds away. The journey would not take long, glory halleluiah, when we have to cross Jordan it will not take long. The king will one day head back from his dwelling place, he will bring his mighty entourage back on the old ship of Zion, as he comes back he will set his feet down up on this earth and sit down upon his glorious throne. Those that came back with the king were reunited with those that they had left at an earlier time. This would have been a glad reunion day, much celebrating, lots of excitement. The focus of the whole day would be about the returning of the king. As the king placed his feet upon the rocky shores of Jordan, all of a sudden his former enemies fell down at his feet begging for his forgiveness. Thanks are unto the glorious, majestic king, he is coming back one of these days, and we will cross over in the near future. He will be crowned and worshipped, because he is worthy.

1 - The Glorious Coming of the King

2 - The Great Crossing of the King

3 - The Glad Crowning of the King

4 - The Grand Celebrating of the King

Jewels for the Journey

The king is coming, you may want to thank him in the following space, thank him for his majesty and wonderful beauty:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 135

"Standing Firm in Your Pea Patch"

[2Sa 23:11](#) And after him [was] Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines.

[2Sa 23:12](#) But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory.

In this wonderful story we find one of King David's mighty men, his name was Shammah. This man was standing in his bean field when the enemy came and tried to take his pea patch, all of the other men ran away, but not Shammah. He fervently stood his ground and fought the Philistines until he killed all of them. I am sure many of you may be thinking, why was it such a big deal, thanks for asking. The great thing about this noble story is this; it was not so much the importance of the bean field, but the importance of not relinquishing any ground to the devil. We are called to be faithful, mighty warriors; we will never succeed in doing big things for God until he can trust us with the small things. You will never be a big preacher until you learn to be a small preacher. Why should God give you a bigger church if you are not faithful to the little church? Why should God give you more money if you are not faithful with a small amount of money? I can see Shammah now as he fights the enemy; he is waging an all out assault upon them and has not intention in quitting. The Lord needs some Shammah's in our day and time, some people that will defend until the bitter end. We must have some people that help bring about victory, not just a bit of victory, but complete victory. I wonder if you can relate to the steadfastness of this mighty warrior, if he lost the field it would not be because he didn't fight back. The word here declares that he wrought a great victory, the church could use some of these today.

I can see the others begin to run away, maybe not along ways off, but just enough to watch the battle ensue. I wonder what they thought as the enemy surrounded Shammah, I bet many of them thought his time was about to come to a swift conclusion. Then the men observed soldier after soldier falling at the mighty hands of Shammah. Do you suppose this may have inspired some of them to come and stand by his side? The church must have some Shammah's, we must have some people that will no longer allow the enemy to have free course. We must stand up to him; fight back and hopefully put him and his followers to flight.

1 - The Simple Story of Shammah

2 - The Strong Stand of Shammah

3 - The Sure Success of Shammah

4 - The Special Strength of Shammah

In the space below ask God to help you stand like Shammah, find your bean patch and faithfully stand in it:

1 - _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 136 “Why Delay a Blessing”

Gen 22:3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

I am amazed at how Abraham responds to the request that God had just given him. The day before God had issued an edict for the man of God to take his only son to yonder mountain to be sacrificed. I look at this text from the human side, the side that looks within the heart of a father. The side that sees the pain that must have erupted within the heart of Abraham. I look at this text from the side of man that surely could have argued with God. I suppose that he could have bargained with God, somehow there had to be another option, another way. The amazing part of this text is that Abraham rose up early the next morning. He did not delay the course that God had chosen for him to follow. It had to be the most difficult sunrise that he would ever see, the sunrise that would declare the death of his son. The night had to be one of the most troublesome nights that a father could ever have to endure. I do not know how Abraham slept on this dreadful night, but I do not know how he arose. He rose up early; he would not delay in following God.

If we expect the full blessings of God, we need to quit delaying the revealed will of God. The old patriarch realized that there was a miracle waiting for him on yonder mountain and the only way to receive it was to get up and go get it. How many of us have missed a blessing by delaying to go get it. The greatest blessings from our heavenly father are not those that he drops in our lap, but those that we have to go and get them. Is God trying to give you a blessing, but you are putting up obstacles, giving him excuses? I challenge you to get up, climb your mountain, and get your blessing.

1 – The Gloomy Burden Of This Man

2 – The Great Boldness Of This Moment

3 – The Gigantic Blessing On That Mountain

Jewels for the Journey

In the space below list the areas that you may be trying to delay the will of God in your life, remember this delay could be withholding an enormous blessing:

1 - _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

4 - _____

Journal Notes:

Page 137

"Who Will Reach The Heathen?"

Gal 1:16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

In this great passage we find the apostle telling us about his calling, his calling was from God but unto the heathen. I have observed many saved, sanctified, separated saints that have no dealings with sinners. The day they got saved, they drew a line in the sand and would never cross it. This group of people will never know the joy of leading a sinner unto salvation. It would be against their self worth to carry the gospel to a dirty low down sinner, but it was not this way for Paul. The apostles' calling was from God unto the sinner, I wonder why our calling does not go down the same path. As I inspect the life of Paul I have noticed him honoring his heavenly calling, he desired to lead sinners to Jesus Christ. As he goes from city to city he always found the sinners, we do just the opposite, and we always search out the saints. How can you lead a sinner to saving knowledge unless you go to where they are? The only sinners most of us really know are the ones that stumble into our local churches. If they only knew how we felt about them, many of them would never come back, right? It is high time that you and I got hold of the same calling that Paul had, a calling that loves sinners and leads sinners unto Jesus. I wonder what we would have done if nobody had never told us about Jesus? The bible that the sinner will ever read is the one that they see loving them, working with them, praying for the. Will you be that person, you may have to sit down and talk with them, you may have to eat with them, and you may have to visit their home?

I will never forget the time that I got saved; it was all due to a preacher that loved me in spite of who I was. I asked him to help me study for a Sunday school class; this dear man helped me, even though I was a lost person. He never condemned my drug habit, he never challenged my drinking problem, and he never scolded me for my stealing or my cursing. It was just the opposite; this dear pastor spent some time sharing the word of God with me. He invited me to visit his church; he tricked me with his love. I had never experienced this kind of love from people, I honestly did not know if it was real. Then he preached to me about a loving saviour, and that is why I got saved. I did not get saved because of preaching on

Jewels for the Journey

hell, though I was heading that way, I got saved because of the love of God. I saw this love through some of his dear saints, they were not better than I was; these people just loved me and prayed for me. I will never get over the love of God, or the love that those people shared with me. I plan on going to the heathen, it worked for me and it will work for them, right?

1 - The Love of God Exemplified

2 - The Love of God Experienced

3 - The Love of God Expressed

4 - The Love of God Extended

In the space below ask the Lord to help you carry his love to the lost, those needing his salvation. If we will do our part, he will certainly do his part:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 138

"Our God Is Rich"

[Eph 2:4](#) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

As we look through out the word of God, we find that our God is rich, he is not lacking in anything. If we could see his bank account, the bottom line would read, untapped resources, unlimited reserves, this account enters into the unknown realm. The Lord makes Bill Gates look like a rookie on the fortune 500 lists. If we visited all of his vaults we would find them full and never of the verge of running out. He is rich in mercy, in grace, in love, in knowledge, in kindness, in forgiveness; if we need it he has it in large quantities. I have observed that as life passes us by our needs often change. One day you may need the mercy of God, if that is the case God will supply you with enough mercy to get you through the day. If you need grace, that is no problem, the grace of God has been proven through out the ages. The forgiveness of God crosses the human realm and goes into the supernatural realm, I am glad for that. It is hard for man to fully offer forgiveness, if we do forgive; it is often only until something else happens, then we rescind that forgiveness. This is not so with God, if he forgives you it is a done deal, you can count on his forgiveness. I know of some people whose love is only fleeting, they may love you today, but that could change tomorrow. I have found that God is so rich in love, his love is everlasting, it cannot be drained, nor can it be disputed. The bible is full of case after case where God extended his love to difficult people; in many cases man would not have offered this same love. It may be that some of the readers need to know that God is rich, let me rephrase that statement, God is exceedingly rich. If you are in need of God's amazing and abundant help, why not go to him and ask him!!!

In the coming days you will need the resources of our God, his resources are our resources. In my hometown of Chatsworth, Georgia the talk has been over a local truck driver that just won the lottery. It was not just any lottery, but it was the biggest win of any lottery, only two winning tickets were sold.

Jewels for the Journey

When it was all said and done he received a check for 116 million dollars. He took home 80 million dollars. The man was a truck driver; he retired from his job two days later. The biggest thing that this man plans on doing is going fishing, yes I said fishing. He recently had purchased a small bass boat; this boat will now become his brothers. He said that before he won the lottery he could not afford all of the extras that he wanted for his boat. Upon receiving his check of 80 million dollars he said he thought he could now afford a bigger boat, and load it down with all of the extras. I believe he can do a lot of fishing for 80 million dollars. The point of this illustration is this, God has more than all of the lotteries put together, and if you need it he has it.

1 - The Value of His Riches

2 - The Vastness of His Riches

3 - The Validity of His Riches

4 - The Vehicle of His Riches

In the space below tell the Lord all of your needs, he is abundantly rich you know:

1 - _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 139

"What If"

[Jhn 15:22](#) If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.

If the Lord had not of come and spoken to mankind, what would have been the outcome. Jesus say's that because he had spoken unto the people during his day, they had no hiding place for their sin. I am so glad that he did come, his coming changed the world, and the world actually got to see God in the flesh. In all reality things would never be the same after his coming. The glorious coming of Christ to this earth gave man a real life standard to go by. In any thing that we partake of we need a standard, a standard that everything will be compared to. The standard should reflect the best of the best; it should be the highest in quality and expectation. When Jesus came down to this earth he was the standard of all standards. If we were to go back and witness his mighty birth, it was the ultimate of all births. The baby Jesus birth did come from the womb of a woman who had never been with a man, nor did she have the seed of any man planted into her womb. The little baby boy was born from a lowly virgin mother, a mother that was chosen by our heavenly father. If we could witness the child as he grew in stature and wisdom, no other child had ever traveled down life's road like this child. He was observed as being the perfect child. The boy Jesus set the standard for any child that would ever live, he was a perfect child. In his adult life no person lived a life like Jesus; he was the ultimate standard for perfection. He was perfection in the flesh, in his speech, in his actions, in his attitude, in his deeds and his desires.

Jewels for the Journey

Ultimately he set the standard for dying, no man died like this man, this man died as payment for the world's sins. Every other man that had ever been born deserved to die, because of their sinful nature, but not this man. The death of Jesus was most horrible act that the world had ever experienced; it was the perfect dying for the imperfect, the sinless dying for the sinful.

I can only imagine how it would have been if he had never volunteered to come down to this earth. If he had not come we would all still be lost in our sins. If he had not come the world would be considered doomed and damned, because no other person was found to be worthy. If he had not come, you would be utterly lost and separated from God, eternally banished to a sinner's hell. If he had not come, we could have chosen any other religion and gave our every effort to see that we obeyed its guidelines, but still we would have died and went to hell. If he had not come, the world would be traveling down a dead end road, because he is the only way, there is no other way. If he had not come, my prayers and your prayers would have never made it before the heavenly father. If he had not come the end would be a very different ending, old Satan would be the victor, and his place in hell would be rendered useless.

1 - The Consideration of This Word If

2 - The Damnation of This Word If

3 - The Illustration of This Word If

4 - The Destruction of This Word If

In the space below thank him for coming, thank him for rejecting the word if, thanks for coming Lord. If he had not come how different this day might be:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 140

"Two Things That Will Never Change"

[Rom 6:23](#) For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

I have noticed many changes over the last 46 years; some of the changes even confound me. I have watched society change her view on morality, we have been brainwashed to accept sinful things to be good things. I remember when Ellen was viewed as a disgrace because she was going to kiss a woman on her television show, now people accept Ellen and invite her openly into their home on a daily basis. I remember when rock music was looked down upon as sinful and unacceptable, but now we crave to know what is going on in the lives of deviants such as Britney Spears, God please forgive us. I have read of times in America when politicians such as Bill Clinton would have been run out of the country, now held up as normal and acceptable. I want to let you in on something, this world may change but God's word is the same no matter what the situation. The bible will still be calling sin as sin when the Republican Party turns into the liberal party. It will still be sin when Osama Bin Laden turns on his people and vows to become a Christian. The bible will still be calling sin as sin when John Hannity invites the

Jewels for the Journey

Clintons out for dinner and reveals that he has always been a liberal. I want to declare unto each reader that sin will still be sin when Oprah declares that Jesus is the higher being that she talks about, yea right!!! In this world we may witness many changes but the bible will never change what it calls sin. If it was sin years ago, it is still sin today, and it will still be sin when we are all dead and gone. If you were to take the bible and burn every copy, destroy all of the printing presses and kill all of its readers, sin will still be considered sin.

I also want to declare unto the reader salvation will always be free; it will always be by grace and grace alone. Salvation will still be by grace when the Jehovah's Witnesses come out publicly and denounce that their founder was wrong. God's gift of salvation will still be free when Al Gore declares that George Bush is really his hero. It will still be by grace when Larry King confesses that he has always been a closet Christian. Salvation will still be free when the Oscars are only given to clean and decent movies, movies that Christians would be proud of watching. I think you get my point, it doesn't matter what may happen, and the bible will not change concerning sin and salvation. The whole world may witness drastic change but not our book, not God's blessed word, it will never ever change. The world could view every country declaring that God's word is null and void, but the book will still be right. The world could witness a press conference hosted by Billy Graham, he could declare that he had become an atheist and would no longer preach from the bible, but sin will still be sin and salvation will still be free and by grace!!! In midst of drastic change you can count on two things that will never change and you can take that all the way to the bank.

1 - The Book Will Never Change

2 - The Book Will Never Compromise

3 - The Book Will Never Corrode

4 - The Book Will Never Concede

In the space below thank the Lord for the perfection and preservation of his blessed book:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 141

"The Church"

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

The Lord promised to secure the church and protect it no matter what came its way; it was founded upon the rock. The word church occurs in the bible 80 times in 79 different verses. The word church means a local group of believers meeting together for a common cause, and in our cause it is to worship the Lord Jesus Christ. We meet together to learn about him and to encourage one another, to lift up one another, to bear one another's burden. If we could look back over the past 2000 years we would see that many things have come and gone, but the church is still functioning just as Christ promised she would. We would find that different organizations have risen up, many of them have excelled to great

Jewels for the Journey

prominence, but they fell nearly as fast as they rose up. I am currently thinking about one in particular, I remember when Promise Keepers was the rage of all of the land, where is Promise Keepers today. We must be careful in trying to live our Christian life by fads, they come and go, but the church thrives on. I remember when the book came out concerning the Prayer of Jabez, how popular is that book now? The book has come and gone, but the church is still carrying her mighty banner. The church was not built upon various organizations, various fads, various books, various leaders; the church was built upon Jesus Christ. The reason that our church can still stay fresh is due to its founder and fabricator, he is still overseeing that it functions according to his blueprint. I have observed famous men receive much glory in leading local churches, these men have fallen by the wayside, some have died, some have quit, some have disgraced themselves, but the church goes on. The church was not founded upon denominational boundaries; it was not based upon creeds, or catechisms.

The church was placed in to the hands of 12 apostles, these men were just ordinary men called to do an extraordinary task. The 12 men gave their lives to see that the church went forth as God expected it to. If we watched these men go from city to city, over a period of time these men began to grow old and feeble. Then one by one these men begin to die, what would the church do, these men were in on the ground floor of building the church. I dare say many people were worried concerning the future of the church, but the church rolled on, how? The originator was still watching over his mighty work, the blueprint was preserved and placed into the hands of other Godly men and women. The secret to all of this was that each member of the church would have their own instructor; he would stay with them and guide them in what was right and true. The day each member got saved this unseen instructor made his abode inside their heart. The church cannot go under, it is impossible, cannot happen, will not happen, it is impossible, the church will roll on.

1 - The Church & Her Wonderful Founder

2 - The Church & Her Watchful Fabricator

3 - The Church & Her Wise Framework

4 - The Church & Her Welcomed Finish

In the space below you may want to give glory to God for his mighty church, and his protection:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 142

“Christian”

[Act 11:26](#) And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

The word is only found three times in the word of God, Christian, and Christ like, a follower of Christ. Is it not something to consider that such a famous word is only mentioned three times in all of the word of

Jewels for the Journey

God. If we were to be honest, this is one of the most despised names that can be mentioned throughout this world. The mere mention of this name would get you killed in many countries across the world, it is a divisive name. Why is this name such a controversial name, what is the problem with this nine letter word? The association that comes with this name is the main problem. If its name was associated with Islam it would not be so controversial, if it was united with the Muslims it would be an acceptable name. If this name was associated with the Eastern religions it would be an acceptable name, but we all know this is not the case. The name is associated with a specific man, not just any old man, but this man was God's very own son. The man's name of course was Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, the sacrifice for the whole world. That is one of the dividing lines about Christ, his love was for the whole world, not just a certain region, a mere sect of people, no it was for the whole world. The second problem with this name is the origin of this mans lineage, he was born as a Jew, the world hates Jews, they will not accept a saviour that is related to the Jews. Let me tell you dear friend there is no other way, no other name, no other option, if you get saved it will be by accepting Jesus Christ as your saviour. Just the mere mention of his name brings strife and argument, the mere mention of his followers brings agitation to mankind. In the early days of his church, they were called people of the way, the way was the way of Christ, and this identified his followers with him. Then they begin calling his followers that lived in Antioch, a very personal name, this name would catch on and follow his people all over the world.

In the beginning they called them Christians in Antioch, what a wonderful statement. This little group of believers was so adamant about following their Lord, it was their desire to mimic him, and they desired to imitate him. Those that observed their thirst for being like Christ began to make fun of them, in the beginning the word was a put down. It was meant to ridicule those that followed Christ, but it was an honor for those living in Antioch. The word caught on, this phrase will bring churches together all over the world on the Lord's Day. All of his followers will gather under this banner, in his name, on his day, the wonderful name of Jesus Christ. Men have died for this name; they refused to recant, to renege on their testimony. Those associated with this wonderful name find fellowship all around this world, the name that caught on in Antioch was this dear friend, Christian.

1 - The Christian & His Nature

2 - The Christian & His Name

3 - The Christian & His Notoriety

4 - The Christian & His Nobility

In the space below list some areas where you can better portray your Christianity, then go do it:

1 - _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 143 "Comfort"

[1Th 4:18](#) Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Jewels for the Journey

In this precious text we are reading about the coming of the Lord. In this particular section the Lord will be coming back for his church. We have much debate and deliberation concerning the “in's and out's” of his coming, but suffice to say he is coming back. The Lord will be coming back at any moment, there is nothing to hinder his return, it could be today, tonight, or tomorrow. The text before us is offering us a word of comfort; it tells us to comfort one another concerning the glorious coming of our Lord. We need to comfort each other for several reasons; we can find assurance in this wonderful chapter. The first thing we can find comfort in is this, we have a sure hope, this hope pertains to our loved ones that have died and went on before us. The lost world does not have any hope concerning the dead, but not so with us as followers of Jesus. The lost take their loved ones to graveside service and unfortunately all hope ends right then and there. The Christian finds great hope in the coming of our Lord, for when he comes he will bring our saved loved ones back with him. We can also find comfort in knowing that one day it will all be over, our race will finally come to an end. When he comes back the graves of our saved loved ones will open up and their bodies will transform immediately into glorified bodies. Then all of the saved saints will be caught up to meet them in the air, you can find comfort in this fact my dear friend. We will all have a one way ticket out of here, upon meeting our loved ones in the air we will head to glory, that will be glory for me, amen!!! The rapture of the church is the next event on God's prophetic calendar; it can happen at any moment, are you ready?

Dear friend as you go to the hospital with a sick loved one, find comfort in this fact, one day it will be better. We will see a day in the future where there will be no more pain, no more disease, no more heartache, no more suffering, no more separation. I want to challenge you to find comfort in this promising scripture. I don't know when he is coming back, but I know he is coming back. I have no idea what tomorrow holds for me, but I know who holds tomorrow. I can trust in his word that all will be okay, he is in control, and he is coming back. Lord I want to ask you just like the aged apostle on the Isle of Patmos, please come quickly. I am so ready for the Lord's return; his return will settle a lot of problems. I heard Kyla Roland tell a story about her and her mother talking about the sad state of things and her mother told her something so simple yet so profound. Her mother told her that sweet Jesus will fix it all, and I say praise God she is exactly right!!! In the coming days you trust God, you keep on looking for his coming, if doesn't come today, you keep on looking, for one day he will split the eastern sky and we will head for glory land. I want to encourage every reader to go back and read this passage, read until it grips your heart, read it until it is meaningful.

1 - His Coming Will Be Sure

2 - His Coming Will Be Sweet

3 - His Coming Will Be Staggering

4 - His Coming Will Be Strange

In the space below ask God to give you peace concerning his coming, then ask for his comfort:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 144

"Don't Go To Hell from Here"

Mat 7:21 ¶ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Mat 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

In this passage we find the Lord rejecting a certain group of people from heaven, it is the religious crowd. This crowd has been performing in the Lord's name; they had experienced miracles in the name of Christ. It will be the most horrible time in the world when we see this event occur, to witness religious people being sent to hell. The sad thing about this is these are not bad people; these people have been working in the name of Christ. I want to challenge the reader to consider this, please don't go to hell from a church pew!!! Do not go there from here; it would be a sad indictment on everything you are standing upon. You may ask, preacher how can this be, how can this happen. It usually happens along these lines, someone starts going to church, they fit in, everyone accepts them, they are considered to be good. As this happens everyone supposes the person is saved, everyone except the person that has been accepted. This person tries to fit in, they work, they teach, they sing, they faithfully attend every service, giving is not optional, but something is just not right. If you talk to their peers, everyone considers them to be saved, but not all is well in this person's spiritual life. When the preacher preaches on hell they feel uneasiness in their soul, when the subject is about eternal security they do not feel so secure. If you talk to them about salvation they always turn the subject to their works, it always ends up with discussing service rather than salvation. The problem with this line of lostness is this, by this time their pride has overtaken good reasoning, they have figured out they are lost, but what can they do? If they go before their church, what will they think, will people think of them as being deceptive?

I want to beg the reader, don't go there from here, and please don't go to hell from the local church. If you must go find someone that you have trust and talk to them, but it must be someone that will not talk you out of being lost. I want to tell you something that I believe with all of my heart, salvation comes by confession, but it will not come before conviction. Hell will be full of good, church working people; this makes no sense to me. I want to prod the reader to look past your church office, look past your good works, you may sing, you may teach, you may preach, you could be a deacon, look past all of that, get to this place alone and ask yourself have you ever been saved?

1 - What Every Church Member Must Confront - Are You Saved?

2 - What Every Church Member Must Consider - Will It Get You In?

3 - What Every Church Member Must Combat - Defeat His Pride!!!

4 - What Every Church Member Must Confess - Be Saved or Lost

I want to challenge you one more time, please don't go to hell sitting on a church pew. This would be a travesty for you, for your church, for your family, for the cause of Christ, in the space below please check the following question with all honesty, are you personally saved:

1 – Yes, I Know That I Am Saved _____

2 – No, I Know That I Am Not Saved _____

Journal Notes:

Day 145

"Getting Pass Your Past"

1Ti 1:13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did [it] ignorantly in unbelief.

In this text Paul is letting us know about the grace of God, he shares with us about his past. He enlightens about who he used to be and about what he had previously done. The mighty apostle remembered when he was a lost person, religious but lost. He literally was a persecutor of the church; he was injurious to God's people, even consenting to the death of Stephen. He ignorantly blasphemed the name of Jesus Christ; he tried everything within his power to squash this new movement. Then he had a one on one encounter with the risen Lord, this changed his life. The truth of the matter was that God had chosen Paul to perform a great work for him; nobody was ready to accept this calling, due to his past. It is one thing to get saved but it is another thing for a person to get pass their past. The very moment God called the apostle, it was a difficult journey for him. The disciple that God sent to lay hands on Paul was afraid to go and speak to him; he knew how mean the man used to be. The day God asked Paul to go and preach his word; it was a tough sell for the apostle. He traveled down to Jerusalem and sought out the other Apostles but none of them wanted to hear from him, honestly many of them supposed his actions as a trick. The multitude expected the Apostle to kill them even as he was naming the name of Christ, what was a man supposed to do? The apostle was in a bind, he was heading in a new direction, but his peers refused to let him get away from his past. The only thing he could do was trust his God; he was to just live day by day and let God work out all of the obstacles. I have found that no matter what you say it will never carry more weight than what you do. As the apostle started out on his journey, everywhere he traveled people observed his every move, they listened to his messages, but more than anything that watched how he conducted himself.

The only way you can put your past to rest is to trust God and live for him on a daily basis. It is a fact that you cannot change who you used to be, you have no control over your past. The only option that a person has is to read the bible and try his very best to live it on a daily basis. If we could guard our words and limit our speech, then we could just start our new journey on a day to day agenda. The critics will always remember who you used to be, but ignore them and set your focus on Jesus. We must learn to look a bit higher than the critics, we must learn to ignore the naysayer, refuse to buckle under their assaults. It is possible for a man to change, it has been proven by Christians in every age and every era, change is biblical for the saved person. The apostle eventually received the approval of the apostles, they watched him, and then they accepted him. The people watched the ministry of Paul, as they watched him he proved himself; they found his message to be true. If you will walk it, if you will plod on, over time God will help you bury the old man and his reputation, it is possible. If we could ask God to help us remove the stigmatism of our past he most assuredly can do this. We must remember that with God all things are possible!!!

1 - The Stigma of Our Past

2 - The Solution to Our Past

3 - The Silencing of Our Past

4 - The Shattering of Our Past

In the space below ask God to silence those that are using your past against you, and then trust him:

Jewels for the Journey

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 146

"Finished"

[Jhn 19:30](#) When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

In this blessed text we find the Lord uttering his final words upon the cross of Calvary, after all that he had been through these were his last words. The words that were uttered are these, it is finished, the job was done, and he had complete exactly what he was chosen to do. I wonder if we could learn some valuable lessons from this famous phrase. If we were to track the life of Jesus Christ he refused to get sidetracked from his original calling. In the midst of his miracles he always kept the cross before him, the cross was always on his mind. In the midst of all of his travels, as the crowds desired to lift him up as a mighty man, he refused to look past the cross. In his preaching and teaching he never forgot that Calvary was in his future. The point of this devotion is this; we need some people that know how to finish, people that will stick with the task at hand. It is so easy to get spread thin, in doing so we often are involved in much, but accomplish relatively little. The church needs some people that can finish, teachers that will finish, singers that will finish, tithers that will finish, and preachers that will finish. Jesus Christ was a winner, he was never a quitter, and he resisted the assault of Satan. I honestly believe that Jesus refused to consider quitting; I believe he kicked it out of his vocabulary. The great Winston Churchill gave one of his most noted speeches to a graduation class, it was not a long speech, it was not even a noble speech, but it was one of the greatest motivational speeches to roll of the lips of a man. He walked up to the podium and said this, " never give up, then he said it again, after this he said it for the third time, never give up ", then the mighty statesman sat down. I wonder if we could not learn from this mighty speech, if we learn to never give up, we could also learn to finish the task.

It is such a said state of affairs that we have gotten ourselves in, many churches are on the verge of closing their doors. How can this be so dear friend, I know how it is so, because people do not know how to finish what they started. We make so much noise when we join the church, but most leave silently and nobody has an idea what happened to them. We must learn to finish what we start, if you start a class stay with it until God says you can give it up. If you sign up for something, don't just quit, finish it until it is completed. We live in the most dishonest age that the world has ever witnessed, we say yea, but we mean nay. We start out excited but fold our hands effortlessly and throw in the towel. I want to challenge every reader, don't quit, it is easy to quit; sometimes the road to finishing is a hard road. I will never forget watching Roberto Duran, the man with the hands of stone; he was fighting Sugar Ray Leonard. The fight began as usual, but it started going south in a hurry for Duran, then he done something that has haunted him for the rest of his life, he cried out "No Mas", in English he was saying no more. In other words he was saying I quit, I cannot finish this fight. Dear friend, no mas is not in the Christian vocabulary!!!

1 - The Calling of the Task

2 - The Commitment of the Task

3 - The Continuation of the Task

Jewels for the Journey

4 - The Completion of the Task

In the space below make a commitment to finish the task before you, and then finish it for him:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 147

"God's Precious Lamb"

[Gen 3:21](#) Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

In this awesome story we find that Adam and Eve have sinned, God has recognized and revealed their sin. The couple is about to be kicked out of the garden, it seems as if their time with God has come to a swift conclusion. As the Lord leads them through the garden, he stops and picks one of the little lambs out of the fold. The Lord may have placed his mighty hand upon the lamb and stroked it's head, maybe a tear dropped from his eye onto the precious lamb. I wonder if he did not call forth the couple and counsel them concerning the high price of sin. He may have even told them that they were about to experience a very horrific sight, they were to experience for the very first time death. I dare say the couple had no comprehension of this teaching, what was this thing called death? The Lord may have told them that because of their sin the lamb had to die, this was the only way to properly cloth them. Then he may have told them of a future day, the day of his very own son's death, all because of their sin. Up until this point, no part of creation had ever tasted death nor witnessed death. I don't know how he killed the innocent little lamb, but he may have tied it up and lifted it up in the air so he could dress it. I suppose that the sinful couple felt the anxiety of this action, the lamb was not even deserving of death, it was an innocent lamb. The reality of it was this, if they were to be clothed something had to die, a sacrifice had to be offered, so the skins could be used. I dare say that Adam and Eve knew of the magnitude of this sorrowful day, I wonder if the very garden did not stand together in loud shattering silence!!!

In an instant it was over, the lamb had been slain, it was utterly hopeless to the will of God. The couple may have turned their face from this offensive act, but this was an act of redemption. As they drew closer to the Lord each one would have saw blood for the first time. In their guilty hearts both of them would confessed that this lamb didn't deserve this kind of death, this lamb did not commit the gross sin. In all honesty they were indebted to this little feeble lamb, for if the lamb had not of died, what would this couple do? I hope each of our readers see's the resemblance of this ancient story to our current situation. The Lord did let his precious little lamb come to earth to die for each of us, we all deserved a sinners hell, but he offers us another way!!! In my sinful condition I was totally separated from God, but in his grace the death of the Lamb, has changed all of that. I can read the account of Calvary in my bible, it was not a lovely sight to look upon, but it is needful to give all of the glory to Jesus Christ!!! I am so thankful that he found me in my lost and separated condition and brought me up close through the blood of his soon.

1 - The Sinless Lamb

2 - The Selected Lamb

Jewels for the Journey

3 - The Slain Lamb

4 - The Sufficient Lamb

In the space below you may want to personally thank God for allowing his son to die upon Calvary for all of us, and more importantly to die for you:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 148

"The Reason We Have Two Ears"

Jam 1:19 ¶ Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

In this text we find a very difficult request for many Christians, it is often overlooked in reading this passage. The writer of James is very pointed in his writing, he refuse to cut any corners, he just tells it like it is. The Christian is expected to be saved by faith, but James expects the same people to live what they profess. I don't know how popular James would be if he was writing any of our books today, he is not much on self esteem, he fails to overlook discrepancies. Here we find him admonishing the believer to observe three things to perfect his walk. The first thing we must do observe is to learn to listen; I told you this would be hard to digest. He tells each of us to learn to listen that is why God give us two ears and one mouth. We should learn to talk less and heed our ears for listening; this may be difficult for many people. He tells us to be swift to hear, we should eagerly want to listen, that means listen to someone as they introduce themselves to us. It may mean that we look them in the eye and remember where they work and where they live. A good many of us fail to listen because we are too busy getting our reply ready. We cannot even recall what the person has just told us because we failed to give our ears for listening. The writer here compels each of us to bridle our mouth and turn up the volume when it comes to listening. I get very irritated when the person I am talking to is looking around, listening to their cell phone, acting as if they don't want to carry on with our conversation. It is rude and not becoming of a Christian to fail to honestly listen. I want to challenge of our readers to inspect your listening skills, did you hear me, hey don't ignore me. I must learn to listen more, I must understand that the person talking normally is not asking for my advice, but just needs a sympathetic ear, right?

I love the old cell phone commercial, remember the guy walking around and he would stop and ask this question, can you hear me now, that commercial goes right to the meat of this passage. The second thing he expects us to observe is this; he wants us to learn to speak less. We need to be slow to speak, we need not rush to offer insight, steady your thoughts and silence that tongue. I honestly think that many people failed to get their whole body under at baptism; I think their tongue should go back and get redipped. It is only the Godly person that can be of slow speech, if you have slow speech when it comes to carrying on a conversation, God bless you. A good many Christians will never get their tongue sanctified, they are too busy using it as a weapon, and the tongue is a very dangerous weapon. The third thing that we are to observe is this, calm down, don't get all in an uproar, if you do it is a sign of immaturity. If you cannot control your temper, you are not pleasing God. The bible tells me, it tells you, and it tells everyone to be slow to wrath. It is not appropriate for the Christian to blow up and spew wrath all over everyone, nor should it be accepted by others. I have witnessed such nonsense even in the

Jewels for the Journey

house of God, and this is a sad testimony for any church. If you cannot conduct a business meeting without people exploding, then these people must be expelled from the meeting.

1 - The Demands of Listening

2 - The Delay of Speaking

3 - The Danger of Exploding

4 - The Design for Growing

In the space below ask God to help you achieve success in these areas, he will if you ask:

1 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 149

"Finding the Saviour From Book To Book"

Hbr 10:7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

The writer here is telling us how important it is to read the bible from cover to cover, for in it we will find our Lord and Saviour. Here find Christ referring to himself, he wants you and I to know that he can be found hidden in various places throughout the Holy Book. I want to visit a few places that I have encountered Jesus. If we were to read the first few opening chapters of Genesis, you would encounter the Son of God. As God was preparing to make man, he say's something strange as follows, he says let US make man in OUR image, who was he talking to? The "us and our" of this conversation can only be The Spirit of God and the Son of God, it was the very first reference of the blessed trinity. As God was about to create man, he wanted to fashion him with God like capabilities, those that could only be found in the Holy Trinity. The next place that we find Jesus would be in the symbolism of the precious little lamb that was slain for Adam and Eve, if you look closely that lamb resembles the very Son of God. The next occurrence of Jesus would be found in looking up at the ark that was built by Noah; you may ask how can this be? If you look at the ark it only had one door, it did not have many doors it only had one door. The salvation of the whole world hinged on them believing the message of Noah, if they had enough faith to trust his message they were to walk right through the open door, if not they would perish. The open door was none other than Jesus, he is the way, he is the truth, he is the life, and there is no other way. If we look closely we will find Jesus symbolized in the closing chapters of Genesis, he is portrayed in the life of Joseph. He was symbolized in the life of Joseph when he was despised and rejected by his brothers; he was also sold for pieces of silver. He went from the lowest place in life to the highest position in life.

If we search the scriptures with the intention of finding Jesus, we will also find him in the life of Moses. He is that rock that was smitten; he is the rock that followed the children of Israel around in the wilderness. Jesus can be found as the Captain that confronted Joshua as he headed to overtake Jericho. If we continue our search he is found in the book of Ruth, he is the Kinsman Redeemer that offered hand full's of purpose to the little Moabitish woman, Jesus is our Boaz. If we keep on walking through the scriptures he is the fourth man found walking in the fire. If we smell the flowers in the Song of Solomon, he is the Lilly of our Vallies, he is my Rose of Sharon, he is my Banner of Love, and he escorts me to the banqueting table. If we look out our windows we see him peeking in through the lattice, he is playing

Jewels for the Journey

peek-a-boo with his bride. He is found shaking the temple as Isaiah entered in after the death of his earthly king. If we dare to look we see him in the opening chapters of Isaiah, he is that baby born of a virgin, he is the almighty God, counselor, wonderful, and he can carry the government upon his shoulders, that's him. In the closing chapters he is the one that is bruised and battered beyond recognition, he is the one that did not open his mouth against his accusers. I hope you have enjoyed our little tour, we only skimmed the surface, he is found on nearly every page if we want to see him.

1 - The Scriptures Openly Portray Him

2 - The Scriptures Secretly Portray Him

3 - The Scriptures Mysteriously Portray Him

In the space below ask God to allow you to see Jesus as you read the bible:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 150

"Calvary"

[Luk 23:33](#) And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

In this passage we find that the Lord has been placed upon the cross, the place was called Calvary, or Golgotha, the place of the skull. The place of Jesus crucifixion was to go down in infamy; it would become the greatest landmark of the Christian faith. If it was not for Calvary the birth of Christ would have been rendered useless and of no value to our lost souls. If he had not of visited Calvary the resurrection would not have benefited any of us. The cross separated Christ from all others, it was upon the cross that he paid for our sins, and here we find the sinless dyeing for the sinful. If Jesus had of not visited Calvary you and I would still be headed for hell and all of mankind would be going the same way. It was on Calvary that he shed his precious blood for the sin of all mankind; he did not just die for some, no friend he died for all of us. I wonder how Christ felt as the cross was laid down and he was thrown upon it? I wonder what he was thinking as the spikes were driven into each hand, was he thinking of our salvation? I wonder how he felt as the final spike was driven through his feet, was he considering the worth of his coming death? The very creator of this universe was now hanging between heaven and earth, was the sacrifice worth the end results? As the pangs of death began to gripe at his soul, all of the demons of hell had to be dancing around the cross, how did our Lord feel? The crowd below was taunting him, mocking him, the very son of God was losing his life's blood drop by precious drop, how did he feel? As the sun was beating down upon his body, the rough wood was digging into his very being, what was he contemplating? I suppose as the darkness set in, the crowd may have gotten quite, Jesus realized that his own Father had turned his face from looking upon his bloody son, what was he thinking?

The minutes rolled into hours, the hours rolled into eternity, the time was swiftly approaching, the very Lamb of God was about to give up the ghost. I dare say Jesus was looking past Calvary; he may have been looking to the day of your salvation, the day of my salvation!!! He could have gotten off that cross, the angels would have killed the whole world at his beckoning call, but no he stayed upon the cross for

Jewels for the Journey

you. I don't know if we understand his mighty love for us, his love was of such magnitude that he suffered the most horrible death that could have been imagined. The Love of God brought him down to earth as a man, it ushered him before the know world as a great man. The love of God allowed the world to turn upon his precious son, a son that had never wronged anyone, a love that allowed this unruly world to kill his son. If that isn't love dear friend, then we don't know what true love is, this love was a proven love. There they crucified him!!!

1 - The Place of Calvary (There)

2 - The People of Calvary (They)

3 - The Punishment of Calvary (Crucified)

4 - The Person of Calvary (Him)

In the space below you should thank him for taking your punishment upon the cross of Calvary. He was undeserving of the abuse, of the assault, of the anger that was placed upon him:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 151

"The Forked Tongue of the Babblers"

[Ecc 10:11](#) ¶ Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babblers is no better

The babblers is compared to a deadly snake; we all know that a snake will strike at any time without warning or reason. The bible is trying to warn the reader about the danger of a babblers. I would dare say that most of us have a healthy fear of snakes, we have no desire to encounter one any time soon. I know that snakes have their place in the flow of things; they eat certain critters and so forth, but in my opinion give me the critters. In past days I have had horrific nightmares concerning the slithering, legless creature with the forked tongue. I remember waking up in a cold sweat on a camping trip, as I tried to gather my senses I realized that my leg was completely numb, immediately I supposed that I had been snake bit. I started screaming like a man should scream that had just been bitten by a venomous snake. We could not get the tent unzipped, so my cousin tore the tent completely down, and then I realized that my leg had only been numb because of how I had been laying upon it. I begin laughing uncontrollably, but my cousin never did think that it was neither funny nor humorous. We all know how deadly the bite of a snake can be, we all try to avoid snakes, and we try to keep them out of our paths. Would it not be bright of us to treat the babblers with the same reservation and hesitation? The word for babblers here is the person that slanders, the one that runs swiftly from person to person spreading venomous gossip. We must mark the babblers, they must be treated just as if they were capable of killing, and their tongue is fatal and venomous. A snake will slither around until it comes upon an unknowing victim and then without warning it leaps upon its victim, rendering the victim useless against its poisonous bite. Why do we not treat the babblers the same way?

The bible clearly tells us to mark those that cause division, it warns us to avoid them, and it tells us this

Jewels for the Journey

in plain English. If this is the case why do we not obey the word, why do we not publicly mark the babbler, why do we not clearly expose them? No we fail to do this and we let them slither on from church to church, and in doing so they spread their venom into others. If we know someone is a babbler and do not stop them, we most definitely will have to answer to God for our hesitation. I think that every church should have special rocks for the babbler, when one pops its head up, we should hit them in the head with the rock. If we hit them enough they will either quit babbling or they will shed their skin and get out of dodge. Do not tolerate slander, do not accept slander, and do not give an ear to the slanderer. The best action to take with any slanderer is to ask them to wait, call in the object of their slandering then make it a three-way conversation. I promise you this person will never blabber to you again; they will avoid you as if you had a hand full of rocks. The slandering person never wants to slander face to face, never has, they never will.

1 - The Tongue of a Babbler

2 - The Target of a Babbler

3 - The Tragedy of a Babbler

4 - The Trumping of a Babbler

In the space below ask God to help you avoid the babbler, asks God to help you expose any babbler that has crept into your life.

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 152

"You're Never to Far Away"

[Luk 15:13](#) And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

The prodigal had left home, as we know he had spent all of his money, all of his friends had fled away. The young man was in a far country, this far country literally was out in a remote place, he was a very great distance from home. If we were to be honest many of us having been to this same place, in the midst of our serving God, we ended up out yonder in the distant country. We were so far away that God seemed to be just a fond memory; we had no dealings with the church or with his crowd. The boy was abandoned, he was lonely, he was about to hit the bottom, he had no place else to go. It is bad enough to lose sight of God, but it is even more painful to do it out there in the distant land. In this land the boy had no mother to see that his every need was meet, here he had no father to counsel him. In this barren, desolate, remote country the boy did not even have a friend, not even one person that he could count on to help him? I suppose he began to reminisce about how good he really had it back at the old home place. He thought about his mother's food, it was better than any of the cooking that he had ate on his journey. He may have considered his fathers rules and discipline, it would be so good to hear his father tenderly but firmly correct his wayward steps. The friends that he had back home, those were real friends, and they would stick by him no matter how much money he had in his pocket. The boy wanted to head back home, but it was to far away, he was to far away, he had gone too far in his waywardness. In

Jewels for the Journey

his mind he considered himself so far from home that it would be impossible to go back, he had gone too far.

I dare say that he heard his fathers last words ringing in his ears, son always remember this no matter where you go, no matter what you do, you can always come back home. In the pigpen the boy considered how far away he was from home, was he so far away that his father would not let him come back home. He finally realized that his dad loved him no matter where he was, no matter what he had done, he was still the son of his father. I want to advise the reader, it doesn't matter where you may be in life; you are never so far away that God does not love you. The love of God reaches farther than we could ever realize, it goes farther than we could ever comprehend. I love to preach at a place next to my hometown, it is called Providence Ministries; this is a place that offers help for drug and alcohol addictions. The men that go there must stay for six months, they come from all over the south and in the midst of their counseling they receive teaching and preaching from the word of God. I love seeing these men come in and experience the love of God. Many of these men have reached their wits end, Providence will be their last stop, they will either get things right or their life will end up in the scrape heap. These men learn that no matter how far they have run, they haven't went so far that their God will not take them back.

1 - The Horror of Going to Far

2 - The Harm of Going to Far

3 - The Hope of Going to Far

4 - The Help of Going to Far

In the space below ask God to help you get back to where you should be, you've not went too far:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 153

"Do Good When You Can"

[Pro 3:27](#) ¶ Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do [it].

[Pro 3:28](#) Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.

The passage before us may cause many of us to feel a tinge of guilt, these verse admonish the believer to help those in need of help when it is within our power. I was reading about the "bag of hope" on the Gospel Highway website, it was a very interesting challenge to get us to help people. How many of us have passed people along the highway, looked across the lane at the interstate exit ramp, and they were staring at you eyeball to eyeball. In their hand they were holding their sign, "will work for food" immediately you considered giving them some money, but then you thought about how they will spend the money? The bag of hope challenges us to carry a bag in our car filled with some non perishable food items, also some other items that may help someone in need, you may want to place a tract or a New Testament in the bag. We have no problem helping others around the holidays, we buy gifts, we donate time and money, and it makes us feel so good. The problem with this type of giving is that it only

Jewels for the Journey

happens a few times a year. If we opened our eyes we would see that people have needs year around, not just around the holidays, right? If we look in the scriptures we will find that everywhere Jesus traveled he helped people out. He always found the time and the resources to meet the needs of hurting and needy people. He often feed the hungry; he often did this in spite of his own needs and his own fatigue. The noblest act that a person can do is helping someone in need at the expense of ignoring his or her own need. We can be creative in how we help others; we could use the talent or the gift that God has given us. The barber can cut someone's hair for free, the mechanic can fix up a broken down car for a person that is having great financial difficulty. The healthy person can donate their time cleaning up their house or working in their yard; the vocal person could visit a rest home and read a book to someone that can no longer read for themselves.

We could all do a better job in helping out those in need, we could sense that good feeling in our heart everyday if we would allow ourselves to look around. I am amazed at how many people send their money to the foreign mission field and that is a very noble thing to do, but we must not overlook those in our own backyard. It must start in your hometown; we must look for opportunities in our hometown. What about the homeless in your town, what about those having difficulty in your own community? I want to challenge each of you to open your eyes and then open your hands or your wallet and go out and help someone, go do it today!!! We must not wait until the next holiday; we must get involved today, go out and try it today. If we pray and ask God to send people our way, we may be amazed at what happens in our lives in the next few days.

1 - Our Exhortation to Help Others

2 - Our Example in Helping Others

3 - Our Endeavor to Help Others

4 - Our Delight in Helping Others

In the space below ask God to specifically use you today to help someone in need:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 154

"What is Right?"

[Pro 16:25](#) There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death.

If we could search the heart of man we would notice that his heart often fails to line up with the word of God. The text before us tells us of the danger of trusting in oneself, if we listen to our self we could end up dying and going to hell. It is of the utmost importance for each of us to have a guideline to live by. The problem with having a guideline to live by is this, what if the guideline is wrong, what if it is defective. The best guideline for us to go by is the bible; it is without error and above reproach. The good thing about the bible is it will lead us to God, the bible was actually inspired by God, every word and every page came from the very mouth of God. In this world we see people changing what is right and what is wrong,

Jewels for the Journey

but that is not so with the word of God. The bible is the same today as it was the day God inspired each writer to do his part. In our world today we get mad at any person that stands upon the good book, but I want to challenge the reader to stand on. We must search for the right way, because the right way is the Godly way and that is the only way. A person can place every ounce of faith that he has in his direction and in his way, but if it is the wrong way he could doom and damn his eternal soul. It is up to us to search for the right way and the person that honestly searches for truth will find it. In the bible we find many examples of people going the wrong way, they supposed themselves to be going the right way. If we could look at the way of Cain, in his mind he considered his way the right way. When it was time to offer his sacrifice he brought the work of his own hands to be sacrificed, but God refused to accept it. Then we see Cain becoming so angry that he goes out and kills his own brother, why did he do this? He had become so mad at God because Cain thought his way was just as good as Abel's way, but as we know God did not agree with him.

In the bible we read of a mighty man named Samson, he considered himself to be above reproach, he constantly went the wrong way. In going this way he brought shame and heartache upon himself and his family. In the end Samson had his eyes plucked out, he was led around by the hand as a feeble human being, and the enemy mocked him and used him for sport. As most of us know the way that Samson chose was not the way of life, no his way proved the bible to be true and in the end brought forth his death. It should not be thought that this way is only for the sinner; of course we know the way of the sinner will ultimately produce death. The Christian can also chose to go down the wrong way and in the end this way will hasten his untimely death. We must understand that the wrong way is not God's way and in going the wrong way we will miss the blessings of God. The bible talks about handing a person over to Satan for the destruction of their flesh, but in doing this it does not affect their salvation. I could tell you story upon story of men and women that I have watched experience this horrible destruction. As the process begins it goes from bad to worse and often times it produces the most horrible physical suffering a saint could go through. In the end it produces death all due to the saint choosing to walk the wrong way.

1 - We Must Search For the Right way

2 - We Must Settle On the Right Way

3 - We Must Stay On the Right Way

In the space below ask God to help you get on the right way and stay on there until the end:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 155

"W.I.I.F.M."

Mat 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

In this text we find Jesus challenging Simon Peter and Andrew to cast aside their nets and follow him. We make this request to sound so simple, but is it an easy choice, could you have forsake everything and followed Jesus. He was not just asking these men to become saved, no it was much more than that, he

Jewels for the Journey

wanted their total commitment. In challenging these two men he was asking them to leave their occupation, he wanted them to place him above family, fortune and friends. I suppose you are wondering what the title of this devotion means, what is WIIFM? The phrase stands for this, "What's In It For Me", that is ultimately the question that we must all have answered. I have been attending some classes on changing our workplace from the traditional style to that of a High Performance workplace. In all honesty most of the High Performance standards are straight out of God's word. It is not easy to implement these changes, it is hard to let go of the past and step into the future, but it is needful. As we have embarked upon creating a new environment and instilling a new philosophy, we are often asked this simple but significant question, "what's In It for me"? As human beings we have to find this answer in almost all that we do, if we do not get this question answered to our satisfaction we will often miss out on change. I have been training my precious little toy poodle to use a training pad, at first it was to no avail, but then I applied the strategy of WIIFM. I know you are asking me how is it possible, well since you asked, every time Coco went and used the pad I gave her a special treat and words of praise. I am glad to tell you that she is 100 % pad trained and she is happy in doing it, I know this because she wags her tail as she gets her treat.

The point of this devotion is this, WIIFM if I sell out to God, if I forsake all and totally chase after him? The disciples could answer this much better than I could; we need to look at what they have to say. In the end as the mighty apostle Paul was about to die, he uttered these words, I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith, I have finished my course. In the end Paul had absolutely no regrets, he had found personal fulfillment in following his Lord and Master. As the end of the way came, the great apostle Peter said that he was looking forward to his incorruptible inheritance, he had no regrets. We could check out all of his disciples and each one of them would say that they had received the best end of the deal when they followed Jesus. If you need to know WIIFM just think about all that happened the day you got saved. On that special day you received a salvation that can never be lost or taken away; you became a part of the family of God, along with all of his resources, all of his benefits. It was on that day that you got a one way ticket to heaven along with a mansion to live in for eternity. If we were to be completely honest we got a whole lot more than Christ got when he got us.

1 - The Request to Follow Him

2 - The Results of Following Him

3 - The Rewards of Following Him

4 - The Reasons for Following Him

In the space below you may want to gladly thank him for all that he has done for you from the day of your salvation:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 156

"Those That Believe In Soul Winning"

[Luk 16:27](#) Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

Jewels for the Journey

[Luk 16:28](#) For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

In this text we find that the rich man has died and found himself in hell and he realized it was more real than words could express. The story tells us about how horrible the place was, all of the torments, the mental torment, the physical torment, the eternal torment, it was an awful place. The rich man made two very specific request and left off one request that makes hell the most horrible place where any person could end up. The request that he did not make was this, he never asked to leave, he never begged for his release, why was this. It may have been that the rich man knew that his entrance into hell was absolutely forever, he may have observed the entrance into hell, but was assured that no exit was available. If there was any opportunity for his release don't you think he would have bargained for it? Let me make this as obvious as it can be made, once a person dies and goes to hell that will be his lot for all of eternity. The first request that was made seemed to be so feeble but it could have been very significant if Lazarus brought him a dip of the right water. He begged for one drop of water to cool his thirsty tongue, would one drop have cooled his thirst? It would have if Lazarus were to bring him a drop of that eternal water, the water that Jesus offered the woman at the well. It only takes one drop of that eternal water, that water will quench a person's thirst for all of eternity. The second request was a very serious yet heartbreaking request. He desired that Lazarus might be sent to his five brothers and delivers the gospel of salvation unto each of them. The rich man did not want his brothers to come to hell; he was praying that they choose heaven over hell.

I want to tell every reader that hell is not a place of partying, not a place of socializing, hell is a place of much anguish and pain. The thing about hell that most of us fail to consider is this, hell is full of soul winners, and hell is full of praying people. I dare say that every person in hell has prayed each day for their loved ones, begging God to send someone to their lost loved ones. As we read this story it doesn't sound like there are many atheist in hell, the moment an atheist dies they become a believer and a person of prayer. The greatest soul winners are those that waited to late, they never realized they believed in soul winning until they lost their very own soul. The moment the lost enters into hell they immediately become believers, they may be considered lost believers but you can bank on it they are believers. If we could hear the prayers of hell it very well could motivate us to get busy winning lost souls. I want to ask you this question, when will you get concerned for lost souls, when will you start praying for lost souls? The lost are filling up hell on a daily basis, everyday hell has to expand its borders.

1 - The Place of These Lost Soul Winners

2 - The Pain of These Lost Soul Winners

3 - The Prayer of These Lost Soul Winners

4 - The Passion of These Lost Soul Winners

In the space below ask God to lay some lost soul upon your heart, and then pray for them:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 157

"The Wordy Weapon"

[Pro 18:8](#) The words of a talebearer [are] as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

The talebearer is the only person that can commit murder and the local district attorney never goes after him. The text before us wants us to understand that a talebearer inflicts much harm upon the object of their story. We must come to grip with the motive of a talebearer; the point of their tale bearing is to hurt someone. If we lie about a person we all know that this is a sin, if we cheat a person we know that we have sinned. The same goes for tale bearing, it must be called what it really is and that is sinful. The talebearer will get his just reward one of these days, just remember that God's payday does not always come every Friday when it's time to go home for the weekend. The person that spreads tales about other people must be considered armed and dangerous, never turn you're back on them. We must remember this, the person that talks to you about others, will always talk about you to others. The talebearer must never be trusted; they should have their picture posted at the local post office. The talebearer can draw forth his tongue faster than the quickest gun in the old west. These people will attack from the rear; they are like the dog that always comes at you from behind. I have learned over the years to use great caution when going from place to place visiting. If a dog is in the yard or on the porch I have learned that it is my best interest to never turn my back on any dog. The few times that I have come close to being bite was those times when I dropped my guard, the moment I did the dog's came at me with teeth glaring. If you drop your guard on any talebearer you can count on being bitten and wounded. The talebearer is like an ultimate wrestler, they will try anything to bring you into submission. If you encounter a talebearer you will be in an all out free for all, you better realize that you are a marked man.

The church utterly fails in dealing with these types of people; we ignore them for various reasons. The number one reason is we are afraid of confrontation, we do not want to confront the talebearer, nor do we want to make their family mad. The talebearer may be one of the best givers of the church, so we let them continue in their sinful slandering ways. We often ignore them because we do not believe what the bible says concerning unity or the lack thereof, it is a sin. We let the talebearer run people out of our assemblies, if this is the case in your local assembly someone will answer to God for allowing such sin in the church. Listen to their side of the story, you may want to feel their pain, try to fathom their sorrow. In all honesty there is no pain like the pain of one wounded by a talebearer, their pain often gets ignored by the church. It would be good if every assembly decided to go on a witch hunt for trouble makers and liars in their midst, give them two days to fess up or remove them from the church roll. Often we just pray that the talebearer will leave our church and head down the road to another place

1 - The Talebearer Must Be Cornered

2 - The Talebearer Must Be Controlled

3 - The Talebearer Must Be Challenged

4 - The Talebearer Must Be Changed

In the space below ask God to help you expose and eliminate any tale bearing in your church:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 158

"The Fining Pot"

Pro 17:3 The fining pot [is] for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts.

The text before is comparing the fining pot of the silversmith with the how the Lord works on his children. The refining of silver has only one purpose alone in mind and that is to remove all of the impurities. The refiner will heat up the smelting pot and the silver gets hotter and hotter as the pot begins to boil. The silver is being put to the test so when all is said and done the only thing left in the pot will be pure silver. As the silversmith works the pot and watches the pot he will take his scooper and scoop up all of the dross or the waste in the pot. It has been asked how the silversmith knows when the silver has had all of it's impurities removed, the silversmith plainly states that he knows the process is done when he can look into the pot and see his image. Is not the same reason for God placing us in the refining pot, so that he can make us into the image of Jesus Christ his son? He will not leave us in the pot for too long of a period, nor will he leave us in the pot for too short of a period. I want to ask you if you have ever been in the pot. If so did you understand what God was trying to accomplish in your life, in all honesty most of us fail to realize that the Lord has been refining us. If you are currently going through this refining your life is probably not so pleasant. I want to challenge you to stay in the pot; it will be beneficial for you. I have been in the refiner's pot numerous times in my life and in all honesty I never did consider it a pleasant process. I remember one time when I was not following the will of God, so God placed me in the pot. It was like yesterday though it really was over 15 years ago. I remember taking my daughter to the doctor and he told us something was wrong with her blood count and he sent us to a baby hospital in Atlanta, after doing many tests they were going to send us to Augusta along with another family from Texas. In the midst of this difficult time I spent much time alone with God. I remember praying a prayer coming back from on Atlanta on our next to last trip, in this prayer I told God if he would let me get back home and go to my church and pray that I would fully follow his revealed will.

The next time we went to Atlanta the doctors checked Whitney's blood level and seemed confused, he requested another test. Upon reading the results he went and got another doctor and they came into the room and told us something I will never forget. The doctor said that our daughter's blood level was normal; he also said he could not explain this but something had happened. I knew what had happened, God used this to place me in the refiner's fire and the moment he got all of the impurities out of my life it was time to let me out of the pot. The day I got things right with God was the day he touched and healed my daughter that was the day he cut off the heat from the pot. He will never allow us to stay in the pot one moment to long. If God has you in the refining pot, it is time for you to spend much time with him, let him refine you into the image of his Son.

1 - The Refiners Pot

2 - The Refiners Process

3 - The Refiners Purpose

4 - The Refiners Pride

If you are in the refiner's pot ask God to show you what is working on in your life:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 159

"Who Is Honest?"

[Pro 20:23](#) Divers weights [are] an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance [is] not good.

In this text we find that God condemns those that try to cheat others, it is an abomination in his sight. The man that will cheat other people can never be trusted. The illustration is of someone that uses false weights or someone that has their scales balanced just to cheat people. The Lord looks down upon stealing and cheating, it portrays greed and utter dishonesty. I heard of a story concerning the man that owned a local lumber yard getting saved. The story was going around town about the man's conversion and one man was sitting at the coffee counter told everyone that he would be back in a few minutes. The man came back and said that he knew the lumber yard owner was really saved, those in the room asked him how he knew this with such certainty. The man told them that he had always bought lumber from this man and every load of lumber was consistently short by an inch or two. He told them that he just measured the load on his truck and every board was the exact size that it should be. It is a very serious thing to cheat others, if we profess to be saved it damages our testimony. The cheat will be found out in nearly every instance over a span of time, normally the truth always shines forth. If others have placed their confidence in you it is a serious thing to break this trust. It is serious for a student to cheat on his or her test grade. The student will end up getting caught and will lose the respect of his teacher and anyone else that knows the truth. It is disgraceful for those that are elected to cheat when it comes to fixing the books to cover up money that has been used illegally or wastefully. The person that lies concerning his or her expense check is not only robbing their company but they are showing their true character. A person's true character is not who people think that we are, but who we are when nobody is looking. The true measure of any person is how they react when nobody knows them.

The bible portrays some individuals that cheated others in their day to day living. I am thinking of one couple in the book of Acts, they were a married couple that decided to sell all of their goods and give it to the local church. The problem with what this couple did wrong was this, God had not required them to sell all of their possessions, they done it of their own choice. The couple went and sold everything and then decided to make the church think that they had given all of their money to the church. As we all know this was dishonest and the couple committed the sin unto death, they both got buried by the same people on the same day. I know some people that just like to lie, they lie for no reason. I know one preacher in particular that some of his friends call him the lying preacher, because he likes to lie for no reason at all. It is a sad thing for Christians to be dishonest; it is very serious when Christians willfully cheat other people. In all honest God hates stealing, there is no reason for Godly people to cheat and still. If we want to be used of God we must eliminate any sort of dishonesty from our life, it is not becoming of any of God's children.

1 - The Person That Cheats

2 - The Perception of Those That Cheat

3 - The Problem of Cheating

4 - The Price for Cheating

Jewels for the Journey

In the space below ask God to reveal any areas that need attention due to dishonesty:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 160

"What Will You Leave Behind?"

[Ecc 2:18](#) ¶ Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me.

It has been mentioned numerous times that you have never saw a U-Haul behind a Hearst, and in spite of the humor behind this statement it is absolutely true. I remember reading a story of a very wealthy man dying, and then it was time for the family to gather and read his will. One of his young sons anxiously asked the lawyer how much his father had left behind; the lawyer grimly replied that his father had **left it all**. We must realize that all of the possessions that we desire to accumulate will be left behind and in most cases someone else will spend your hard earned money. We must ask ourselves, what are we going to leave behind? If all we are majoring on is leaving behind some money we have done a very poor job for those that will inherit it. In many cases people that you honestly wouldn't want to have any dealings with your money will gladly spend it or in lots of cases waste it. I know of people that their every thought is about money, how much they have, how much they plan on having for retirement. In the event of sickness they may accumulate their dream or they may not, on 3 or 4 minute span of the heart to quit beating could change every dream that they have desired to achieve. I want to make this clear there is nothing wrong with laying back a large nest egg; it is the wise man that does so for his family or loved ones. The problem with this is as follows, if money is all you are leaving behind you may have missed the meaning of life. If every parent would leave behind a Godly testimony this would do your children more good than all of the gold in the world. I dare say that many a father has chased after the almighty dollar in the name of doing it for his children. In all honest his kids would need to pay him to get to see him, he really does not even know his children. How many mothers have abandoned their children in the name of making things better for their children?

It may be mentioned here that when all is said and done your children will not remember you from all of the cars that you bought them; you will not be remembered for what you give them, but in how you treated them. The possessions that we leave behind will come and go, moth and rust will consume them, but the good memories that you leave behind will stay with your children for the rest of their life. The lack of good memories will also haunt the parent that fails to lay them up for their family. I want to challenge each parent to get busy laying up more than money, lay up some Godly memories, some good memories, and some great memories. The time will come when most children will watch their parents pass on from this world to the next, what will you leave behind dear mom, dear dad, the verdict is still out on this question? It is not every parent that gives thought to this question while they still have time to change the results. Often this question is pondered as we are about to die, then the question has already been answered. How many wealthy people have left this world with mighty regrets, not due to failing to leave behind massive amounts of money, but because they left behind so few good memories.

1 - The Parent & His Riches

2 - The Parent & His Regrets

Jewels for the Journey

3 - The Parent & His Reformation

4 - The Parent & His Rejoicing

In the space below ask God to help you leave behind more than money, but great memories:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 161

"Where There Is Hope"

[Ecc 9:4](#) For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

The text before us declares something very humorous but also very true. It tells us that a living dog is better than a dead lion, though the lion may have been so much more powerful, it is of no value seeing it is dead. The meaning of this should be very clear; if you are still breathing you still have hope. It may not seem to be much hope, but it is still hope nevertheless, where there is hope victory is still a possibility. If you take away a person's hope that person is all but finished, but if you just can give them a small piece of hope they can fan that flicker of hope into a flame. It doesn't take much hope for a person to rise above his situation and to flourish in total victory. I have observed cancer patients go from being victims to victors all because they sense a flicker of hope in their despair. If a person is still living they may be able to muster just a thread of hope and rise above defeat and death. The vile woman of Jericho was destined to death just as all of her wicked city, but before the fall of Jericho she was offered a thread of hope. As she places the scarlet thread outside her window, it was the only hope that she had, it was enough hope to save her and her family. The battle began to rage in the streets of Jericho; all around her the city was experiencing death and defeat but not her or her family. The Family of Lazarus had given up all hope for their dead brother; in his case all was gone when the tomb was sealed. Then Jesus came walking up their walkway and with him he brought a certain measure of hope, it did not seem much to his family. The Lord asked Lazarus to come forth from his tomb and no sooner had he made this demand, suddenly Lazarus stood up and they had to remove his grave clothes. If a person is living he still can muster a grain of hope and watch it grow into something marvelous and wonderful.

I want to ask each reader what are you facing today, what road seems to have brought about heartache and defeat into your life. I want to ask you to do something silly for me, lift up your hand and wiggle your fingers, you are not yet dead, so you still have an opportunity to muster up some hope. Is it a test result that has caused you so much grief, is it an economical crash that has vanquished your reasoning, don't give up there still is a small amount of hope. The Christian that trusts God can always take his case unto the Lord, with the Lord there may be a chance for turning the tide. The Lord has not abandoned you dear friend, he is well aware of your fear and your despair, please trust him and call upon him. We as Christians have resources that are above human comprehension, they fall into the supernatural category, and they cannot be reasonably explained. If we can only have enough faith to cultivate a small seed of hope it could change things in our life forever. I have witnessed this time after time, I have observed test results being deemed null and void, sometimes considered misinformed or misdiagnosed. We all know that God can change the situation at his bidding; all we can do is trust him, place all of our hope and faith in him.

Jewels for the Journey

1 - The Finding of Our Hope

2 - The Flourishing of Our Hope

3 - The Focus of Our Hope

4 - The Fertilizing of Our Hope

In the space below ask the Lord to help you place all of your hope in him, then trust him:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 162

"It Is How It Is"

[Ecc 11:3](#) If the clouds be full of rain, they empty [themselves] upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.

If the clouds come blowing in and they are full of rain, they will empty themselves upon the earth, if a tree falls toward the north or toward the south that is where the tree will lay. The point of this verse is this dear friend, it is how it is, ever what state you are in when you die, that's just how it will be. I am amazed at how we react when a sinner dies, they can be the vilest and wicked people while living, then the moment they die we expect the pastor to tell us that they were saved. If a man was lost in his sinful living, that same man is lost the moment of his death. If you go down to the local funeral home, his family will tell you about the time he went to church or about something he said one day while he was sobered up. I know that some will not like this devotion but can I tell you the truth, it is how it is!!! If a person lived it up and parties all of their living days, if in life they never acknowledged God, why would we expect things to have changed after their death? I have observed people grasping at imaginary strays trying to make a person saved after death, dear friend it is how it is. I am not saying this gleefully nor with any sort of gladness, in all actuality I find this devotion to be morbid and very startling. We need to go reach our lost loved ones, we must not wait until they die and try to persuade the pastor to preach them into heaven. I have had families get mad at me for not preaching that their lost loved one was saved and went to heaven. If a pastor fails in telling the truth when a lost person dies he is doing an injustice to his calling. The pastor must not find satisfaction in telling the truth but he must trust that telling the truth may compel others to seek salvation. I have stated in other devotions that I am still seeking the place where they bury the lost, for in most of my experiences I never see the lost in funeral homes that I visit. We must confront lostness before death occurs, because once that last breath has been taken it is how it is and nothing we say can ever change the results.

We must also challenge the saved person that is not living close to the Lord. I am talking about those that have honestly been saved but are living as if they never knew God. The people that I'm thinking about are the ones that bring a great reproach upon the name of Christianity and the church. This person is the one that will die in a drunken state and the preacher has to tip toe around the truth when it is time to preach their funeral, can I say one more time, it is how it is. We ignore the truth when they are living but once the tree falls then we try to change how it really is. We as Christians would be better off if we confronted the wayward wanderers while they are still living, we must try to change things while we can,

Jewels for the Journey

not after the tree has fallen. We must all realize once the tree has fallen it is over, there is not changing the truth. This also goes for all of us trying to serve God, if you are going to do anything for him, do it before the tree falls, for once it has fallen it is how it is!!! We must fully believe the word of God, because the word of God teaches us that once it is over, nothing from that point on will change.

1 - The Reality of how it is

2 - The Record of how It Is

3 - The Revelation of how It Is

4 - The Reason of how It Is

In the space below ask God to help you reach someone that may regret it when their tree falls:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 163

"Guilty or Not Guilty"

Dan 6:5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find [it] against him concerning the law of his God.

The enemy was hotly on the trail of Daniel, they wanted his job and his life if at all possible. As they were trying to find charges that they could use against him, no evidence was there to be found. The men came to a simple conclusion; the only way they could bring Daniel down was by using his beliefs against him. The men would have to get Daniel to break one of their laws by obeying his own biblical laws. The plot was to eliminate any type of praying except in the name of the king of Persia, all prayers must be made in the king's name. The decree was issued and the game was on, all of the men were set to watch Daniel, they really knew what he would do, but they wanted to have this evidence in hand. The mighty prophet knew the decree was set, in spite of this decree Daniel went on home and prayed three times a day just like he had always done. The people went before the king and told him of Daniels disobedience, the king actually realized that he had made a gross mistake, but the edict had been signed, and he could not change the law once it had been written. It is amazing to see a person that was willing to stand upon his beliefs, no matter what the outcome. The bible portrays Daniel as on of the few characters without any flaws. He always tried to live up to the expectations of the word of God, in every situation Daniel desired to obey the word. In each situation Daniel was determined to fully follow the biblical guidelines that he had been taught since his childhood days. When the meat was put before him he chose beans instead and was able to honor his Godly commitment. As the wine and the drinks were placed under his nose he scoffed at their presence and rather went the way that would be pleasing to his God. As we look at his Godly life he played a very instrumental part in influencing his three Hebrew friends. It is not every person that looks to do what is right; often times we pick the easy route, the one that will bring us less difficulty.

If we are ever put to this type of test how would we react, would we wilt under the pressure, would we stand tall in the midst of fiery persecution? We need some students that will stand true to their Godly

Jewels for the Journey

upbringing, they will honor God in spite of what their professor may teach them. It is not always easy to stand for God in times like these, we may face ridicule, we may face rejection, we may face retribution. If we know that we may lose our job, could we still stand up for God and do what we know to be right? In the midst of sinful lifestyles, in the midst of fluctuating morals, dare we stand up and be accountable? We need more Daniels in this day of noodle Christianity; we are in the midst of spineless days. We must learn to stand with each other and for each other, the world will never approve of our ways nor of our beliefs. Do we have any Daniels walking the halls of our local high schools; dare we find a counterpart for one of God's choicest men? It is not everyday that we find people will to swim upstream as everyone else swims downstream!!!

1 - The Crime of Daniel

2 - The Charge against Daniel

3 - The Commitment of Daniel

4 - The Certainty of Daniel

In the space below ask God to help you stand just like Daniel stood, we must stand for right:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 164

"Mad At God"

[Jon 4:1](#) But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.

In this passage we find that God's prophet is mad at him, he is mad for the silliest of reasons. The prophet is mad at God because God had permitted the city to repent of their sins. I would be the most happy person in the world if I would have preached the word and the entire city repented. This was not the case with Jonah; he thought that he was smarter than God. He questioned God concerning his intellectual prowess, the prophet supposed himself to be smarter than God. The entire nation decided to repent; this was one of the greatest revivals that history has ever recorded. The real thought of this devotion is to those that are mad at God, a very large amount of people are mad at God right now, are you one of them? The reason people get mad at God is things happen that they would have happened another way or at another time. The person that is mad at God, is involved personally in the situation, to them God is going to be held fully accountable. In the midst of their sorrow they allow it to become anger, this anger is turned towards God and he must clarify his reasoning. We must understand this thought, the same sun that melts the clay also hardens the mud. The same wind that drives the ship also destroys the raft. Often the ways of God make no sense to our finite ways of thinking, this is even more vital when we are closely associated with the catastrophe. I have observed good Godly people experience tragedy and walk away from God, for whatever the reason they will vent their frustration toward God. It may be the death of a son, it may be the loss of a job, or it could be the marriage that has fallen apart. I have watched families abandon God due to losing a loved one, in the very hour of their most horrible tragedy, the time they need God, they walk away from him. We are not to throw stones at these people, we may have never walked in their shoes, and obviously they don't understand so how could we understand? The person that is mad at God will never listen to reasoning from you or me, all we can do is pray for

Jewels for the Journey

them.

The person that has abandoned God has lost all sense of direction, they are like a person floating at sea for day upon day, and they have no idea where they are or which direction they need to turn. I have witnessed this happen year after year, and I want to share some things that may help the reader. It would be to your advantage to cease trying to change the person that is mad at God. The best thing that you can do is to simply pray for them. The next thing that you can do is to drop them a simple little card in the mail, sometimes the written word will go farther than the spoken word. The third thing that you may want to do is defend them, people do not need to judge them, God can handle their anger, and he is a big God. The only difference between the person that is mad at God and many others is this; they have publicly voiced their anger. We get afraid when someone expresses their anger at God; we feel that they have violated the most hideous sin. Friend can I tell you this, God did not write Jonah off, actually he let Jonah vent his anger then God allowed him to write the book. We must be careful in how we treat those that are mad at God; the time very well could come when you are sitting in their place!!!

1 - The Reason for His Anger

2 - The Revealing of His Anger

3 - The Recognizing of His Anger

4 - The Recovery of His Anger

In the space below if you are angry at God go ahead and tell him, he already knows:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 165

"When God Hides His Face"

[Job 23:8](#) Behold, I go forward, but he [is] not [there]; and backward, but I cannot perceive him:

[Job 23:9](#) On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold [him]: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see [him]:

In this text Job is telling us how it feels to lose God, it seems as if God has hide his face from his own child. In our Christian life we will experience times when we sense that God has departed from us and hidden his face. In the shadow of spiritual darkness God was working on Job and the man knew not when God would ever show his face again. The man Job was one of God's choicest servants; he fully lived to serve his God, even in his terrible tragedy. The very moment Job lost all that he had; he fell upon his face and worshipped his God. The enemy came and attacked Job's health; he went from great physical health to having a body racked with pain and utter torment. He refused to get mad at God; he would not allow himself to get bitter at God. Then as life kept coming at Job, his friends had turned on him, they were accusing him of being sinful and full of pride. On top of this, Job tried to talk to God, but he refused to show his face. Job say's that he turned to the left, no God was there, he looked to the right, and nope God was not there. He swiftly looked ahead and no God was to be found, then Job looked

Jewels for the Journey

behind him and God had utterly fled away. In situations like this, what is a person supposed to do? As I read all of this I wondered what response Job would have, then I read on a few more verses, Job said that he would come forth as Gold when the trials were over. This tells me a lot about this noble man called Job; it tells me he understood the process the God was putting him through. It did not make the trial any less of a trial, it did not make it any less painful, but it did give him reassurance that his God knew what was best for him. I remember times in my own life when it seemed as if God would never show his face again. I would go to church and it seemed as if I was wasting my time, people would be worshipping and I felt as if I was in the wrong place. I would read my bible and it was dry and stale, the author of the book was unknown to me. I know that many a reader will not comprehend how God seems to hide his face, hang in there dear friend your day may be coming in the near future.

We may all face times like Job faced; these are not times that we ask God to send our way. In all honesty times like these are the most difficult times we will ever face. God has placed us in the furnace; he has turned the heat up and will not let us out of the door. In these trying times we may want to consider the end results, Job refused to get bogged down in the circumstances. Job focused his view on the end result of the circumstances. We must remember that every trial has a beginning point and every trial will have its ending point. We must endure the time in between the start and the end. As the skydiver stated rather humorously, it was not the jumping part he was afraid of, the only fear that he had was concerning his landing. I have watched some Godly people go through horrible trials and even watched many of them die. Can I tell you something dying is not the hard part, livings the hard part? In the midst of your despair and your spiritual compass is out of sorts you must walk by faith. Even though you may not feel like your faith is worth trusting, go ahead and walk in that faith. The Christian life is to be lived by faith, faith that trusts even if nothing makes sense, just keep on walking.

1 - When the Hand of God Seems Hidden

2 - When the Hand of God Seems Hard

In the space below ask God to help you make it when he seems to have hidden his face:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 166

"Inquiring Minds"

[Jhn 12:9](#) Much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there: and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead.

In this great verse we see the Jews coming to Bethany to visit not only Jesus but also to see Lazarus, the one that had been raised from the dead. It is wonderful for people to come to church because of the mighty name of Jesus Christ, but it is even more wonderful when they come because they have heard what he has done in some person's life. The Lord saved you and I for this very reason, so that we can lead others to Jesus. It is wonderful to name the name of Christ and then have the ability to live for him and lead some lost soul to him. If God did not need you and me, he would save us and take us on home. If he only wanted to save us, he would kill us off the moment we profess him. It would benefit each of us to know the great task that God has given to each one of us; I believe that every one of us can reach a

Jewels for the Journey

specific crowd for Jesus. The people gathered around the supper table and many of them were watching Jesus, but large portion of the crowd was watching Lazarus. This crowd wanted to know if the story of Lazarus was true, this crowd had to see it for themselves. As each one watched Lazarus sitting at the table, some of them may have shaken his hand; some may touched him on the shoulder. One by one this crowd was finding out that the story was true, Lazarus really had been raised from the dead. It was beyond comprehension that God could raise one of there own townsmen from the dead. Upon inspection this man's testimony was above reproach, no man could debate that he was alive and well. I can only imagine the stares and the talk as Lazarus went about town doing his daily business. How many people did he draw to the Lord because he was a dead man walking, not only walking but this man was fully alive, he had all of his physical faculties. As time drew near for old Lazarus to face death for the second time how many people gathered around to watch his death. I wonder if he did not challenge all of them to trust in his God, did he tell each one of them that death was not to be feared. Lazarus had already experienced the worst that life could throw at him and that was death, he had felt the sting of death and knew that victory could be achieved through Jesus.

I wonder how many people are watching you my dear reader, could it be the person in the break room at work, could it be those that you hang around with. It might be the person down at the race track, it could be the sales lady that sales you Avon on a monthly basis. It may be a family member, someone that you dearly love, they may be watching you, and do you realize the importance of this? If we are being watched should we not walk circumspectly and in a serious manner, knowing that souls could be hinging upon how we walk before God and man?

1 - The Death of Lazarus

2 - The Deliverance of Lazarus

3 - The Dependants of Lazarus

4 - The Delight of Lazarus

In the space below ask God to help you reach those that are watching you:

1 - _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 167

"Help Is On the Way"

[Psa 33:20](#) Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he [is] our help and our shield.

I love to watch old westerns on T.V. because you can always count on that help was on the way. I like watching the show called 24; it is one of the best shows that I have ever watched, in my opinion. The great thing about this show is that no matter what happens to Jack Bauer help is just around the corner, it may not show up until the next Monday's show, but you can count on the fact that help will come. The psalmist is telling us to wait on God, because as we wait we will receive heavenly help. I remember hearing a sermon by Lee Roberson; he was feeling led of God to start a bible college and nobody knew

Jewels for the Journey

this but himself and God. He prayed and asked the Lord to give him a sign, after praying this prayer he met a missionary lady and she unknowingly gave him a specific amount of money. The great preacher realized that this money was his heavenly help, so he started Tennessee Temple University. I have observed people receiving heavenly help year after year; the key is to wait upon the Lord. Those that are walking in the will of God will most assuredly receive help of the Lord. I feel like many of us are expecting God to do something big by using something big, it normally doesn't work along these lines. The normal way is for God to take something small and use it to do something large, you don't need something big to achieve his help, and you just need him. I have observed churches get help from their God; he has poured his mighty power upon them and done the most unusual things by his own power. How many times has God's blessed little children been backed up into a corner and faced the impossible and suddenly without explanation the help of God delivered them. If we were to check out God's people throughout the bible we would see that help always showed up in the nick of time. The Lord sent help to Moses the very moment it seemed as if Pharaoh was about to overtake them at the Red Sea. The Lord sent help to David the moment Saul was trying to kill him, his help was Jonathon the kings very own son.

I wonder how many of us could testify to the helping hand of God. I challenge each reader to ponder how good God has been in helping you in times of dire need? If we could all talk openly how many of us would testify to how God helped you pay a house payment when there was no hope in making the payment? How many would report on how God mysteriously helped you get a promotion when the door had already been closed? I dare say that many have left the doctors office filled with gloom and doom, but after much praying the test results proved the doctors words to have been said in haste? Those that trust God and are willing to wait for him will receive his hand of help, but only at his bidding. We can expect to receive help from our God, he has promised to never leave us or forsake us. I may not get all of the help that I need from my fellow man, but rest assured my help still comes from God and I expect him to help me. The day I got saved was the day I became a part of the family of God, and upon that day God promised to take care of me.

1 - The Source of My Help

2 - The Sending of My Help

3 - The Sufficiency of My Help

4 - The Surety of My Help

In the space below ask God to help you in your most personal and pressing need:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 168

"Remember"

[Psa 40:2](#) He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, [and] established my goings.

In this blessed passage we find the psalmist telling us about the time God came to him and brought him

Jewels for the Journey

up out of a horrible pit. The Lord raised him out of the miry clay and the mucky pit and set his feet upon a rock, and then he established the psalmist and places a brand new song in his heart. I will never forget hearing the story of the dog that fell into the septic tank, it was so awful but so true. A preacher was down in the dumps concerning his church, his attendance was low and things were kind of stale. The preacher was in a state of depression, so he decided to go and do some visiting; hopefully this would alleviate his depression. The preacher came upon a certain house and pulled up into the driveway, and as he did so he witnessed the strangest thing. The preacher looked in the yard and a man was using a water hose and was spraying his dog, as he was doing so the dog was turning flips and running in circles. He asked the man if it was okay to get out of his truck, he was scared of the dog, it was acting as if it was a wild animal. He was beckoned to come up on the porch and take a seat, he continued watching the man wash his dog. As the man finished spraying his dog with the water hose he came and sat down on the porch with the preacher. The preacher told him why he was visiting, but his curiosity had gotten the best of him, so he told the man before their conversation proceeded he had to know why he was spraying the dog with the water hose? The man told him that a good while back their septic tank was in need of repair and the repair man had taken the lid off and needed to go back to town and get a specific part. He informed the man to keep away from the septic tank because the lid was not on the tank and it would be easy for someone to fall in the tank. The man was sitting on his porch talking with his dad when he heard an awful noise coming from his backyard. The father and son ran to the back yard and to their surprise right smack in the middle of this tank was his dog.

The man tried to grab the dog, but the dog was going under and was heading for a sure death. The father looked at his son and told him if he loved his dog and wanted to save it he had to go down in the tank and get it out. The son told his father that he loved this old dog if he had to go down in the slimy smelly tank then that was what he must do. The man jumped down in the tank with his dog, the dog tried to fight him off, it tried to bite him. As he reached for the dog it went down farther into the septic tank, but finally he got his hand upon the dog. Then he pulled the dog to safety, the dog was a sight to behold, covered in muck and mire. The man then took his dog and picked up the water hose and began to wash off all of the slime of the septic tank. The preacher felt his depression go away; his heart was warmed over from this wonderful story. The man told the preacher that every time he sprayed his dog with the water hose, the dog would get so excited because it remembered that day when his master went down into the pit and brought him up. The dog remembered how his master washed all of the filth and the stench off of him on that awful day.

1 - The Lord Plainly Found Him in the Pit

2 - The Lord Powerfully Freed Him from the Pit

3 - The Lord Personally Favored Him after the Pit

In the space below why not thank the Lord for raising you up out of the pit and saving your soul:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 169

"What Brand Are You?"

Jewels for the Journey

1Cr 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which [was bestowed] upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

In this text we find that Paul is stating that he is the least of all of God's apostles, but he was who he was because of the grace of God. We live in a day of brands, we have clothing brands, we have shoe brands, we have vehicle brands, nearly all of us like specific types of brands. In choosing a specific brand we are identifying ourselves with this brand, the brand portrays a certain aura. The shoe brand means so much to that young teen that his family may go into debt just to give their son a certain type of shoe. I dare say that many of us would rather walk than to have to ride in some brands of automobiles. If you think that I am joking talk to some of your friends, especially some of those over 60 years old, many of them would rather die than to ride in a foreign made car, it is not their brand. I know of certain adults that would not know how to act if they could not wear their Tommy Hilfiger clothes, I am talking about adults, how amazing!!! We want to live in certain subdivisions, because of their status or their brand, the subdivision gives us a stature in our communities. The music industry thrives on brands, the malls get absolutely rich because of brands, and people will drive for miles just to buy a certain brand. The student goes to school and hangs with his or her crowd, they are all branded, and they have something in common. The Goths have their brand, they want to be different, but go to any mall and they all look just alike. The skate boarders have their brand, they have their hair styles, they all wear the same type of clothes, and yes you are branded. The preppies have their brands, they all shop at the same places, and they all look just alike. The techies all hang out in the same places; they all talk the same lingo, why you may ask, because they are branded.

It is time for us Christians to stand up and wear our own brand, the brand of God. The apostle says that he is who he is because of his mighty God. Dear friend don't have a cookie cutter religion, you can be who God called you to be. The Lord wants us to be satisfied and live a life that has fulfillment. If people look closely at you, what brand will they find, is it a brand that is pleasing to God? If the world looks at your life, if they inspect your brand, what is your brand? You may say that your brand is a Baptist brand, or it is a Methodist brand, none of it matters, all that matters is your brand one that God would be proud to acknowledge. It would be good to wear the brand of God's love; it would be awesome for people to identify us with the brand of grace and mercy. The Christian does not buy their brand they earn it; it is earned in our day to day living. The world watches us, they inspect our every move, they listen to our every word, and then they brand us. The brand that they give us is not the brand that we tell them, but it is the brand that they have observed in watching our deeds and our dealings.

1 - The Popularity of Brands

2 - The Identity of Brands

3 - The Authenticity of Brands

4 - The Nobility of Brands

In the space below ask God to help you carry his brand in a way that will please him:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Jewels for the Journey

Day 170

"The Empty Water Bottle"

Gen 21:15 And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs.

The water bottle was empty; it seemed as if Hagar and Ishmael had reached the end of their Journey. The young lad was birthed by Hagar and Abraham due to Abraham failing to trust God and wait for him to come through. In spite of the circumstances surrounding this lad's birth, he was here and nothing could change this fact. Hagar and her son were sent off on their journey with a bit of bread and a bottle of water. I can see them as they make their journey, it must have been one of fear and turmoil. I dare say that with each bite of bread and each drink from the bottle hastened her fear, the bread would not last much longer and the water was nearing the bottom of the bottle. On top of all of this, the two weary travelers had wandered into the wilderness, in the wilderness food and water would be hard to find. The woman looked down into the bottle and her fears had come to fruition, the bottle was completely empty and the lad was troubled in his body due to fatigue and a mighty thirst. Hagar had reached her wits end, what could she do to help her son, what would she do? In this story we find a mother doing the most unnatural deed a mother could do, she hid her son under some bushes and went off down the road to watch him die. The woman began to cry loudly and she was weeping uncontrollably, she could not bear the thought of her son suffering, up the trail her son was crying and calling out for his mother. Then the most wonderful thing occurred, the bible says that the Lord heard the voice of the child, as he does all of his dear children. It must never be said that our God is not a God of tender and timely compassion; he is adequate and available to meet the need of any crying child.

The Lord sent his angel and the angel told Hagar that all was well, for the Lord heard the cry of the child right from where the child was located, so it is today dear friend. In the midst of your trouble God will see your empty water bottle and he will see that it gets filled up. The Lord opened the eyes of Hagar and showed her a well that had plenty of water, enough to fill up her water bottle. I don't know what you may be facing today; if your bottle is empty you must cry out to God, ask him to fill your water bottle. On this day many of the dear readers of this devotion are facing dire circumstances; they are facing empty water bottles and must have the Lord's help. I don't know what your empty water bottle may be, but the Lord knows where you are located and he has many wells that are available to fill up your bottle. Is your empty bottle a physical need, is it a spiritual need, is it a personal need, is it a monumental need, nevertheless it is a need and God must come through, right? If you are running on empty and feel as if God has forsaken you, let me tell you God has not ever forsaken any of his dear children, it never has happened and it never will happen!!! The Lord loves you and will help you fill up your empty bottle.

1 - The Lonely Journey of Hagar

2 - The Looming Jeopardy of Hagar

3 - The Lasting Joy of Hagar

4 - The Lovely Justifying of Hagar

In the space below ask God to help you refill your water bottle; ask him to come to where you are. The Lord absolutely loves you dear friend and is aware of all of your needs:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 171

"Those That Pass By Calvary"

[Mar 15:29](#) And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest [it] in three days,

In this provoking passage we find our Lord and Saviour has been nailed to the cross of Calvary. As he is hanging on the horrible cross there were many people passing by on that horrible day. The text before us tells that they passed by, as they passed by the people were railing at him, they were wagging their heads at him, they were found saying, Ah, mocking him, ridiculing him. It was a very awful day on that day; can you see the crowd passing by Calvary? The scoffer must pass by Calvary, if they have anything to say against God, it must be said at Calvary. The atheist must pass by Calvary, if they want to reject God it must be done in the very face of Calvary. The atheist may feel that his unbelief is justified, he may feel so secure in rejecting and mocking anybody that believes, but if he wants any credibility let him earn it standing in front of Calvary. The person that is angry with God, the mom that is mad at God, the child that is so full of venom and hatred against God, if he is to carry this bitter load into eternity, they must do so in passing by the crucified Lord hanging upon the cross of Calvary. The mocker cannot be justified in his mocking until he passes by Calvary, if he can mock after visiting Calvary, let him mock on. If the sinner can ignore God, first let him pass by the cruel cross and see the bleeding wounded Saviour, if he desires to be a sinner after this, let him sin on. The world may all die and go to hell, but before they can do this each and every person must pass by Calvary, if they choose hell after passing by Calvary, then let them all go on. The richest person in the world must lie all of their wealth down and pass by Calvary, in passing by Calvary their wealth means nothing. The most noble and the most noted of mankind must all pass by Calvary; in passing by Calvary each one stands barren and helpless. The person that travels all around the world has never visited anywhere until they pass by Calvary, in passing by Calvary the world becomes only a speck in God's vast universe.

I want to challenge each and every reader to visit Calvary, in visiting Calvary the sinner can get saved, in visiting Calvary the saint can find his reason for rejoicing. The preacher that fails to pass by Calvary on a regular basis is not much of a preacher and should go stay at the foot of Calvary until he feels refocused enough to pass on by. The singer that does not let his singing pass by Calvary on a frequent basis must stop singing and his next booking should be booked to Calvary. The singer needs to pass by Calvary, and in passing by Calvary he should stay until he finds his real reason for singing, then and only then should he pass on by. The church that fails to pass by Calvary is no church at all; they should go and pull the sign from in front of the church. The church should call a group meeting and vote in a trip to Calvary, in visiting Calvary they each must pass by and find the real reason for gathering together in the local church, then and only then should the sign be placed back in front of their church. The church worker must pass by Calvary as they do their weekly work, if they are working without a fresh vision of Calvary, the work must be put on hold. The worker must book a trip to Calvary, pass by, look slowly at the bleeding Saviour, see those mocking at him, see him in his pain, do you now sense the reason you are working for him, if you see it, work on dear worker. Calvary, what a word, it is the most notorious word in the Christian language, friend please don't pass through life without passing by Calvary. In passing by Calvary, there you will see my precious Saviour, do you see him?

1 - Calvary Must Be Surely Visited

2 - Calvary Must Be Sadly Viewed

3 - Calvary Must Be Supremely Valued

4 - Calvary Must Be Soberly Validated

What can a man say about Calvary, take a moment and visit Calvary for your self!!!

Journal Notes:

Day 172

"He Didn't Come Down"

[Mar 15:30](#) Save thyself, and come down from the cross.

In this passage we find the mocking crowding asking our Lord and Saviour to do something that seemed to go against all that they had desired, they asked Jesus to come down from the terrible cross. The mockers told him something that was so true, they told Jesus that he had saved others, this was so true. We could go through all of the gospels and see the mighty hand of God helping and saving person after person. He showed no hesitation in raising the dead, touching the leper, healing the blind, inviting the lame to walk. If we could walk with Jesus during his mighty ministry, we would run out of ink trying to document all of the good and wonderful deeds that he so willingly had accomplished. The mockers asked Jesus to something that was impossible for him to do, not impossible due to his ability, but impossible due to his intentions. The Lord came down to this earth as a fleshly human being not so much for the miracles, but for the sole intention of going to Calvary and paying the price for all of this worlds sins. He could have easily taken himself right off of that horrible cross. He could have spoken the word and killed every one of his persecutors, nobody could have placed him on that cross if he of not willingly allowed it. At his bidding he could have called forth all of the heavenly angels, they could of wiped out the entire universe to set the son of God free, it was as close as the nodding of his head. The Lord could have come off of that tree at any moment, why did he choose not to come down, what was his reasoning? The souls every human being hinged upon him staying on the cross of Calvary. If he had of gotten down form the tree, no man could ever be saved, not those that lived before Calvary, or any of us that came after Calvary. It was his wonderful love for all of us that kept him hanging upon that wicked tree, not our love for him, but his mighty love for all of us. I am amazed at the vastness of his love, he loved those that would never accept his love, and he loved those that would choose hell rather than heaven.

If we could answer the question concerning why he did not come down, we may find some answers in the following reasons. He did not come down due to all of the prophecy that had to be fulfilled. If he had of came down, none of the prophecies concerning Calvary would have come to fruition, that would have made the bible to be an inaccurate book and a book that could not be depended upon as being inspired and without error. If had of came down, he would have been noted as a quitter, he would have been deemed as a failure for not accomplishing his goal. The Lord was the greatest winner that this world has ever been associated with; if you want to run with a winner then you must run with Jesus. He did not come down because he was obedient; he was obedient to his heavenly father. The Triune Godhead had developed a plan to save mankind from dying and going to a sinner's hell, Jesus had to stay on the cross to fulfill his part. Of course the greatest reason for Jesus not coming down from the cross was love, his love for you and for me. It was not the nails that kept him upon the cross, it was his love for the entire world, man is that not love. In visiting Calvary we find man at his very worse, but we also find God at his very best. If you want to know how much God loves you, you must look no further that Calvary. Do you see him hanging upon that cruel wicked tree, do you see the dripping blood, the battered body, that was all for you dear friend.

1 - Calvary Calling

2 - Calvary Crucifying

3 - Calvary Conquering

4 - Calvary Changing

We must all realize why he stayed upon that cruel wicked cross; it was for all of us!!!

Journal Notes:

Day 173

"When it's Time to Reason"

[Isa 1:18](#) Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

In this great text we find the prophet of God challenging the people to get right with their God. He has told them of their dirty hearts and dirty hands, they have become distasteful in the eyes of God. The prophet challenges the nation to come immediately and to reason with the Lord, the Lord wants them to see their sin and his potential. The word for reason means to be in the sunshine, to be clear about something, a manifestation, to prove. The nation of Israel needed to get out of their backslidden and darkened state; they need to see how things really were and how they could be with the help of God. We need to inquire of the Lord; we need to invest in finding out what he has to say about our situation. The Lord is big enough that he does not get nervous when people question him, it does not hurt his feelings to reason with mankind. It is often that man gets anxious when a sinner questions him about God, the atheist may hurl accusations towards God, but don't fret God is okay. God would rather a person to reason with him than die and go to hell. The man that is willing to walk in the sunshine with God will eventually find the proof that is needed to birth a spiritual change in his life. God does not want a person to abandon his intellectual ability to experience salvation. A man gets saved by faith and faith alone, but a man does not have to be ignorant. The bible cannot be comprehended by mere intellectual reasoning, but those that begin their search in intellectual realms will be brought into the spiritual realm by the Spirit of God. The critic can throw any accusation at God and none of them will stick, God is above any and all reproach. The man that dares to reason with God will find his answer if he stays with his search long enough.

I have heard of person after person that has tried to dispel the bible as the inspired word of God. In their mission to destroy the bible these people were brought face to face with undisputable facts. The facts were that the bible has always proven itself to be completely accurate in every area. The bible is accurate in history, in science, in geography, in creation, in genealogy; it has always stood the test of its critics. The point of this is that those that have kicked against the pricks have gone on to be some of the greatest advocates of the accuracy and the authenticity of the bible. The man that is willing to reason with God will always find that God is willing to hear his every thought. God will walk along with this person until they come into the sunshine, and then things will be crystal clear to the critic and the sinner. Do not argue with the critics, just pray for them and encourage them to reason honestly with God, then God will give them a mighty manifestation and prove himself to them.

1 - The Challenge That Was Made

2 - The Courage That Is Mandated

3 - The Confidence That Was Manifested

4 - The Clearness That Is Magnificent

In the space below ask God to help those that are in need of reasoning with him, he can help:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 174

"The Blood Tipped Ear, Thumb, & Big Toe"

[Exd 29:20](#) Then shalt thou kill the ram, and take of his blood, and put [it] upon the tip of the right ear of Aaron, and upon the tip of the right ear of his sons, and upon the thumb of their right hand, and upon the great toe of their right foot, and sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about.

In this wonderful but strange text we read that the blood from the sacrifice was to be placed upon the High Priest so that he could be identified with the sacrifice. It was to be placed upon the tip of his right ear, upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the big toe of his right foot. In most situations people are right handed, the right side of the body represents that part of man that is the most skillful and the most useful. Of course this does not apply to all of us bright intellectual lefties, right? The next part of this process was for the anointing oil to be applied upon the priest; this would portray the anointing of the Spirit of God. The blood was for the cleansing of our sins and the oil was for the perfuming of our lives. The blood and the oil should always go together; both are needful and so useful for the Christian. The blood applied to the ear would challenge the man to hear things differently; do you have blood tipped ears? How often have we failed to lend an ear to the voice of God? How many times have you and I ignored that voice, the voice that was calling us to service, to submission, to surrender, to sanctification? This voice should be readily listened to by God's precious children; the blood on the tip of the ear helps all of God's followers to submit to this gentle voice. The blood applied to the right thumb should challenge all of us to work differently. We should desire to do work that is satisfying to our heavenly father, this is the purpose to the blood covered thumb. We should readily be available to lend our hand to the good work, the glorious work. It is with open arms that the local church welcomes these blood covered thumbs; these thumbs will adequately see that the work is done. I wonder if you have used your hands to further the kingdom of God, or have you sit back and let others partake of the blessings that God wanted you to have? The blood covered big toe was to challenge the priest to walk differently; he was to walk knowing that his walk should be pleasing to his God. It is not just any man that is willing to walk circumspectly, or correctly, it is only those that realize that their walk should please their God.

The priest was to sacrifice the lamb, and then he was to take its blood and have it placed on his various body parts. The priest should be able to clearly identify with his sacrifice, it was not just any lamb that the blood came from, but it was the lamb that was slain right in front of his very own eyes. The Christian should be familiar with where the blood has come from, it is not just any sacrifice, but it is the sacrifice of the very Lamb of God. The blood of Christ should ever be on our minds, it should ever be on our tongues, it should be the foundation of our victories and our success. The blood and the blood alone was the accepted sacrifice that wiped away the sins of man in the eyes of God. It was not just any blood, but

it was the blood of his precious, majestic, marvelous lamb.

1 - The Simple Application of the Blood

2 - The Supreme Allegiance of the Blood

3 - The Sure Acceptance of the Blood

4 - The Strange Appeal of the Blood

In the space below ask God to help anoint you and to make you useful by the blood:

1 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 175

"The Brand Called You?"

[Act 10:38](#) How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him

In this great passage we find something very significant concerning the life of Jesus, this text tells us he went about doing good. The thing that I want you to get out of this devotion is that Jesus had a personal brand that was well know. If we talked to the people that knew Jesus and talked to him on a daily basis, each one of them would tell us about his good deeds. The personal brand of Jesus was one that consistent from day to day, he practiced it when things were going good or when things were going bad. If we could see Jesus in action we would see him interacting with the rich and the poor, the good and the bad. He interacted with those that loved him and those that despised him, he done well for the sinner as well as for the saint. The personal brand of Jesus was noted by even his enemies, even the demons acknowledged him to be the Son of God. The soldier professed him to be the Son of God after witnessing his death; he acknowledged that Jesus was truly the Son of God. The personal brand of Jesus was not just mumbo jumbo, it was not just trite catchy sayings, and his brand was his identity. The brand of Jesus was the brand that is worthy of notation and investigation, his brand is the brand that can change a life. The brand of Jesus is brand that has lasted for over 2000 years, it has lasted from generation to generation, and his brand is as up to date as tomorrow's newspaper. The brand of Jesus stands for integrity, honesty, excellence, determination, goodness, godliness, holiness, fortitude, a cut above, the best of the best. The brand of Jesus had no rivals, it was dependable, if Jesus ever told you something, it was a done deal as for his end of the deal.

What about your brand, when people think about you what do they think? If people are talking you when you are not around, what would they say? Have you ever considered your personal brand, it really doesn't change anything, you still have a personal brand!!! The brand that is called you can either be negative or it can be positive, it would benefit you to consider what your personal brand might be. Can people count on you, are you dependable, and are you worthy of others trusting in you? If you schedule an appointment, will you be there on time, or will you be late? Those that know you already know the outcome of when you will show up. If someone has left you a message, will you respond back to them in a timely manner or will you ignore them, that my friend is your brand. The brand called you carries much

Jewels for the Journey

weight with those that know you. Is your brand one that can be counted on not to gossip about others? What about your brand, did you know that the brand called you carries as much weight as Nike or Coca Cola? The brand called you should be monitored on a daily basis, it is so important in how people think about you. It may be time for you do have a marketing campaign on your very own personal brand!!!

1 - The Public Identity of My Brand

2 - The Personal Integrity of My Brand

3 - The Powerful Individuality of My Brand

4 - The Protected Impeccability of My Brand

In the space below ask God to help you protect your personal brand, the brand called you:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 176

"Time for A Make Over"

[2Cr 5:17](#) Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

In this text we find one of the greatest verses that will help the new convert understand if they have been saved. If a person has been saved they have been changed, if there is no evidence of change the odds are not in your favor concerning salvation. The idea of this devotion is that any person can have a make over, not matter who they are or what they may have done. In our day and age we witness people having make over's right in our very own houses as we watch television. The show is called extreme make over's and the subject of the make over may seemingly face extra ordinary odds, but when the physician is finished it is amazing to look at the finished product. In the bible we find many people that needed extreme make over's and God came through in a miraculous way. One of the great make over's that we find in the bible is that of the harlot Rahab. If we visited Jericho in her days, we would find that she was well know for her lifestyle and in how she made a living. The woman was noted as being a harlot, the men of the city knew where she could be found and the women of the city despised her very presence. I would dare say that she would have been ostracized in public places and in public gatherings, but this would probably not be the case when darkness arrived. Then she met the spies that entered into her city, these men knew that they could probably go unnoticed in visiting her house. The spies told her of the coming doom and destruction that was on the horizon, in hearing this news Rahab became a believer. The moment she begins believing her life was in the process of experiencing an extreme make over. In the end she is mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus Christ, that my friend is an amazing event. The bible is full of people that experienced extreme make over's, in themselves they were doomed and damned, but once the master got them upon the potters wheel their life was utterly and uniquely different.

I wonder how many of our readers need to experience this same change; you are in need of an extreme

Jewels for the Journey

make over? If you need a change God is the one that can produce it in your life. It may be that some people will never let you forget about your past failures or your past indiscretions. It may be that you failed miserably in the past and some of your family members will not let it go. In the bible we read of one of the Lord's disciples standing by the fire warming him self, this disciple was named Peter. As Peter was standing by the fire someone accused him of being one of the followers of Jesus, Peter denied this statement. Upon being accused the third time because the person said his speech identified him as one of Jesus followers, Peter cursed to prove his point. Upon cursing, Peter looked at up and saw the tender look of his Lord gazing upon him. The rooster crowed and Peter remembered that Jesus had warned him of his impending denial, and then he went out and wept bitterly. The disciple needed an extreme make over and as soon as the Lord had risen from the tomb he immediately began the process of changing Peter.

1 - The Sinful Condition's That Call for a Make Over

2 - The Simple Choice That Causes a Make Over

3 - The Satisfying Consequences That Portrays a Make Over

4 - The Supernatural Change That Results from a Make Over

In the space below ask God to help you if you need this extreme make over:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 177

"Are You A Victim Or A Victor?"

[Gen 50:20](#) But as for you, ye thought evil against me; [but] God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as [it is] this day, to save much people alive.

In this beautiful story we find the brothers of Joseph standing before the one that they despised and rejected. The brothers are afraid that due to their father's death Joseph would take his revenge out upon them for how they mistreated him. The brothers did not fully understand how godly their brother was, because Joseph had no intention on avenging his mistreatment. The brothers heard the most wonderful words flow from his lips as he told them that what they did to him was ordained by the hand of his God. The thing that I want each reader to see in this devotion was this fact; Joseph refused to take on the victim's role. In doing so he refused to allow bitterness and hatred to get a foot hold in his life. He refused to go through life playing the blame game; he would not find satisfaction in blaming his lot in life on someone else. It is not every person that can live his life in this way; too often we want to play the role of a victim. We allow ourselves to blame our trials and tribulations on someone or on something. The victim never identifies the hand of God at work in his life, the victim always feels alone and isolated. As victims we find solace and solitude in spewing our vengeance upon others, we will not find satisfaction in our personal lives, nor in our professional lives. It would have been so easy for Joseph to blame his problems upon his God. He could have gotten so angry and bitter towards God, it was God that allowed all of this to happen was it not? It was not the choice of Joseph to end up in the pit, assaulted and abandoned by his angry abusive brothers. It was not his choice to be sold to vagabond band heading

Jewels for the Journey

down to Egypt; he had no say so in this matter. It was not his idea to be sold to Potiphar and to be eventually accused of raping his wife; Joseph did not desire any of this to come his way. It was not his doing when he ended up in prison, he did not want to spend one day in this awful place. In spite of this Joseph refused to play the victims role!!!

In the midst of his most trying hour, after the death of the father that he loved beyond words, there stood his brothers. The brothers were not just standing in front of him; they were asking something of him that a victim would not be able to give. The brothers asked Joseph to forgive them; he did not blink in his response. He did not even use the power of silence; he could have paused for a long period of time and made them feel his concern. He refused to do this, he was a victor not a victim, and he immediately calmed any fear that the brothers had. Joseph told them he was not a victim; he was a victor chosen of God for this specific cause. It is amazing to see that the victor does not play the blame game, the victor allows God to take his lemons and turn them into sweet tasting lemonade. The victor allows God to take the bitter things of life and turn them into beautiful things of life. It is the victor that rides the dark storm out until it breaks and then he enjoys the sunshine.

1 - The Victor Firmly Follows God

2 - The Victor Tenderly Trusts God

3 - The Victor Affectionately Allows God

4 - The Victor Boldly Believes God

In the space below ask God to help you have the victor's attitude and help you trust him daily:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 178

"Traits That Triumph - Part 1"

[Jhn 12:21](#) The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.

In this story we find that some Greeks had approached Philip and they were seekers that were seeking the Lord Jesus Christ. It is noble for mankind to seek the Saviour, for there is no other, it is Jesus or nothing. I have been considering the life of Jesus and wondering what we could learn from his life, of course he was the Holy Son of God, but what about how he conducted his life? In inspecting the life of Jesus I am confident that you and I can find some traits that will bring triumph to our life. The **first and foremost trait** that I see in the life of Jesus is this, **he knew who he was**. He never allowed anyone to depart from that one simple truth, he truly understood who he was and he accepted it. It would do all of us good to understand who we are, not who we want to be, but who we are right now, today!!! Dear reader do you honestly know who you really are, can you identify with reality? It is not every man or woman that realizes who that are. If you don't know who you are it may be that nothing else will fall into place for you. The **second trait** that we can identify in the life of Christ is this; **he knew where he was going**. It was as simple to him as breathing; our Lord fully understood that Calvary was in his future. In

Jewels for the Journey

living from day to day, he always kept his focus on Calvary. He refused to let Satan or his cohorts to kill him before Calvary, if he died before going to Calvary his death would have been in vain. I want to ask you friend, do you know where you are going in life? The man that shoots for nothing will hit it each and every time, he will be like the traveler that is lost, but if asked he is making good time. If we would be honest with ourselves, none of us are getting any younger, time is swiftly passing by, and we better have an idea of our direction. We must know who we are, but once we understand this we must also get a grip on where we are heading!!! The Lord wants to bless us, but we need to head in the right direction to receive his great blessings.

The **third trait** that I have identified in the life of Christ is this; **he always had a positive attitude**. It did not matter what life threw at Jesus he never let it affect his attitude. In the midst of opposition he kept the right attitude, in the midst of oppression he stayed true to the right attitude. I have read all things about his life and I never find him complaining, I never find him griping, he accepted life on a day to day basis. I watched him in the garden praying, Satan and all of his demons were bombarding him, his sweat was as great drops of blood, he never caved in, he never considered himself to be a victim. I watched him suffering upon the cross of Calvary, the crowd was mocking him, the soldiers were prodding him, and God had forsaken him in that he could not look upon his Son, in all of this he stayed true to his attitude. The **fourth trait** that I find in the life of Jesus is this; **he was always true to his own personal brand**. You can follow him day in and day out; Jesus was true blue through and through. He loved his friends, he valued his followers, and he went about constantly doing good. He wanted people to know that his life was one that could be modeled and one that could be inspected. He set the bar and he set it high, if a man wanted to watch him his life was an open book.

1 - The Life of Jesus Was Wonderfully Witnessed

2 - The Life of Jesus Was Delightfully Documented

3 - The Life of Jesus Was Masterfully Modeled

4 - The Life of Jesus Was Faithfully Fulfilled

Ask God to help you develop these "Traits That Triumph" in your daily life:

Journal Notes:

Day 179

"Traits That Triumph - Part 2"

[Jhn 12:21](#) The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.

In looking at the life of Jesus we find **Traits that will lead us to Triumph** in our personal and professional lives. It is wise person that identifies these traits and puts them to practice in his or her life. In the previous devotion we identified 4 of these traits and now we will look at some more of them. The **fifth trait** in the life of Christ that we need to identify is this; **he helped others along the way**. If we were to document all of the times Jesus interacted with those around he, we might be amazed. It was his goal in life to help others; it was part of his identity to make those that he touched into better people. In all honesty that would be better just from meeting him, upon meeting him and encountering him, each person was so much better. He healed the blind, he raised the dead, he comforted the heavy hearted, he

Jewels for the Journey

laughed with those that were willing to laugh. In his travels he always took time to teach others and to lead others, in doing this he was laying the foundation for his work to go on after he was gone. I wonder if we realize the impact we can have if we just take the time to help some along the way. The world would be so much better off if each one of us could help some along the way, it could be a kind word, it could be a good deed. I honestly believe that Jesus was a man that smiled, he portrayed himself to those that watched him that he was approachable, I don't believe for a second that Jesus was a man that often frowned or smirked. The **sixth trait** that we find in the life of Jesus is this; **he took time away to keep himself fresh and focused**. It is hard giving of ourselves each and everyday, most of us go from before daybreak until after sunset. It has been said that the person that does not come apart will eventually come fall apart. The person that continually gives and continually goes must schedule some personal time to get refreshed and refocused. I dare say that most all of us want to excel and exceed in our day to day living, but if we burn ourselves out we will not benefit anyone. I admire those that set goals and establish good work habits, usually these people will never accept defeat, and failure is not an option with them. If this is describing you, it may be that you are in need of a personal break, some rest and relaxation. If you read about the life of Jesus he always scheduled some time for himself and his disciples to get away from the hustle and the bustle.

The **seventh trait** that we see in the life of Jesus is this, **he believed in teamwork**. If we watch Jesus as his ministry was brought into the eye of the public, he immediately begins to build himself a good team. As he built this team he chose men that came from all walks of life, we should learn from this, his team was one of diversity. How often we surround ourselves with only certain types of people, we miss so much due to our narrow-mindedness. The team that Jesus built was not only a diversified team it was also an individualized team. Let me say more concerning this, one did not have to give up his individualism to be on his team. Those that were on his team were looked upon as different individuals; each one had their own ideas, and their own concerns. In building this team Jesus identified each persons individual capabilities and he strengthened his team by allowing them to flourish in these areas, and flourish they did!!!

1 - The Team That Jesus Built Was Daringly Diversified

2 - The Team That Jesus Built Was Eternally Effective

3 - The Team That Jesus Built Was Confidently Committed

4 - The Team That Jesus Built Was Absolutely Awesome

In the space below ask God to help you establish these traits in your life on a daily basis:

1 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 180

"Traits That Triumph - Part 3"

[Jhn 12:21](#) The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.

In the last two devotions we looked at seven traits found in the life of Jesus that would be very profitable for us to apply in our lives. In this devotion we will look at a few more of these traits, and then we will summarize our findings. The **eighth trait** that we should consider from the life of Jesus is this, **he never**

Jewels for the Journey

avoided needful conflict. In life we will encounter conflict; we should not go searching for conflict, for if we wait long enough it will find us!!! The person that follows Christ is not expected to be spineless and is not to let people walk over them. If we watch Jesus as he faced confrontation, he never ran from it, he used a specific mindset to diffuse the situation. He often used reverse psychology on those attacking him; most often he countered their questions with another question. The neat thing about these questions was that they were needful questions. The key to asking questions is this, if we probe enough we can get to the root cause of the problem. If we get to the root cause of the problem, then and only then can we find the solution to the problem. It is the wise person that meets confrontation head on, the person that does this is mimicking the Master. It should be noted that conflict is not a bad thing, what makes conflict so bad is usually how it is handled; it can be handled wisely or worthlessly. The **ninth trait** that we need to harvest from the life of Jesus is this; **he never wavered in his core values.** If we investigate the life of Jesus we will always find him following a specific path in his values, this was never an option to him. In his life these things were incorporated to the point that they were even beyond habit, they were engrained in his day to day living.

The **tenth trait** that we find in the life of Jesus is this; **he was willing to listen to people.** I am afraid that many of us have lost the art of listening; we would fail in this area if we were to be graded. How many times have we been approached by someone and while they were talking we were nodding our heads and our ears did not hear a word that was spoken. The world is full of hurting people, these people usually just need someone to lend them a sympathetic ear, and can you do this? I am confident that Jesus has turned the world upside because of two things; he is a man that displays love and diligently listens. I challenge you to read the gospels, watch how he interacted with people; Jesus understood the importance of listening. I want to make a bold statement, if you cannot listen to people, you will never be able to lead people.

Trait One “Jesus Knew Who He Was”

Trait Two “Jesus Knew Where He Was Going”

Trait Three “Jesus Always Had a Positive Attitude”

Trait Four “Jesus Was Always True To His Own Personal Brand”

Trait Five “Jesus Helped Others along the Way”

Trait Six “Jesus Took Time to Keep Himself Refreshed & Refocused”

Trait Seven “Jesus Believed In Teamwork”

Trait Eight “Jesus Never Avoided Needful Conflict”

Trait Nine “Jesus Never Wavered In His Core Values”

Trait Ten “Jesus Was Willing To Listen To People”

Day 181

"Not From Here"

[Mat 7:22](#) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Jewels for the Journey

Mat 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

The text before us portrays those that are standing before God at the great white throne judgment. As they stand before the Lord each person is laying out his case and reasons for entering into heaven. Each person tells of his or her good works, they tell the Lord that all that they did was in his name. The Lord does not pacify this crowd, nor does he give them any type of false hope, he tells them that he does not even know them. The sad thing about this crowd is that they are so religious, this crowd goes to church, but they do more than that, this bunch is involved. Some of them are preachers, did they not prophesy in his name, this person has achieved the highest level in the church hierarchy. Do not be deceived into thinking that only lost sinners will go to hell, lost church members will go to hell also dear friend. It should be noted that this crowd displayed mighty spiritual powers in the name of Jesus Christ. The bible says that these people cast out devils; surely they deserve to go to heaven, right? I am amazed at how quickly the church goes after those that display charisma and know how to communicate to the multitudes. We allow these people to violate the biblical standards that all should be held accountable to, for they are well known, they are dynamic, right? I have observed that if these people are given enough rope they will usually hang themselves, but to no avail, we will gladly place them back on top of the pedestal. We run after those that have done many wonderful works; we praise them, but ignore the truth. **Let me give you a good example, we heap praise and glory upon Oprah for all of her many wonderful works, but does Oprah follow our God or does she follow a god?** We allow her to voice her ideas and to promote getting in touch with your inner self, and never question what she thinks about Jesus Christ as the one and only Lord and Saviour of the world. If you don't believe me, check her out, most Christians freely accept her.

I want to get down where the rubber meets the road, dear friend if you are going to hell, please don't go there from here!!! If a person is going to die and go to hell, they should not do it from the church pew. The person that has become engulfed in the church, they have sold out to the church, but honestly has never been saved, better wake up for they are lost. This crowd that was standing in front of Jesus was a part of the local church, but they were LOST!!! It does not matter if you are a vile lost dirty sinner or if you are a squeaky clean upstanding lost church member, both crowds will find themselves in hell. The person that ends up going to hell may fool everyone down here on this earth, nobody may ever know if you are truly lost, but they will never fool God. I want to reiterate this point, if you plan on going to hell please don't go there from here. Don't go to hell trying to act like a Christian; don't go to hell reading this devotion that would be so sad. If you are going to go to hell, make sure it is for a worthy cause, make sure it is because you truly do not believe in God. The buck truly does stop right here, no lost person will ever get into heaven!!!

1 - The Personal Danger of the Lost Church Member

2 - The Eternal Destiny of the Lost Church Member

3 - The Pivotal Decision of the Lost Church Member

In the space below ask God to help you know if you are a lost church member, if so get saved:

1 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 182

"What Are You Investing In?"

Jewels for the Journey

Mat 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Mat 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

In this passage we find Jesus telling us of the importance of investing in the right things. I know some people that check on their stocks each and everyday, they live to watch their investment. The sad thing about these people is they never give a second thought about their eternal investment. I will never forget the man that challenged his co-worker in front of several other workers about how much money had had saved up. The man that was being challenged told him that he had not saved much down here, but he hoped to have great dividends on the other side. Upon saying this, he looked at the one bragging and asked him how much he had saved up on the other side, needless to say the room got deathly silent. It is the wise man that first considers the eternal before going head over heels over the earthly. The stock market only charts the earthly stocks and the monetary investments; it fails to record the most important investments that will be eternal. In this text Jesus warns us of investing in the wrong treasures, for some treasures will not stand the test of time. We invest in land and one mighty act of God can render that investment useless, if you don't believe it take a trip down the coast of Mississippi and Louisiana, go visit places that tsunamis have hit. We invest in homes, but one mighty fire or wind can destroy it in a matter of moments. We place our money in stocks and bonds, in CD's, in various places, but one shady deal can ruin a man economically. It has been proven time after time that we must be cautious and careful in our investments. The problem with investing is that most of us invest in the wrong things.

The Lord expects us to invest in eternal investments, those that moth and rust cannot corrupt. I am amazed at fathers that invest in every organization in town, but would never invest in their own families. I know of some moms that run from place to place, they would be noted in the who's who of moms, but they don't even know their own children, how sad. We invest in the temporal, we invest in glory and greatness, but when eternity comes we will find that we only invested in grief and gloom. I want to tell each mom and dad that your child needs you more than they need your money. I want to tell the stock chaser and the deal seeker, please be sure that when it is all said and done that you have not invested in the wrong things. Be sure that heaven will tell us who the great investors really are, eternity will tell the truth. The stocks that are watched from Wall Street are only temporal, none of that is being recorded in heaven. How many souls are we investing in, God is keeping a record and his record will be revealed one of these days for the whole world to see.

1 - The Danger of Ignorantly Investing

2 - The Delight of Spiritually Sowing

3 - The Difficulty of Carnally Changing

4 - The Benefits of Heavenly Holdings

In the space below ask God to help you make the right decisions about wisely investing:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Jewels for the Journey

Day 183

"Ever Saw An Angel?"

[Hbr 13:2](#) Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

In this section of scriptures the writer has told us to let brotherly love continue, for in loving people and helping them in need we may run across unknown angels. The author of this book speaks of angel in several various locations; he seems to know the reality of angels. The angels he is talking about are messengers sent from God, they may be sent to test us and to see if we are willing to help those in need. It is the biblically ignorant that refuses to grasp the truth concerning heavenly angels, these angels are often sent down to earth for a specific task. In obeying God many of these angels may seem to be hopeless people in need of help. In helping meet their need the children of God are doing the wonderful work of God. I have heard of stories where people have entertained angels unawares. I remember hearing the story of a preacher that had a son that was physically handicapped and could not speak or walk. One late night the preacher saw lights coming down his long driveway. He was hesitant to answer the door, for he lived out in the middle of nowhere and he did not recognize this car pulling in his yard. The preacher looked out the window and saw a man that looked battered and worn, it was a complete stranger, what now. The man of God let the stranger in his house; he was lost a needed direction and asked to use his phone. The preacher let the man use his phone and offered him directions, the man thanked him and was about to leave the house. Then the man looked at the preacher and told him God was going to heal his son and without further discussion the man closed the door behind him and was gone. The preacher was puzzled, he went to his upstairs window to watch the man exit his property, the car was not to be found, his driveway was very long and he could see for hundreds of yards. The stranger was gone, he yelled for his wife and both of them looked for the car, it was not to be found nor explained. The preacher told his wife of the stranger's words, this startled the wife and she was puzzled in her spirit. The next few days the preacher done his daily chores and went about his way, but the strangers words would not leave his mind. After about four days the man and his wife were eating when they heard something in the room where their son was watching the television. The couple hastily ran into the room and their son began talking to them and he was walking.

I dare say that this couple had an encounter with one of God's chosen messengers. Those that encounter these angels may experience a life changing affair. I have heard stories of people giving strangers money and as they looked up the stranger would be completely gone. I have heard of churches being visited by strangers and certain events happened and without notice or reason the stranger was never to be seen again. It would do us well not to ignore those needing help, many times we hastily run away from these God given opportunities. The next time you feel the nudge to help someone you don't even know, remember they could be your angel sent from God!!! It would be of great significance if you would help them out.

1 - The Heavenly Strangers That Are Sent

2 - The Helpful Situation That Is Selected

3 - The Hopeful Supply That Is Shared

4 - The Holy Saints That Are Smiling

In the space below ask God to help you remember to help those that show up along the journey:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 184

"Joseph - The Coat of Division"

[Gen 37:3](#) Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he [was] the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of [many] colours.

[Gen 37:4](#) And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

In this mighty text we read of the story of a new man, the old Joseph had changed into a man that loved God and his name is now Israel. We find that Israel had a son named Joseph; he was from the wife that he first fell in love with. In loving this boy more than his other children Israel was about to bring division into his family. If we could go back in time we would see the Israel is only doing the same thing that his father had done between himself and his twin brother, Esau. It would do us well to learn from the past but most of us fail in this area and we continue to tread down the same path. I would have thought that Israel would have remembered the pain that he had felt as his father favored Esau more than himself. The way that Israel handled this situation should give us insight to how we develop family relationships. It was such a joyous day when Rachel conceived this little lad; it brought such happiness into the life of Israel. The child began to grow and as he grew up, his fathers love was evident for this little lad. The day came when Joseph wanted to show everyone how much he loved the boy, so he gave his son a coat, not just any coat, but this coat was a coat that had many colors. The colors of this coat displayed the various and unlimited love that Israel had for his precious son. The other brothers immediately understood the significance of this coat and the giving of this coat introduced strife and heartbreak into this family. The brothers ultimately hated their younger brother and could no longer speak to him peaceably. It was time for the chickens to come home to roost in the life of Israel. It was his mischievous acts that caused his twin brother to hate him, now for whatever reason Israel is going to see the same event take place with his son's. The love that Jacob openly showed to Joseph was enough to cause division, but the coat of many colors was enough to push them over the edge

The family was now divided and it is doubtful if Israel could have said or done anything to repair the damage. I want to let each one of you know something simple, yet so profound. The parent that shows favoritism to one of their children over another one of their children is on the verge of messing their family up forever. It is an ignorant saying that says sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me. The honest truth of the matter is this, words can hurt us forever!!! It is a sad day when a child has to come to the realization that one of his parents loves his sibling more than him or herself. I would dare say that Israel would never have given his son the coat if he knew of the heartbreak that would come his way.

1 - The Giving Of This Coat Was a Disastrous Deed

2 - The Giving Of This Coat Was an Inconsiderate Idea

3 - The Giving Of This Coat Was a Painful Path

4 - The Giving Of This Coat Was a Costly Concept

Jewels for the Journey

In the space below ask God to help you make sure your family relationships are free of division:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 185

“Joseph - The Criticism of Dreaming”

[Gen 37:5](#) And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told [it] his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

[Gen 37:6](#) And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:

The story of Joseph is continuing and we find him sharing his dreams with his angry brethren. The beauty of inspecting the life of Joseph is that he always done what was right instead of wilting under his critics. The man that dares to dream is placing his self in the line of fire for his or her critics. In all honesty if we were to find out the truth we would find that many of us dare to dream, but not many of us ever share those dreams. The critics of this world want to squash the dreams of the dreamer; the person that dreams intimidates them. The man that dreams portrays themselves as daring, not only this they portray themselves as different. The dreamer is different because he is willing to broaden his horizons. In dreaming the dreamer has chosen to allow God to work in their lives, the dreamer has not limited the potential of God.

As the dreamer goes through life they will encounter two types of people, and in meeting these people they must be careful in sharing their dreams. The first person that we need to recognize is the person that wants to end our dream. This person will tell you of all the pitfalls of life, the person that dares to share their dreams with this person will end up discouraged and drained. The second person that we should recognize is the person that wants to encourage our dream. In meeting these people we fill encouraged and energized to follow our dream. In the life of Joseph he continually encountered those that wanted to dissolve and destroy his dreaming. If we were to watch Joseph go from trial to trial, he always clung to his dreams, no matter how hard the way or how heavy the winds, he held onto those dreams.

It was a difficult thought for Joseph to share his dreams with his brothers and his father, for in doing so he would face much criticism and coldness. The fact of the matter is this; those that dare to dream upset those that have become complacent and stagnated. The dreamer makes these people feel uncomfortable and they would rather you not share any dreams with them. As the years passed by, Joseph remembered the dream he shared with his family. It seemed as if the dream would never come to fruition, but one day the old boy looked up and what did he see? In the distance he could see his brothers coming to buy grain, and unknowingly they would come face to face with old Joe. In the process of time the old boy revealed himself to his brethren and immediately the brothers fell down at his feet. The moment this occurred, old Joe remembered his dreams, the dreams that he had spoken of years ago. The moment the old boys bowed down, God stirred the mind of Joseph. I wonder if he wanted to have a running spell, not because his brothers had found him, but because God had honored his dreams and brought them to pass.

1 – The Destiny of the Dreamer

2 – The Danger of the Doubter

Jewels for the Journey

3 – The Desire of the Discourager

In the space below ask the Lord to help you dare to dream, and dare to dream big when you dream:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 186 "Joseph the Course of Destiny"

[Gen 37:18](#) And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

[Gen 37:19](#) And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.

As we monitor the life of Joseph we find his brothers not only despised his dreams, but they also desired to destroy his dreams by plotting to kill him. It would benefit each of us to understand that God has a divine plan for our lives; it will come to pass in spite of our enemies. The course had been plotted by God and Joseph did not have any clue that his God was leading him down this difficult and dreadful path. It is the spiritually ignorant that thinks his or her life will always be easy and carefree. The person that believes this does not understand the bible and probably will have difficulty in serving God over the long haul. If we could watch Joseph as he went to check on his brothers, he had no idea that this journey would lead him from his father's house and he would never return to this land while living. The course that God had prepared for old Joe was one that seemingly made no sense. It was a course of Destiny; this destiny would not be his choosing, but the choosing of his awesome God. As Joe came closer to where his brothers were waiting, I suppose he had no idea that they were willing to kill him. The brothers were tired of his dreaming, they were tired of his fathers love for old Joe. The men decided to cast old Joe into a pit, then they would surely kill him, then they would make their father think he had been devoured by some wild animal. The Lord moved upon one of his brothers, he talked them into saving the life of old Joe. Then as Joseph lay in the pit the brothers decided to sell him to a Midianite band of merchantmen. It was that simple, the life of old Joe was about to be snuffed out as far as his brothers were concerned. As the merchantmen passed over the horizon, I suppose the brothers of Joseph breathed a sigh of relief, thinking all of their problems were solved.

The Lord was working behind the scenes in the life of little Joey boy, nobody but the Lord understood what was happening. It seemed as if God had abandoned his servant, it looked as if God had allowed the boy to fall beyond even the help of God and the hand of God. It would do all of us good to understand that when it comes to our destiny, God is completely in control of the process. The little servant was about to be abandoned and forsaken by his earthly relatives, but his God was working behind the scenes. The old boy was leaving the pit and headed to the prison due to false accusations, it didn't look as if destiny was working in his life did it? The boy went from a place of being favored into the place of seemingly forsaken, what would he do? In the prison he had the opportunity to reveal some dreams; I probably would have fled from any revelation concerning dreams. It was two full years before Joseph came face to face with his revealed destiny, are you willing to wait, it may be worth it?

1 – Joseph Humanly Wondering About His Destiny

2 – Joseph Patiently Waiting For His Destiny

3 – Joseph Happily Welcoming His Destiny

4 – Joseph Faithfully Walking In His Destiny

In the space below ask God to help you fulfill your God ordained destiny, ask for patience:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 187

“He Is My Rock”

Psa 18:2 The LORD [is] my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, [and] my high tower.

The Psalmist is found reminiscing about how and when the Lord delivered him from the hands of his arch enemy. He boldly states his love for his God, he praises the source of his sustaining strength. He could remember the days when death seemed to be stalking him. He may have often wondered how he could hide from the enemy once again, but he seemed to always find a way to escape. The old soldier now looks back and can confidently proclaim the reasons for his intimate love for his Lord. The Lord had proven to be his rock, he had stood firmly upon this rock since he was a lad watching over his fathers flock. It was upon this rock that he found sensational strength, one that enhanced the young shepherd boy to kill a bear and a lion with his bare hands. It was upon this rock that the lad stood upon when he faced the mighty giant named “Goliath”. Upon this rock he found sublime strength, upon this rock he found a mighty fortress.

As the lad grew into a mighty man of faith and fame, it was upon this rock that he would find deliverance and direction. I wonder if we comprehend the reality of our “ROCK”. It is upon this rock that we find salvation and situation dear friend. This rock has no traceable creation, it is the creation. This rock has no insufficiencies, it is fully and faithfully sufficient. This rock has no instabilities, it is stable, it has proven to be stable from age to age. The rock has stood up to it’s vast and various opponents and has remained standing while their empires and edicts have long been forgotten and buried.

1 - Christ Is My Rock of Sure Stability

2 - Christ is My Rock of Supreme Safety

3 - Christ is My Rock of Satisfying Sufficiency

If you took a few moments and considered the source of your strength and the object of your love, it could overwhelm you. List some reasons that you love the Lord:

Jewels for the Journey

1 - _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Day 188

“All That Glows Is Not Always Gold”

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

How true is the ancient saying, “Everything that shines is not always silver, and all that glows is not always gold”. In this passage we find that Eve has been introduced for the very first time to the one thing that could and would plunge the whole world into misery and misfortune. If sin had of been presented from the ugly side of things, it may have turned out different for the world. We should never underestimate the ability of our arch enemy; he is very smart and subtle. The wicked one was ready to inflict his plan upon mankind, we should learn from his tactics. In deceiving the woman he was willing to disguise his appearance. The serpent was beautiful and so appealing to the human eye, one would not turn their head away from this beauty.

I wonder if we are aware of how Satan normally approaches us, is his subtle approach successful? If we accept his approach as Eve did, we will be tragically bitten by just as she was bitten. The appeal came towards Eve in simple yet successful ways. He appealed to her eyesight, he was so beautiful, and the fruit was there for the taking. He appealed to her ego; she perhaps could be just as God. It is the novice that seems to think that he or she has the ability to outwit Satan, dear friend please don't fool your self.

1 - The Deceitful Introduction of Sin

2 - The Delightful Fascination of Sin

3 - The Dreadful Assassination of Sin

Jewels for the Journey

In the space below list some ways that Satan often uses to bring you down as a Christian, remember honesty is the best policy:

1 - _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

4 - _____

Journal Notes:

Page 189

“The Son’s Of Heartbreak & Happiness”

Luke 15:11 And he said, A certain man had two sons:

The story opens by informing the reader of the father’s situation, he had two sons. The reader may reminisce about his or her family tree, do you remember the joys of growing up with brothers or sisters. The father had watched the two boys grow up and become young men. I wonder what aspirations he had for the young lads as he invested his heart and soul into them. As the boys began to gain independence something strange happened with the younger son, he wanted to breakaway from his father’s ideology and influence. The boy thought things looked so much greener down the road, he had heard of the bright lights of the distant city. The boy had an itch that could not be scratched as long as he was hemmed up with his father’s old fashioned beliefs. I wonder what went through the dad’s mind as he watched his elder son continue to follow his leading and enjoy his loving, did it break his heart?

The elder son brought continual happiness to his father, but the younger son would enhance the gray hairs to come more rapidly. The younger son would sow his wild oats, but his dad would begin to show his worries with new wrinkles and endless nights of tossing and turning wondering about his son of heartbreak. I propose this question to the reader, which son are you today? Are you bringing happiness or heartbreak to your family today? Have you wandered away from the joys of family fun and journeyed into the far country of despair and disaster?

I - The Deep Love for the Two Sons

II - The Different Lives of the Two Sons

III - The Distinct Lesson of the Two Sons

In the space below inspect the similarities of this story to your life and your family. I wonder if this story may prod you to head back home to your loving family:

1 - _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Page 190

“He Done It All by Himself”

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:

The book of Hebrews tells us how superior our Lord and Saviour is to all of creation, mankind, and the angels. When it was time to create this world, Jesus did not have to call in builders and designers, absolutely not. He just spoke this world into existence; he carved the oceans and the mountains out with the stroke of his fingers. At his bidding he flung the stars into their place. He created galaxies in this universe that mankind will never find or fathom. He done all of this without the help of engineers, he never consulted with scientist; he failed to require the advice of chemist. The Lord was adequate for the task at hand and done it all by himself.

When the time was just right, when the voice of God had not uttered one single word to the world for over 400 years, God sent forth his Son. The Son of God did not come as a valiant warrior, he did not come as one of the great Roman Emperors, no he came as feeble little Jewish baby, born to lowly Jewish vessels. When it was time to redeem the souls of man from the enemy, he and he alone was willing and capable to purge away the sins of mankind and totally and fully wipe the slate clean. He was adequate

for the task; he and he alone could fulfill the requirements for the payment of mankind's sin. When it was time to present his shed blood and lays it upon the holy of holies in heaven, he got up from the tomb all by himself. He needed no help to finish the task that he had been sent to do. When the time comes to bring this age to its final climax, he and he alone will step out on the cloud that he has created to gather up his church. He is coming to get us one of these days.

1 - The Unique Greatness of His Creation

2 - The Untold Glory of His Conception

3 - The Ultimate Goal of His Crucifixion

4 - The Undeterred Gathering of His Church

In the space below consider how awesome and powerful our Lord and Saviour is on our behalf:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Page 191

“What Adds Up To Christ?”

Philippians 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

The great apostle tells us of his great love for Jesus Christ, it was an awesome love. I dare say that for us **“To Value Something, We Must Know the Value of It”**. In this passage Paul is telling us that he actually had much in his life that he considered to be of great value. He valued his religious upbringing; it was something that he was very proud to share with any listener. He had the choicest lineage that a Jewish boy could have, he was of the tribe of Benjamin, he was circumcised on the 8th day, he could even brag about being a Pharisee. He lived a life that would be pleasing to mankind, he was so proud of his flesh and his fleshly heritage. As he grew up, did he ever ponder, was this enough, he knew that this all pleased man, but did it please God?

He even persecuted the church; he killed Christians and allowed their persecution, and hoped for their extinction from society. He so valued all of this until he encountered the Lord Jesus Christ as he journeyed down the Damascus road. The day he met this man called Jesus something strange

Jewels for the Journey

happened in his life, his values changed. The things that he considered to be of great value were no longer counted as anything but useless. In the past he counted upon those things to get him to heaven, but now he totally turned away from these things, he considered them to be nothing but great loss. He realized the value of the valuable, he now compared these things to a different standard and these things failed to hold any value when standing next to the valuable.

1 - The Humble Realization of This Man - His Loss

2 - The Holy Righteousness of the Master - His Lord

3 - The High Regards of This Message - His Lesson

In the space below you may want to list something's that you have counted as loss once you realized the worth and the way of Jesus Christ:

- 1 - _____
- 2 - _____
- 3 - _____
- 4 - _____

Journal Notes:

Page 192

“The Perfect Process of Pain”

[Psa 105:17](#) He sent a man before them, [even] Joseph, [who] was sold for a servant

[Psa 105:18](#) Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron

[Psa 105:19](#) Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD tried him.

In this particular Psalm we find the Psalmist proclaiming the goodness of God towards his people the Jews. In all situations God always proved his unrelenting love for this little nation. In this text we find a side note concerning one of the Jewish Patriarchs, we get some inside information on the life of Joseph while he was in prison. Joseph was sent before his brethren into Egypt, he did not choose to go by the

Jewels for the Journey

route that he went. It must be noted that most of us would never choose the route that God sets before us, most of us never reach that level of Christian maturity. The path that God selected for Joseph was the route of pain. As Christians many of us cannot fathom this pain, many of us have never felt this pain, often we fail to foresee the coming of this pain. In spite of our shortfalls this pain still comes, it is often sent from God himself.

We should never lose sight that ole Joe never deviated from walking the straight and narrow path, yet the pain still came. He held true to the holy standards of Godliness, but the pain wrecked havoc upon his life. Often we fling stones of criticism at those experiencing heartbreak and tragedy, though the stones fall at the victims feet unfounded and unworthy of ever being thrown. It is the fool that throws spears from his forked tongue at those that are going through the perfect process of pain. This process has been sent unknowingly and unwillingly to the occupant from the very throne of God. The pain is that pain that hurts in the deepest being of a person's soul. It is the kind of pain that brings forth dark days of despair and draining depression. I dare the reader to doubt these words, look at the prophet as he challenges God for his life at the Juniper tree. Inspect the words that rolled from the lips of Job as he buried his 10 children.

1 - The Lonely Prison of Joseph - His Selection

2 - The Loathsome Pain of Joseph - His Aggravation

3 - The Long Process of Joseph - His Perfection

4 - The Lovely Pardon of Joseph - His Celebration

In the space below list some areas that you may be experiencing the process of pain:

1 - _____

2 - _____

3 - _____

Journal Notes:

Page 193

“When Life Fails To Make Any Sense”

Gen 22:1 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only [son] Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

In this passage we find the dear man of God about to face the greatest trial that he would ever face. The bible says “after these things, what things is the bible talking about? It seems to be leading us to

Jewels for the Journey

investigate the life of Abraham up until this time in his life. The life of Abraham was filled with difficulty and heartache. It all begin on the day that God told him to leave his relatives and go to a country that God would show him. He had to load up his family and start on a journey that would lead him nearly 500 miles from his hometown. How often do we read these stories and suppose that the characters were superhuman? Do you think this was easy on Abraham or his dear wife? Then he had the dispute with his nephew, we all know that family feuds are very unnerving. The next move was God promising to make a mighty nation out of this man Abraham. The only problem was that Abraham had no children and his wife was past the age of conceiving a child. The old patriarch decided to help God out and gave birth to a child by his wife's handmaiden. God told him this was a very bad mistake, later on Abraham has to send his only son Ishmael away.

I want to ask you if it seems like God just does not make any sense. Now God tells this aged old warrior to go and kill his son, his only son. This would be the ultimate test for the old patriarch of God. He would pass this test, because he would allow nothing to get between himself and his God. What is God asking you to do my friend? It may not make any sense at all, but are you willing to step out on faith and trust him? As you read this devotion God is pricking your mind, your heart, he may be saying will you prove your love to me? I hope that we can all pass the ultimate test that God sends our way. As we look back we may find that all of the past trials have been to prepare us for the ultimate test.

1 – The Past Trials of Abraham

2 – The Painful Times of Abraham

3 – The Plenteous Tears of Abraham

4 – The Present Test of Abraham

5 – The Precious Triumph of Abraham

In the space below list the thing that God may be asking you to do for him:

1 - _____

2 - _____

Journal Notes:

Page 194

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Please feel free to contact me for any needs I may help with. If you need some help developing some alliterated sermons for a special need or a special series; I would be glad to offer my help in meeting your specific need.

If this book was helpful to you, I have several more writings that may be helpful:

Philemon - "Postcards from Prison" A series of 9 fully alliterated messages.

Titus - "The Man with a Plan" A series of 20 fully alliterated messages

Ruth - "Flaming hearts in Fields of Hope" A series of 9 fully alliterated messages

"The Art of Sermon Preparation" - A book on how to prepare alliterated sermons

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