

DEEP THOUGHTS

Deep Thoughts

BY

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DAILY WORDS OF WISDOM
THROUGH THE HOLY SCRIPTURES OF JESUS CHRIST
THAT NOURISH THE SOUL AND REPLENISH THE SPIRIT



To set the captives free!

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by Sue Cox
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On Facebook: [tinyurl.com/deepthoughts2014](https://www.facebook.com/tinyurl.com/deepthoughts2014)

Introduction

In May of 2014, I was inspired by the Holy Spirit to start a Facebook page called *Deep Thoughts*. It was to serve as a place for Words of Wisdom illuminated by the Holy Scriptures of Jesus Christ, which nourish the soul and replenish the spirit. Purpose: to set the captives free!

I did not act upon the prompting right away but waited for absolute confirmation from God. After all, this was a serious project and is not something I could just make up as I went. It had to be done by the Holy Spirit Himself, for it involved the Truth teachings of Jesus Christ. I was motivated by the Holy Spirit on May 16th 2014, and with the help of my son Michael, *Deep Thoughts* was born.

Every morning, the Holy Spirit would inspired me to write what He has in mind and what people need to hear. *Deep Thoughts* became a daily devotional with words of wisdom, prophecy, comfort and encouragement to many, and many lives were touched and changed.

Introduction

Now by the request of my readers and the approval of the Holy Spirit, *Deep Thoughts* is available in book form. Thanks to my son Tom for his hard work putting it together. I want to thank God for His Grace that He would count me worthy to do this task. It is my privilege as a Representative of Christ to introduce to you this little book as a companion of your inspiration and faith in Jesus Christ, to Whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Deep Thoughts

Have you meditated upon God's word today? God's word is God's will. If you want to know what God has planned for you, read and meditate upon His word daily.

John 15, Jesus said "abide in Me and let My word abide in you...then you shall know the truth and truth shall set you free."

Do you know that when God is getting ready to bless you with money, He first tests your heart by creating an opportunity such as sending you a friend or stranger in need, to ask you for money? It may be buying the person lunch or giving your last \$20 to the person or paying the balance of their insufficient grocery bill. Jesus said "where your treasure (wealth, money) is, there is your heart also." Obedience brings blessing, disobedience brings curses. Simple as that.

God wants to bless us because He loves and cares about us. It is up to us if we recognize His blessing.

We all see things from different perspectives and in our own eyes we are always right. Jesus told us “take no offense” for offense comes from the devil and it will destroy your day. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Don’t give the devil a chance. He is crawling around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Guard your tongue, guard your mouth. A spoken word cannot be taken back. Amen.

Do not think too highly of yourself (pride) nor too lowly (worthlessness). Jesus said “those who exalt themselves (self-righteousness, big mouth) will be humbled (brought down); but those who humble themselves will be exalted (lifted up, promoted).”

The key to success in life is humbleness. God favors the humble but opposed the proud. On the other hand you are a child of God created in His image. You are worthy not worthless.

Decision making and regrets are the two most difficult and painful emotions. Grace is the empowerment by God for us to do the otherwise impossible. True blessing is the ability to make the right decisions so that we don’t live to regret. That is why we

need the Holy Spirit to be our guide. Jesus taught us, “apart from the Holy Spirit you can do nothing,” meaning only God’s way is the sure way and the guaranteed way. Have you added Holy Spirit in your life? Contact me if you wish to know more about the Spirit of Truth=The Holy Spirit. For He cares about you, your well being and your welfare.

Jealousy is like bone cancer, it will kill you!

Proverbs 27:4 “Anger is cruel and fury is overwhelming, but who can survive jealousy?”

Jesus’ mission is “humble act of service to fulfill an individual’s need” Jesus said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you. When everyone else leaves you I will never leave you orphaned.” Nothing grieves God more than an ungrateful child and disbelieving heart. Jesus is a personal God and He cares about everything that concerns you. Trust Him!

Self-pitying is pride. Self-pity is telling God we are better than Him and we don’t need Him. Remember we are children of God Almighty not children of “self-old-mighty” !! So shake off that self-pitying and tell the devil where to go.

We often ask people this question: “Do you believe in God?” The challenge is not whether we *believe* in God but rather do we live our life *for* God. Jesus said, “Deny yourself and pick up the cross and follow Me.” So, what is the challenge? It is to DENY YOURSELF.

God is a God of clarity and order. He will never ask you to do something or go somewhere without His grace covered. When you embark on a task or journey and feel like it’s an uphill battle, you need to stop and ask, “Father is this really from You?” Satan is a mimicker. He tried to entice Jesus in the desert during Jesus’ trail. Satan will not hesitate to do the same to all of us. Be smart.

If you have clothes on your back, shoes on your feet, roof over your head, food on the table, car to run errands...praise God!! Because He said, “What you need I will provide.” God kept His promises but it is up to us if we recognize it. Be grateful for what you have and thank God always, He will give you more. We can never out give God. Everything in Heaven, on Earth and under the Earth belongs to Him.

Prayer is offering up of our desire for lawful and needful things; it's a pleading of our cause in the court of heaven; it's seeking help beyond our power. Prayer is the personal appeal to a personal God base upon His revealed will. Prayer is co-operation with God's will. Prayer in the scripture is not a subjection, it's a command. Prayer pleases God and pleasing God should be the priority of our life.

So, "What is flesh?" we ask. Flesh is living our lives according to the five senses: see, hear, feel, smell, touch. Flesh also means carnality. We often misplace trust in our five senses: "Unless I see it, hear it, feel it, taste it, smell it, I don't believe it."

Faith on the hand is a substance of things we don't see but hope for. Why is it so dangerous to live in our flesh? Because the devil feeds on it. If we die to flesh, which is what the Bible is teaching us, then we will put the devil out of business. The Bible teaches us to walk by faith not by sight (flesh). Why? So that the devil has nothing to use to torment us. "It's impossible, we are human!" we say. But Jesus told us clearly, "What is impossible for man is possible for God." Question is "are you willing?" After all...what does God and Satan have in common? Flesh=Carnal=Worldly. We cannot put one foot in the world and one foot in the Kingdom of God and expect God to bless us. It won't work.

Beside the love of money, fear and unbelief are the root of all evil.

Christianity is so easy. All you have to do is:

- 1) Stop fighting God.
- 2) Surrender your will.
- 3) Obey God and leave all the consequences to Him.

Last but not least...allow yourself to be a vessel for the Holy Spirit. For He alone is perfect!

We all must die someday, what kind of legacy are you leaving behind? What do you want people to remember of you? Jesus told us we are like grass, here today and gone tomorrow. Can anyone guaranteed we will live to see tomorrow? Isn't He who created us also the One who has the last word? O foolish people, stop taking each other for granted. Stop taking life for granted. Stop taking relationships for granted. Rejoice in the Lord always, again I said: Rejoice! Forgive, say "I love you," tell them "thank you," tell them "I am sorry." Love one another just like Jesus has loved you.

The devil cannot read your mind but he can hear every word that comes out of your mouth. And he

will use it to keep you in bondage. Proverbs 18:21 taught us, “Life and death are in the power of the tongue (your word). And he who loves it shall eat the fruits of it (good, bad, or ugly). So, watch your mouth.

The three strategies of Satan:

- 1) Lust of the flesh (I think, I want, I feel).
- 2) Lust of the eyes (I want it, I must have it, I need it).
- 3) Pride of life (been there done that, I am smart you are dumb, I am right you are wrong, my way or high way!).

No one is immune to Satan’s temptations. Thank God we have a caring Father that reminds us daily in 1st John 1:9 “When we sin, in being quick to repent, God will be quick to forgive.” The blood of Jesus will wash us whiter than snow. Friends, do not let your wrongs or mistakes hold you captive but repent, confess, learn and move on. If God has already forgiven you, you ought to forgive yourself.

Before we call someone or talk to someone about our problem, ask God, “Who can I trust to share this with?” Why? Because only God knows everyone’s heart. How many times have we gotten ourselves in unnecessary trouble because of gossip? The

devil often uses the one we thought we could trust the most to betray us. Jesus told us to be wise as serpents and gentle as doves. Don't wear your heart on the sleeve; you only set yourself up to be hurt.

People often say, "I want the truth," but do you really want the truth? Can you really handle the truth? Bible told us Truth is like a two edged sword; it will cut through your bone. Jesus asked a group of people, "Why do you call me 'lord, lord' and not doing the things I ask of you?" The only way we can deal with truth is die to self. In other words, no more Me, Myself and I. Or, I think, I want, I feel. We cannot serve two masters (God vs. self), for we will love one and hate the other. That, my friend is the truth!

Where there's unity, there's miracle. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there's liberty. You want God's blessing to come? Stop grumbling, murmuring and complaining. Nothing we suffer could ever compare to what Lord Jesus had suffered. So stop all the pity party and thank God that you are alive, your car is running, your coffee machine is working, you still have your job, your bed, your clothes, your shoes, your money, your children, your friends...Just be thankful that you are still here.

Sometimes we just have to STOP, take a deep breath, relax and do nothing. Psalm 46:10 “Be still and know that I Am God!”

Self-justification is the worst thing one can do in a disagreement with another person. Self-justification is simply giving yourself away to be the “nasty” one. The one who talks the most in an argument is the one who is in the wrong. Rather, take your anger, complaint and injustice to the Lord in prayer and ask Him to help you forgive and to give you peace. For the Bible told us, “Vengeance is Mine, you shall hold your peace.” Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and hoping the other person would die. How foolish!

Good or evil begins in the desire of our heart. If we want our lives, ourselves and/or our loved ones to change we must first change the way we think about life, others and ourselves. The Bible told us, “As a man thinks, so is he” and “What you fear you create.” The devil can only invade our lives if we allow him. He begins with a thought in our mind, then uses the lowly desires in our heart to tempt us to act in self-interest. That is why it is so important to praise God and keep a thanksgiving heart always. Because only then will we find peace and beauty of

life. Only if you turn your eyes upon Jesus and look deep in His wonderful face, then evil will have no power over you.

When God says “No” we stop. When God says “Go” we run. When God says “Enough!” we better quit it. Not listening to God’s prompting has a huge price to pay. The Bible told us in *Deuteronomy* “Obedience brings blessing while rebellion brings curses.”

God is not looking for golden vessels (people who think so high and mighty of themselves), He is not looking for silver vessel (people who think they know it all); God is looking for the yielded vessel, one that is willing and available (in other words, humble people). The Bible told us God used the least, the less and the lost to do the great and impossible. God can use you! Provided you are willing to do things on His terms.

God desires to heal ALL people. He is a no respecter of person. The Bible told us, “Sun shines on good and evil people alike.” The key to lasting and complete healing is that we must walk in the Spirit. We must listen and obey Him and we must co-operate with Him. God will not do what we can do and tell

us to do the impossible without His Grace covered. Because He is a good Father and He cares about His children.

Rise and shine sugar pie! This is the day the Lord has made and we shall rejoice and be glad in it. What a beautiful day! Have you praised Him today?

On this Father's day I would like to remind everyone that no matter what we have been through with our father when we grow up, if the memories are beautiful, cherish it. If it was painful, forgive him and pray for his salvation. Jesus told us, "Forgive and you will be forgiven." We can't change the past but we can build a better future with the Lord's help. But first, we must let go of all the pain, hurt, resentment and hatred and allow God to work in you, through you and around you. God bless you all.

The world tries to change a person from outside in with force, manipulations, threats and circumstances (that's Communism and Fascism). But God changes a person from inside out with love, mercy and kindness. Jesus said, "When inside is clean, outside will also be made clean." Only God's way is the

right way. Every other way will only lead to destruction and chaos.

We all work hard for a better life. But what is a “better life”? It is not more money, bigger house, more buying power, newest car, higher position, or power over fellow human beings.

A better life is one that consists of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Jesus said, “The thief (Satan) came to steal, kill and destroy, but I came so you can have an abundant life.” Without God you simply have nothing and you cannot know God without knowing Jesus. For He alone is the key to a better life.

Don't let this gloomy weather bring you down. Everyday is a good day with the Lord. There's no bad day in the Kingdom of God, only productive or non-productive days. The Bible said, “The joy of the Lord is my strength.” I choose to rejoice in the Lord. What about you?

To influence people with your beliefs, you must be an open book. People don't read the Bible, they read you. Jesus told us, “Love one another just as I have loved you, by these they (the world) will know you are My disciples.” Talk is cheap, action speaks louder

than words. Don't waste time on someone who refuses to listen and wear yourself out, but love them just as God has loved you and ask God to put His minister in this person's path.

I once asked the Lord, "Who am I, Lord?" He said, "You are My representative; you are My witness; you are My microphone; you are the dispenser of My goodness and you are My child." I said, "But Father, I don't have the credentials." He said, "Neither does My Son Jesus."

If you are a believer of Christ you have been given power and authority through Lord Jesus Christ, use it! If you are not a believer of Christ then get on it and become one. Just don't listen to the devil that you are weak and powerless. For God told us, "My strength is made perfect in your weakness." The devil is a liar and deceiver; learn to use your God-given authority and tell him off in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

A spirit of poverty is a mindset, which is a stronghold, which is a form of greed. A person can be a millionaire and yet tormented by the spirit of poverty. The cure for such torment is GIVING. True

Joy comes from giving. The Bible told us, “Naked we come to this world, naked shall we return to our Creator.” Jesus said, “Do not store your treasure on Earth but store your treasure in heaven.” Why not ask God who He wants you to bless today and start giving?

We all have suffered some kind of injustice in our lives. Good news! Rest assured, no evil doer will get away with their evil doing, including ourselves if we have done evil against another person. People may get away from justice on earth but no one gets away from justice of God. If you want to see justice done to your injustice, here is the key: *take care of yourself so that you can live long and see the day*. That means forgive, let go and let God. The Lord told us “Vengeance is Mine, you shall hold your peace.” Don’t take matter in your hand, but leave room for God’s wrath.

We all were given 24 hours a day to manage our daily duty. There is no excuse when we say, “I just don’t have time to pray or spend time with God.” True spending time with God means staying connected in spirit. If you have time to go to the bathroom you can take that few minutes to thank Him or praise Him. If you can spare time to go to ball

games or watch TV, you can spare time for Him. So, the question is not if you have time but rather are you willing to sacrifice your time for the One who loves you, protects you, accepts you and provides for you? Spending time with God is a choice, not a command.

If someone calls you bad names, says bad things about you, judges you, criticizes you and/or degrades you, then just remember this: it takes one to know one.

The key to getting your prayer answered and to receive God's blessing is through the Holy Spirit. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit. If you do not know who He is or what I am talking about, simply ask, "Holy Spirit would You come into my heart? I want to know You more." If you do that, I promise you that you will begin to experience Him in the most unexpected ways and you will be glad that you do. But! You must ask with a sincere heart and really want to know Him. He is the key to the unlimited blessing of God.

Hurt people hurting people. Often times we believe we can change a person if we love them enough.

Then we get ourselves all worked up because nothing changed. The devil deceived us by making us believe we are the savior of their souls. The truth is there is only one savior and His name is Jesus Christ. Do not be deceived by the evil one and wear yourself out. But ask the Lord to renew their spirit, give them a new heart and a sound mind. God is God, we are not. Stop trying to be one.

God never promised us smooth sailing but He did promise us that if we put our trust in Him, He will make sure we have a safe landing. Life is not easy but remember who you belong to...the most High God! And if God is for us, who can come against us? Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. If you have God in your life, you have it all.

The devil uses our past to condemn us and hold us in captivity as long as we allow it. But God uses our past to teach us, convict us to bring us to liberty and as a tool for our ministries. The Bible told us, "Old things are passed away and all things are made new to those who are in Christ Jesus." God's mercy is renewed every morning so don't allow the devil to keep you in bondage because of the past. Continue to praise God daily. For Praise and Worship is the most powerful weapon against Satan.

Stress is the root cause of all illnesses and disease. Jesus told us, “Come to Me all you who are heavy laden and weary and I will give you rest.” Jesus is the Prince of Peace while Satan is the prince of chaos. Jesus is the Truth, the Way and the Life, while Satan is the liar, the deceiver and the destroyer. Choose wisely friend, every choice we make has eternal consequences. Decision making and regrets are the two most painful things in our lives. Be smart.

“Teach the teachable but love the unlovable. We all have sin and fall short to the glory of God. No one is more superior than the other. Treat people the way you want to be treated and don’t do to others what you won’t do to yourself. Respect and you will be respected.” These are the teachings of our precious Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

If we want to compare ourselves with someone, compare with Jesus. Then we will see how small we really are and will not think of being a bully or wield power over another human being. The Bible told us, “God favors the humble but opposes the proud.” Next time when you feel like victimizing someone, ask yourself this question: “What do I have to gain?” The root of control is fear and God did not give us a spirit of fear.

Do you know why the first commandment said, “You shall not have any other gods before Me”? It is because the devil will use what you love the most to torment you, whether this is a person, objects, hobbies, job, foods, family, etc. The devil cannot come against God because God is the Creator and Satan is the created. Created can never be greater than the Creator. Therefore do not put anything before God if you wish to have a peaceful life. Put God first and all things will be well. Jesus said, “Abide in Me and let My Word abide in you and you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.” Amen.

Pleasing God should be the priority of our lives. The Bible told us that without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith means trust that God loves you so much that in every situation He will bring out the best for you. Provided, you allow Him to take total control of the situation. What good is it if we pray our heart out and yet we are holding on to the control of the outcome? When we do the natural, God will do the supernatural. Trust Him, He knows what He is doing.

“A tranquil heart is good for the soul, but jealousy is like bone cancer, it will kill you.” Often times we want what other people have, not realizing that this

wicked desire is the inroad for Satan to invade our lives. Envy and Jealousy are the evil twins from the pit of hell. Avoid them at all costs. You will be glad you did!

To live a successful Christian life we must deny ourselves and pick up the cross daily. Our soul is our mind, will and emotion. And it is the very source that got us all in trouble. The Bible told us, "Our spirit is willing but our soul is weak." Do not live with how you feel, what you think and what you want. We can't blame the devil for everything; sometimes it is us and our rebellion that costs us. Therefore we must take responsibility when we mess up. God said in 1 John 1:9, "When we are quick to repent, God is quick to forgive." Obey God and leave all the consequences to Him. That is living a Christian life at its best.

Time is the currency in God's kingdom. Money is the currency on Earth. If we can't give God what He has asks of us, which is our time, why should He give us what we ask of Him, which is money? Nevertheless, because God is good and His mercy endures forever, He will never leave us nor forsake us. He will never leave us orphaned and even when

we forsake Him, He will never forsake us. This is our God, He is Jehovah Jirah God that provides.

HALT means do not allow yourself to be too Hungry, too Angry, too Lonely, or too Tired. Why? Simply because the devil attacks you when you are at the lowest and weakest point. Our body needs food and rest. If you don't take care of yourself, no one else can take care of you. Remember, we only have one body and our body is the temple of God. So take care of yourself for God and for your loved ones' sake.

God gives us temper not for victimizing people but so that you can hate what is evil. Use your temper wisely. Be wise as a serpent and gentle as a dove.

Love is the language of God. The World is full of lonely and fearful people. Hell is the absence of love, the loss of the power to love, while to love is to discover we are loved. Do not withhold your love. Jesus told us, "Freely receive, freely give." It is wise that we are to empty out all the hatred, bitterness, envy, jealousy, unforgiveness, self-pity, etc. and allow God to fill our heart with His love. Bottom line: we cannot give what we don't have. Period!

In an argument between two people, especially husband and wife, no one wins. And the one who talks the most is the one who is in the wrong. Self-justification is a giveaway that we are wrong and we are at fault. Jesus never justifies Himself, the pharisee does.

A Christian life is not a process of “getting from God.” Instead, it’s a process of renewing our mind and learning to release what we have already received through the salvation of Jesus Christ. So, be a blessing not a burden to others and remember, as Jesus is, so are we in this world.

Today I challenge you to lay down all your problems and worries by the Lord’s feet and ask Him for His peace, strength, wisdom and courage to stand. For He told us, “Come to Me all you who are heavy laden and weary and I will give you rest.” 1 Peter 5:7 “Cast all your burdens and cares unto the Lord because He cares for you.” Friend, the Lord cares and loves you more than you know. If you can’t trust your creator, who else can you trust?

Let your heart not be in trouble; you believed in God, believe also in Jesus. For He is the Only Way,

the Only Truth and the Only Life and no one comes to the Father but through Him (John 14). Being a Christian is not blind faith but a belief system, a way of life. Christian means “Little Christ,” “Christ likeness.” People don’t read the Bible, they read YOU. Remember, you represent the Lord Jesus Christ. Quit murmuring, complaining, manipulating and take that “SELF” and crucify it on the cross.

Our tongue carries the power of life and death. A fool is a person who talks too much and refuses to take correction; a fool is unteachable and is a “know it all.” Proverbs 26:4 “Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him.” Friend, if we have nothing good to say about someone, it is better we don’t say anything at all. Chinese have a saying: “A spoken word cannot be retrieved; even if we sent out thousands of chariots, we can never get it back.” Be kind with your words.

Do not think too highly (pride) of yourself, nor too lowly (unworthiness). Jesus told the pharisees, “You look holy and mighty on the outside but inside you are rotten and full of skeletons.” Jesus called the pharisees “hypocrites!” The Bible told us “God hates the proud but favors the humble.” Jesus hates sins but He loves sinners. We are all worthy in God’s

eyes. Because we are all created in His own image. No one is greater than the other and no one is less important than you.

When there seems no way, God will make a way. He promised us that He will never give us more than we can handle and in every situation He will provide a way out. Jesus died so we can have life more abundantly. Be thankful for what you have and stop complaining about what you don't have. There's a lot more to life than just THINGS.

We can't blame God or the devil or people for things that go wrong in our lives. The truth is that often times we are the cause of it all. God gave us Freewill so that we can make choices. If we are unwise, we make poor choices, even bad choices, so if we make that choice there's no one else to blame but ourselves. Remember, every choice comes with consequences either good, bad, or ugly. Stop blaming and start taking responsibility for our mess. And learn from the lesson. The book of Proverbs will be a good start.

I often hear people telling me how hard it is to be a Christian. When we feel exhausted from trying to

be good and accepted by others, we are aiming to fail. Jesus said, “I did not come for the healthy but I came for the sick and sinner to repent.” Repentance means renewing of our mind. Jesus loves you and accepts you just the way you are. Even when everyone rejects you, God will never reject you. Stop trying to clean yourself up with your own strength, but rather come to the Savior and let Him wash you clean whiter than snow with His blood.

Faith without work is dead, work without faith is plain religion. We are not created for us, we are created for God’s glory through relationship with others. Jesus came to Earth to show us how to maintain a loving relationship with others. Beside destroying the work of the devil, He demonstrated how we can live an abundant life. Jesus is a great Teacher, don’t just follow Him like some celebrity but get to know Him personally and intimately. For God is Love and in Him there’s no darkness.

Have you ever feel like everyone is demanding a piece of you and you are being pulled from many different directions? Or when you wake up in the morning before the day even starts you already feel the “busy schedule” pressure? Good news! Here is the remedy: Simply pray “Lord please help me pri-

oritize my day.” It worked for me and for eight years I have had no stress. Do this first thing in the morning when you wake up. And don’t forget to thank Him at the end of the day. For God loves and cares for you very much.

Not all good things are from God. Satan often wears us out by deceiving us with loads of activities in life. Satan is the master of deception and he will trick us into believing that “we are doing ‘good’ things for the church or for people.” Then we wear ourselves out by taking on more than we can handle and the end result is: God, family, friends are neglected. The Bible clearly tells us to “be still and know that I AM God.” We need to learn to say “NO.” A right person or organization will not cost you into the poor house (mentally, emotionally, spiritually, financially and physically). Instead they will bring love, joy, hope, finances and fellowship in your life. Choose wisely!

There’s no such thing as “never ending banquet (party, gathering, etc.)” on Earth. We all must part at some point in our lives. Therefore cherish every moment of your life with those around you, leave a memorable loving legacy behind and while you still have a chance on Earth, go tell the world what the

Lord has done for you. Be a witness of Jesus Christ, not just a mediocre Christian. “Go ye therefore and make disciples in all nations and Lo, for I Am with you always.” Matthew 28:19.

Why do you have discontent? Why do you allow people to agitate you and steal your purpose in life? *Acts 20:24* Paul said: “But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus — the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.” Friend, we all have only one purpose in life...finish the race and fulfill our destiny. Everything else is counted as garbage. We must stop wasting our precious time trying to please people and worrying about what others think about us. Start witnessing for Jesus Christ and start living a life that will bring God glory. Amen!

Faith is the substance that we don't see but yet hope for, while fear is a torment and it paralyzes us. Billions of people are living in fear daily and the most common fear is fear of rejection. True, rejection is very painful and its effect can last a lifetime. Nevertheless, we have a choice. We can choose to be a victim or a victor. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love and of a sound

mind (2 Timothy 1:7). The devil can only have the power that we gave him. So resist the devil and he will flee from you. Refuse to give in to your negative thinking. But trust that if God is on your side, of whom shall you fear!?

You have heard that “sticks and stones can break my bones but words can never hurt me.” That is so wrong and nothing can be further from the truth! Ephesians 4:29 says, “Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.” Friend, remember we reap what we sow, more than we sow and later than we sow. A kind word can brighten someone else’s day. Be kind.

Everyday is a good day with the Lord! God gives us all a free will to choose. We are not responsible for those who chose to be miserable all the time. Happiness is a choice. Choose to be happy. As always “The joy of the Lord is our strength.” Praise Him.

We all know “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control,” (Galatians 5:22-23)

but do you know all these fruits are already in you the minute you received the Holy Spirit into your heart? What we need to do is activate it, not try to get it. Pray “Holy Spirit, teach me to use these fruits of the Spirit and release them in my daily dealings with others.” You will see people are a lot nicer and easier to get along with when you change the way you think and act or react.

There is no good day or bad day in the Kingdom of God. Only productive or non-productive day. Are you living in the Kingdom or are you merely an existence that occupied a space on Earth? A kingdom mentality is “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall have no wants.” “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done. On Earth as it is in heaven.” ...and so on. Friend, if you are feeling discouraged and simply tired of what life has dished out to you, just ask yourself this question: “Am I a Kingdom person or just another waste of space?” And always remember...Who is your Daddy!

God is a God of love but He is also a God of Justice. Ezekiel 33 told us plainly that God takes no pleasure to see the wicked die, rather He wants to see the wicked turn back and do good. Rest assured no evil

doer will get away with their evil doing. Everyone must pay their dues one way or another. Salvation saves us from hell, but we still have to face the consequences of our bad choices. Healings begin with “willingness.” No one can help you if you refuse to admit you are wrong and need help. God will only intervene if you let Him take complete control of your life. So surrender yourself and let God begin His good work in you through Jesus Christ. Then and only then will you see the beauty of what life has to offer.

“**T**he human heart (our mind) is the most deceitful of all things and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?” Jeremiah 17:9. Our mind is the playground of the evil one. Satan loves to pitch his tent and start a BBQ in our mind and shower our thoughts with his wicked plans. If we are not careful, we become his puppet and next thing we know is our life being turn upside down and inside out. Satan has only one desire: to prevent you from knowing the truth. Because truth will set you free. Therefore do not focus obsessively on your problem no matter how great it is, but rather keep your eyes on Jesus and proclaim out loud His promises and Truth. Do not allow your mind to control the situation but allow the Holy Spirit to lead you to victory.

Spiritual maturity is not measured by your age, position in the church, how much money you tithe, how often you have read the Bible and/or how many people you have led to Salvation. It is measured by how you react to people when challenged and opposed. It is measured by how well do you know Jesus and if you keep His commandment “love one another...” It is “be still and know He is God.” It is love the unlovable. It is how you treat people either friend or foe. Jesus said, “What good is it if you love those who loved you? Don’t the hypocrites do the same? And what good is it if you only lend to those who can pay you back, don’t the pharisees do it likewise?” In sum: spiritual maturity is measured by your relationship with others.

What is Grace? What is Law (Ten Commandments)? They are both created by God to keep us from destruction and eternal damnation. Romans 7 explains this topic so clearly. The Law requires you to do things for “him” (religious spirit); you can never be good enough nor can you ever reach “his” goal. Grace is the salvation of Jesus Christ and His finished work on the Cross. The only requirement is “Do you believe?” The Lord is not asking you to defend Him nor to justify for Him, He simply asked “Do you want to be made whole?” (John 5:6).

Christ in you the hope of glory, but only in Christ alone will you become all that God had created you to be, meaning “Christ likeness.” And if we are to be like Christ (which is the desire of God’s heart), we also will suffer with Him and baptize into His death. If we die with Him we will also resurrect with Him in Glory (Romans 6).

Jesus warned us that “the world will hate you because you are My disciples” and “you will be persecuted for My sake.” Are you willing to pick up the cross and follow Him? Are you willing to get out of your comfort zone and pray “Lord send me”? Friend, being a Christian is more than just outward appearances or going to church. It is our inner transformation that threatens the kingdom of darkness. A Christian is no friend of a devil. Nor shall a Christian be a partaker of an evil deed. God forbid!!

There are two ways of doing things: our way or God’s way. The result is very clear: one lead to frustration (our way) and the other lead to fulfillment and everlasting joy (God’s way). There are two kinds of people: believers (Christ followers) or unbelievers (pharisees, the world). One pulls you out of your darkness (believer) while the other keeps you in darkness (unbeliever). There are two kind of re-

ligions: Genuine or False. One helps you find your true self which is in Christ and the other deceives you and makes you believe you are god which is anti-Christ. The Bible warned us when the evil one comes, even the elect will be deceived if possible. So, be wise as serpents and gentle as doves. Jesus is a Lamb of God but He is a Lion of Judah.

Life is a one way street. We can only go forward and not backward. What's done can never be undone. We can't tell someone to shut up but we can choose to walk away. Life is not fair but thank God that we have a Savior that can fulfill all of our needs and deliver us from torment. If you are relying on someone or something to fulfill your life you are aiming for great disappointment and despair. Why? Because God is the creator of it all, He is the owner of the cattles of the thousand hills. He created heaven and earth and all that is in it. Why chase vanity? Come to the One who loves you unconditionally, our Lord Jesus Christ, while you are still breathing. The past is gone. This is a new day. Pick up what's left and hold your head up high and move on. For God's mercy is renewed every morning. Let Him love you.

Fear produces control and all kinds of evil including manipulation and threat. Fear paralyzes us and

causes pain to those who love us. Fear is the root of all evil. If we have fear it is because we have no truth. And often times we choose to live in fear because we love to control another human being and we are afraid to be left behind. The Bible told us that True love casts out fear, for fear is torment. Fearful people are tormented and are bullies and self-absorbed. Friend, we cannot force someone to love us nor force someone to obey us. That would be a tyrant, a dictator and it is evil. If you know who you are in Christ, fear has no place in your life. It is our choice to live in peace or in fear. Think about it.

Just because a person is wealthy, that does not mean his riches are from God. True prosperity includes peace, joy, hope and love. Satan can also give us wealth but it has strings attached; it is conditional and usually given in exchange for our soul. Psalm 37 told us not to be jealous or fret over those who are wicked yet live in wealth. Proverbs 13:11. Wealth from get-rich-quick schemes quickly disappears; wealth from hard work grows over time. Bible also tells us it is God who gives us the power to get wealth. So what are we boasting about?

You have heard a saying “treat people the way you want to be treated.” Too often we just want revenge

and get even when someone hurts us or wrongs us. Too often we seem to forget it takes two to tango and too often we also forget when one finger is pointing at someone, three fingers are pointing back at ourselves. Jesus taught us, “Do not repay evil with evil but repay evil with good.” Next time when you feel like choking someone, take a deep breath and ask yourself, “What would Jesus do right now?” If your answer is “but I am not Jesus!” then it is time for you to get to know Him so that you don’t become a puppet of Satan.

Voices are multitude; we must be very careful of whether the voice we hear is truly from God. Satan is a counterfeiter and a mimicker. He even fashions himself into an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). Do not be deceived dear friend; just because someone quotes scriptures like a pro does not mean that he or she is from God. Satan knows the Bible better than we do (Mathew 4).

Before you confide your intimate problem with anyone, ask God, “Who can I trust to share this with?” Then tell God, “Please set up the divine appointment for me to talk to this person” and wait upon the Lord. God will lead the person to you. Jesus warn us to “beware of dogs (false friends, false

prophets, false teachers and pharisees)” and “by their fruits you shall know them.” Take heed!

Always remember, the devil has only one thing in mind and that is to Steal, Kill and Destroy. So don't set yourself up to be a victim. The Bible warned us in 1 Peter 5:8 to be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. If you are born again, you have been given power and authority from Lord Jesus Christ to kick the devil to the curb. Use it! If you are still lost and can't get out of the Maze, then it is time to come to the Lord and receive Him as your personal savior so that you may know self-defense against the wile of the devil through the Holy Spirit and find your way out of the darkness and into the Light.

We all want a happy and prospering life. Unfortunately that is just the problem. We all “WANT” and no one wants to be the first to make a change. We control, we nag, we complain and we are simply ungrateful. The truth is we are our own worst enemy. The Bible told us, “Where there's the Spirit of the Lord there is liberty.” Where there's unity there's miracle. If you truly want a happy and prospering life, the change begins with YOU. Don't wait for the

other person to change and don't wait until tomorrow. For tomorrow may never come. Can you guarantee you or someone will live until tomorrow? Stop taking life and relationships for granted. Be thankful for your life and someone else's. Nothing hurts God more than an unbelieving and ungrateful child.

So, what makes Satan so dangerous? The Bible told us clearly, "My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). It is wise that we have the knowledge of how Satan operates. For example: Satan puts "bad" Christians out of battle by enticing them to sin, but he gets "seeking" Christians out of the fight by using accusation. He disables the "carnal" Christians by sin and the "spiritual" Christians by accusation. Jesus told us Satan is the accuser of the brethren. Therefore we must learn to resist all the works of Satan in our conscience. Do not give the devil a chance. Your mind is the playground of the evil one. It all begins with a thought. Resist him and he will flee from you. Say "NO"!

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want" (Psalm 23).

How much money is enough money? Never! The more we have the more we want. This vicious cycle will never end and it causes us to be unhappy, dis-

contented and greedy. God wants us to have wealth but He also warns us not to love money. For “the love of money is the root of all evil” (1 Tim 6:10). The remedy to cure greediness is giving. True joy comes from giving. And the only way to quench that thirst of wanting more is to surrender your life to Jesus Christ and allow Him to live in you and you in Him. Jesus taught more about money than about the devil. And He alone represents the true Riches on Earth and in Heaven. Amen.

Faith is a substance that we don't see but yet believe. Without faith it is impossible to please God. As believers we need to believe that Jesus Christ has already defeated Satan while He was nailed to the Cross. Satan's head was bruised and he suffered permanent head trauma. We are not to fear him for he has no power over us unless we give him the consent and power. We are not to fight him for victory, we are fighting him to protect our victories. Again and again God told us in the Bible, “Fear Not! For I Am with you.” You are not alone my dear brothers and sisters. Instead of reaching out for help, reach in and get hold of the Holy Spirit who is your helper and comforter. He will never leave you nor forsake you. That, He has promised!

When in doubt, wait it out! God is never late, He is always on time. He knows what you need, when you need it and how much you need it. If you feel rushed in doing things, that is the devil that is messing with you to wear you out. When you rush, you make mistakes and guess who is loving it? The devil! Therefore, never rush, always trust God, for He knows what He is doing.

Romans 8:28 “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” Friend, you are called!

Love is the language of God. We can't possibly love another human being truly and deeply unless we believe and accept that God loves us no matter what. You simply can't give what you don't have. To love someone unconditionally we must first experience the unconditional love from God. How do we do that? Forgive! Peter asked Jesus, “Lord, how many times shall we forgive a person in a day?” Jesus replied, “Seventy times seven!” Jesus also taught us, “When you stand praying, forgive those who wrong you. If you don't forgive, the Father also will not forgive you. Then your prayer will not be heard.” Friend, unforgiveness is like drinking poison and

wishing the other person will die. It is deadly and foolish!! So ask the Lord to help you forgive yourself and those who hurt you and start diving into the priceless love of God.

Want to live a peaceful, joyful and productive life? Easy as 1,2,3.

1. Do not take anything people say or do personal. A suspicious mind is very costly and consuming!

2. Do not take ownership over any thing or any other human being because ALL things belong to God and yes, that includes your children. Naked we come to this world, naked shall we return to the Lord.

3. Always be grateful of what you have even if it is little. Philippians 4 teach us to live contently in every circumstances whether it is much or less, rich or poor. Most importantly, if you ALLOW Christ to live in you and you in Christ, you are the richest, happiest, most successful and attractive person in the world. Give it a try!

Loneliness is a choice. We are never alone, for Jesus promised us He will never leave us nor forsake us. However, if we live in our carnal mind which is sight, sound, taste, touch and smell and we will fall into the trap of loneliness and discontentment in life. Next thing we know we have sunk into depres-

sion and depression keeps us in isolation and next thing the thought of suicide creeps in and we are finished! So what is the cure? Stop telling yourself “I feel so lonely.” The Bible tells us, “As a man thinks in his mind, so is he.” We must resist all negative thoughts. Secondly, pray “Lord, fill my mind with your thoughts, help me unleash the mind of Christ.” Thirdly, be a blessing in someone’s life by giving, whether it be your time, money, smile or simply just listening. Be a doer of your faith. God never called us to be a lone ranger. So, get up and get going. The world is full of needy people who need you and your ministry. Keep smiling!

True Christianity involves growth. If a Christian does not grow then he is involved in Religion. Religion has killed more people (physically and spiritually) than accidents, wars, suicide and murders combined. Jesus did not come to Earth to bring Religion, He came to show us how to live a life accepting to God. He came to destroy the work of the devil and He came to demonstrate God’s love and mercy for human kind.

On the other hand, humans are naturally selfish, sinful and evil in heart. That’s why we need a Savior. That’s why Jesus came to redeem us and purchased us with His blood. The Cross is a finished work, we are the redeemed. Start living in liberty and victory. How

many more times must Jesus be crucified in order for you to be set free? The answer is 0. You are already set free! For whom the Son set free is free indeed! Amen

Have you ever find yourself swimming against the current or facing an uphill struggle when you were simply just trying to do your part as a faithful Christian to help others? The truth is that the difficulty of our work is not others, rather it is ourselves. We must know that in order for us to do the work that God called us to do, we must allow the Holy Spirit to break through our soul. The Bible tells us, “Not by might, nor by power, but by the Spirit of God.” Jesus clearly told us that the Holy Spirit is our helper and whatever He hears from God He will tell it to us. Bible also told us, “Do not rely on your own understanding, but in every which way seek the Lord.” Friend, if you find yourself frustrated and going against the grain, may I suggest that you stop for a moment and seek God for direction. Pray “Lord, what is it that You want me to do?” and “Lord, how do you want me to do this?” and wait upon His answer and obey.

What do you do when you are confronted by someone about your behavior, action, or word? How do you react to a situation when there’s unfair-

ness and being wrongfully accused? Commonly and naturally we first get offended, then we strike out to seek justification and if that doesn't work we use our "Kung Fu" fist and "Thunder" voice to try to get the upper hand. Some use "Cold" war and simply shut down and refuse to talk for days and weeks. We go from one extreme to another. Yet, Jesus taught us in Mathew 5:9, "Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be the children of God." Stop being a peace-keeper who is just a busybody, unless you are an uniformed official and that is your job. Unless someone is asking for your help, keep your nose out of people's business. But be a peacemaker and do what Jesus would do.

Remember God's mercy is renewed every morning (Lamentations 3:22-24). Everyday is a good day with the Lord. So, turn that frown upside down and smile, it will brighten someone else's day.

If you are a born again believer of Jesus Christ, you have inherited all that Christ had. Romans 8:17 tells us if we are the children of God then we also join heir with Christ. We are rich, famous and powerful in Christ!! So quit begging, quit living as a victim and quit feeling sorry for yourself. Instead of mile long prayers and begging God to release His bless-

ing, ask God to show you which key to use to open the floodgate of His blessing. Instead of allowing your mind to explode with problems to the point of migraine, ask God to help you release the mind of Christ. You already have it, so ask God to help you find the right key, then use it. That is the principle of Ask, Seek, Knock (Mathew 7:7). Know who you are and know who is your Daddy. You are a child of the Most High God, live like one.

As human, we all have a void in our heart only God can fill. No amount of sex, drugs, money, parties, fame and alcohol can fill that void. In fact, the Bible told us, "That which you are addicted to, you become the slave of it." Friend, we all know someone or have someone in our life (including ourselves) who is trapped in this vicious web. The only way out is to admit that we are helpless and powerless without God and we need His Holy Spirit to help us and we need the Salvation of Jesus Christ. Until we admit we have a problem and need God's mercy and grace and Help, we will be trapped in the deceitful web. Then it will only be a matter of time before we are swallowed up by the "Black Widow" (the devil).

The ultimate purpose of Satan's temptation is not to get you to sin but to get you to doubt God (Genesis

2 and Mathew 4). If Satan can get you to doubt God he already succeeded in his evil desire, which is to destroy God's creation, in other words, our relationship with the Father. Nothing hurts God more than our unbelief in Him and His love for us. And Satan knows just how to use us to hurt our Savior. Nevertheless, Satan only has the power we have given him; he is powerless without our cooperation. So be wise as serpents and gentle as doves. Know when to fold and when to call. Satan loves to play poker games with you. Be smart!

This is the day the Lord has made, we shall rejoice and be glad in it. There is no good day or bad day in the Kingdom of God, only productive or nonproductive days. Are you living in the Kingdom mentality or worldly mentality?

When someone calls you names and belittles you, remember, it takes one to know one. Don't worry about what people think of you, worry about what God thinks about you. Psalm 139:14 said, "Thank You for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it." Friend, God does not make mistakes. We are all created for His glory and purpose. No one could love you more than God. Nothing you do can make Him

love you less. God is Love and Love conquers all things and forgives all things. Love is good!

When you feel like you have exhausted yourself with everything you have in trying to help someone, where and he/she simply does not appreciate you, recognize your kindness, or understand your love, then it's time to let go and let God. When God wants you to help someone, His grace comes with it. God will not ask you to do something or help someone without the cover of His grace. God's grace is like "WD40." It stops the squeak and helps move smoothly. Stop banging your head against the wall.

People fight because they don't get their way. The one who is in the wrong is the one who talks the most and the loudest. Genuine love is doing what is good for the other person. Humbleness is saying "I am sorry" even when you are right. Pride is a killer and it comes before destruction. 2 Timothy 2:23 taught us, "Again I (Paul) say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights." Friend, anger and rage shorten your lifespan. Don't allow the devil to get the good of you. Take care!

God is a giver and it pleases Him most when we receive with a grateful heart. God is a good Father and He desires all His children to live an abundant life. In John 10:10, Jesus said, “The thief (Satan) came to steal, kill and destroy. I come so that you can have life and have it more abundantly.” Friend, most of us prefer to give than to receive. But God desires for us to receive. If we are too proud to receive, how could we ever see God’s blessing? After all, God uses people to bless you. So learn to receive and you will see God is everywhere and how much He cares about you.

When God gives you a vision or an assignment, it is to benefit others and fulfill His heart’s desire. How do you know if your vision or assignment is from God? If your vision or assignment is to benefit yourself for self-gain it is not from God. God did not create us for us, He creates us for others and through that He receives the glory by our love for one another. Be a lover not a hater. Be kind, just as the Father is merciful towards you. “Self” is the cause of many’s failures. Take heed!

Who ever said parenting is easy? Thank God we have a Heavenly Father that cares for us and our children. Isaiah 54:13 said, “And all your children

shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of all your children.” Friend, only God can protect your children 24/7. Our job as parents is to take care of ourselves so that we can live long to see our children prosper and live an abundant old age. Stop worrying about your adult children but trust that God has their best interest in His hand. Remember, what you fear, you create. Trust God!

Ah! The beautiful thing call LOVE. Do you know there are four kinds of Love? 1. Brotherly love (conditional), 2. Sexual Love (Lust)(conditional), 3. Friendship Love (conditional), 4. Divine Love (unconditional).

Do you also know love does not sustain marriages? Divorce is not separation of two people but the ripping apart of two souls. Divorce is worse than death. The “Love” that Jesus taught us in His commandment is the “Divine” Love, which is the unconditional Love. It is crucial that we understand this love before we can love someone or marry someone. Hosea 4:6 “My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.” Friend, do your homework before you say “I do.”

Men need respect, while women need affection. In Ephesians 5, Paul taught us to love and respect each other in a husband and wife relationship. Nothing

worse than having a nagging, quarrelsome, disrespectful wife. Proverbs 14:1 said, “The wise woman builds her home, but the foolish tears it down with her own hand (mouth).” Husband, give your wife the affection she so deserves and be a good listener. Name calling and belittling will make her cave inward and you only end up in the dog house. Love one another, just as Jesus has loved you. Do unto others what you would like do to yourself and don’t do unto others what you won’t like done to yourself. Relationship is a two way street. Be willing to give and be appreciative when receiving. Be kind to each other.

Philippians 4:6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

So, here is the simple strategy to get your prayer answered:

1. Take your request and supplications to the Lord.
2. There onward, thank God every day for bringing it to pass.
3. Keep thanking, praising and believing God already brought it to pass, until it manifests.

Remember, the law of nature is Seed, Time and Harvest. That includes prayer strategy. So, be patient and don’t give up. If God doesn’t give you what you

ask for it is either the timing is not right or He knows what's best for you. If you cannot trust God, you can trust no one. God knows what He is doing. He is God!

You know why the Jews refused to accept Jesus and sought His death? Isaiah 53 tells us why. Simply because Jesus did not come in His splendid Royal Robe, nor did He come with a mass of Armies. Neither did He come with Free Money for all. Too often we judge people by their outward appearances, their financial assets, their career and their social status. But God sees the heart. Hebrews 13:2 tells us, "Do not neglect to show hospitality (kindness) to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Friend, never judge a book by its cover. Remember, we are all the subject of someone else's gossip. Be smart!

A healthy relationship is one that brings the best out of each partner. Sadly, most of the relationships can't wait to kill each other. We purposely hurt each other with words. And words are more damaging to a person than deeds. It breaks my heart to see how some relationship brings the worst out of each person. What do you have to gain when hurting the other? Demons love to fight because this is their nature. But God is love. So, stop and take a deep breath

and ask yourself this question: “What do I gain right now by hurting the one I love?” Friend, relationship is work. If you are not willing to do your part, then stay out of it. Stop victimizing others for your selfish gain. That, my friend, is Sin!

How many back sliders are reading this daily? How many know someone who back slides? I have good news for you. Jeremiah 3, God is calling you to come back to Him. God is not mad at you. He loves you and He missed fellowship with you. Like the father of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32, He is waiting with His arms wide open to receive you. Do not let the evil one tell you otherwise, that you are forsaken. God loves you and He is waiting to restore you and to rebuild you. O come home to the Father. Stop wandering in the wild, stop searching for vanity. Come home!

Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him (Psalm 127:3). Do you know in Asia there is no such illness called ADHD/ADD? When a child is active, it is a sign of a healthy kid. But in the Western world, one out of three children above age three are diagnosed with ADD and are medicated. While some are genuinely ill, most cases are due to impatience, lack of knowledge and selfish parenting

skills. The Bible clearly told us children are a blessing from God. However, many selfish parents look at their children as a burden simply because they can't do what they like to do. And we wonder why this country has so much child abuse and the criminal age is getting younger and younger. Children need love and approval from their parents just as we need God and His approval on us. Be kind to your children!

Spiritual warfare is the longest warfare ever fought in human history. Many Christians do not believe the spiritual world exists. Some think as long as they don't believe Satan exists, he cannot harm them. Some choose to ignore it and some are just plain ignorant. Yet, the Bible talked so much about the spiritual world of darkness and in over half of Jesus' healings He cast out demons. Jesus clearly stated that He came to destroy the work of Satan and that He gave us power and authority to cast out demons and heal the sick. Friend, which part of the message Jesus taught about the evil one don't we understand? Ignorance causes us to become the perfect prey of the devil. Start learning.

Many Christians want the Lord to use them. But they were unaware that when we tell God to use

us, it means there's no more "self-will." Everything is His will, His terms and His way. Too many times Christians have failed to serve God continuously because they did not realize this is the price we have to pay. And they gave up or simply became worn out. They told themselves "this is too hard!!" But all God wants from us is to lay down our "will."

Paul said in Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me." And he continued in Philippians 1:21 "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." Friend, Jesus told us "many are called but few are chosen." Do you really want to be used by God? Are you willing to give up your WILL? I encourage you to consider it carefully before asking God to use you. Unless you are willing to pay the price, don't mess with it. Jesus said "I rather you be hot or cold, but since you are lukewarm I will puke you out ." Take heed!

You have heard "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" but the Bible taught us "never fight evil with evil but fight evil with good" (1 Peter 3:9, Romans 12:17). Friend, it is important that we know we do not fight *for* victory, instead we fight *from* victory to protect our victory. When Jesus hung on the Cross, the devil was defeated. As a child of God and follower of Jesus Christ we have already won the battle. Satan will not stop trying to invade our kingdom and

steal our blessings. Therefore it is vital for Christians to understand the work of the Crucifixion. We are victors not victims. Satan is a defeated foe. Stop thinking like a victim and start believing you are a victor because of what Jesus has done. The devil cannot invade you unless you let him. Be wise!

A lot of people use God as an insurance policy. We only call out to God when things go wrong. Worst yet, most of us treat God as if He were a magician with a magic wand. We only seek God when we need a miracle or when we are in hot water. When things are good we tend to put God on the back burner and ignore His existence until next time. Have you wondered how it would make you feel if you were treated the same way? Friend, God desires us to include Him in good times and bad times, simply because He cares for you. We all live a very busy lifestyle, so when one says, "I simply don't have time to pray or fellowship with God," I say, "Do you have time to go to the bathroom?" God did not demand us to set aside hours to talk to Him. He simply asked to be included in our daily lives. Truth is, it is not if we have time for God, rather, if we want to spend time with God. If we want something bad enough we will go out of our way to get it. These days our cell phone is more important than God. So sad!

As you have heard, when we have nothing good to say about someone it is better we don't say anything at all. Ephesians 4:29, Paul instructs us, "Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them." Friend, too often we are quick to judge and quick to speak. We ought to pray, "Lord, help me not to think too highly of myself nor too lowly." James 4:6 stated clearly that God opposes the proud but favors the humble. Humbleness is the key to opening the doors of success in all your endeavors. Respect yourself and others will respect you.

What makes Christians Christian? Jesus Christ and His finished work on the Cross. Without the Cross and His Resurrection, Christianity would be just another Religion. And God did not send Jesus to Earth just so that we might have another Religion. Religion stinks! Religion has killed more people than war, accident, murder and suicide combined. Religion puts a person into bondage and destroys relationships. Jesus alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life and no one comes to God but by Him. So stop being so religious! Friend, may I encouraged you to crucify your flesh on the Cross and kick the religious spirit out of your life for good by renewing

your mind daily with the Holy Scriptures and help of the Holy Spirit? 2 Corinthians 3:17 stated clearly, “Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” Cheers to Victory!

Spiritual warfare is not for the fainthearted. It required strength, wisdom and courage which only Holy Spirit can filled. Too many people have no idea what they are up against when doing spiritual warfare, thus they get themselves ambushed and wounded (spiritually and physically). Hosea 4:6 “My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.” Friend, never do the warfare with your own understanding or without the help of the Holy Spirit. The devil is not afraid of you, he is afraid of the Lord. Screaming and shouting only makes you look like a crazy person and makes the devil laugh in enjoyment. Instead, speak with power and authority from your spirit and the demons will flee. No shouting needed.

All supernatural power comes, ultimately, from either God or Satan. God gives power to those who believe the truth. To approach God, truth is the cost of entry. Do not be deceived dear friends: just because someone is quoting scriptures like a pro does not mean he has truth in him, neither does it mean

he is from God. Jesus told us to “always test the spirit.” The Lord also taught us “by their fruits we shall know them.” The world is full of counterfeit spirit. It is not how much of the Bible you have read and how well you can quote the scriptures, but are you walking the walk and talking the talk? We either belong to God or Satan and to identify that simply look at the fruit being carried.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22). Friend, if you are a born again Christian, these fruits are automatically added onto you by the Holy Spirit. As well as the power and authority of Jesus Christ. Too many of us are neither practicing these fruits of the Spirit nor practicing the authority of Christ. Instead we use the power to control people and become a dictator. Thus we become a tool of Satan instead of God. That’s how people go down and that’s how churches split and families divide. Remember, Satan’s only goal is to steal, kill and destroy! He is a liar and a father of all lies, he is the accuser of the brethren. If you make a pact with Satan, you will go down, so don’t blame others for your own bad choices. Be smart!

Proverbs 6:16-18 told us seven things that God hates. Of those, the seventh is the worst and an abomination to the Lord and that is being a trouble maker or instigator. God hates trouble makers and instigators. Sadly, so many of us either experience it or is one her/himself. So why do people like to stir up troubles between people? Answer: simply because they have too much time on their hand. Therefore may I encourage you to put yourself to good use and ask the Lord to keep you in His daily plan. There's nothing to gain when we cause troubles but there is everything to gain when we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice for Jesus Christ. Choose to be a vessel not a trouble. Choose wisely.

God never promised us life will be smooth sailing, but He promised us a smooth landing if we believe in Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross. Friend, a good life is one that consist of peace, joy, hope and love. These are the things that money can't buy. The world gives us happiness but only God can give us Joy. And He uses situations, circumstances and people to test us. Joy comes from giving. Be a giver today.

I believe in Jesus Christ, do you? If you say "yes" then be a witness. If you say "no" then today salva-

tion is coming to your home, open your heart and receive Jesus Christ as your Savior. You have much to gain and the only thing you have to lose is your misery. Believe and you shall receive!

Voices are multitude. It is very important to ask God to confirm His message if you believe what you hear is from Him. Never *ever* rely on your understanding but always rely on the Holy Spirit. John 16:13 said, "When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future." Friend, the Bible also told us, "Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding," (2 Peter 1:20). Do not seek prophecy but seek the true Prophet Jesus Christ.

As we all know, we are living in the last days. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 Paul warned us what is to come in the last days. People will be lovers of money, lovers of themselves and have a form of godliness but denying the power of God, etc. (read it for yourself). This is the perilous time we are facing. Jesus warned us clearly in Matthew 24:24: "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the

elect.” Friend, stop chasing fame, wealth, power and positions, for these are all vanities. Stop seeking signs and wonders and stop chasing after prophets. Miracle is not God’s best; God does not want us to live from miracle to miracle. For with Miracle comes crisis. And crisis is never God’s method for living an abundant life. The cross is.

It is true that apart from the Holy Spirit we can do nothing. But praise God, for He promised He will never leave us nor forsake us. Holy Spirit is our helper, comforter and our guide (John 16). Let Him into your heart today.

So often I hear people say, “I want the truth”; “I am so hungry for truth”; “I only seeking the truth”...it is all good but sadly most of us refuse to follow the Truth. Why? Because Truth convicts! We don’t like to be held accountable for our actions and that is just human nature. Nevertheless, we should not be living in our old nature. The Bible told us “old things are passed away and all things are made new.” If you really want the truth, then you need to seek the Holy Spirit. For He is the Spirit of Truth and He will tell you whatever He hears from God.

We can never know the truth without the Holy Spirit. Science can't even prove the truth. John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am The Way, The Truth and The Life and no one comes to the Father but by Me." Remember that.

As a believer our job is to be a witness of Jesus Christ. Jesus told us in Matthew 10:16, "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." We were never called by God to sit inside the "box" and count our blessing. We are called to be an influence to the world through Jesus Christ. We are called to be an example of the Lord and what being Christian is all about. Jesus came to Earth to demonstrate the Love and Humility of God and to destroy the work of the devil. If we claim to be a Christian, we need to show it in our lifestyle, in our action and in our behavior toward others especially those who wrong us. As it's been said, "talk is cheap, actions speak louder than words." Be Christ-like today and everyday. Be a witness and go tell the world what God has done in your life.

During my seven years of ministering, I noticed that the one thing people are usually struggling with is FAITH. We all want “guarantee” in everything we do and we have a hard time accepting “No” as an answer. The Bible told us clearly Faith is a substance of things hoped for but not seen. No one can guarantee us what is to come is exactly what we wish for but God. Faith is risk taking. Either you jump and trust God will catch you, or you can stand frozen and be eaten by the lion. The Bible also tells us that “without faith it’s impossible to please God.” So stop tormenting yourself by demanding “guarantee” and let go let God. He promised He will never leave you nor forsake you. That should be enough for a “guarantee.”

Someone asked me what is the difference between Miracle and blessing. So here is the answer:

1. Miracle needs crisis, blessing prevents crisis.
2. Miracle is short lived, blessing can’t be stopped.
3. Miracle is only to get you by, never abundant; blessing is so abundant that you don’t have room enough to receive it.

The list goes on and on. Bottom line, God desire to bless us and blessing is conditional. We can’t be a couch potato and expect money falls down from the ceiling. That would be a miracle. Blessing takes work, time and faith. Blessing is co-operation with Nature

Law and Spiritual Law. If you want miracle, you have to live through crisis. Can you handle that?

So, how do you tell if your assignment is from God? Simple; if it is from God, His grace comes with it. God will never ask you to do something without His grace cover. When the assignment is from God, 90% is God's job and 10% is your job, another word, all you need to do is show up. And if you choose not to participate, God will find someone else to take your place. One way or another, His will be done and nothing is going to stop Him. That's why when God calls you to do something, you know you can because He will provide everything you need to carry out the assignment. This saying is true, "Not by might, nor by power but by the Spirit of the God (that all things are accomplished)." Zechariah 4:6.

Here is another question I have been asked: "How do you differentiate the counterfeit and genuine grace of God?" The answer: Genuine grace of God is an empowerment for us to do the impossible. In other words, the grace of God enables us to forgive those who wrong us. It also empowers us to make right choices in life and bestows the ability to give without asking anything in return. The grace of God sets us free and brings us closer to Jesus. While

the counterfeit (Religious spirit) keeps us in guilt, shame and condemnation. Thus, it keeps us in bondage and in torment. The Bible told us, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty." Therefore, beware of whom you receive council from. Always seek God first and pray, "Lord, whom can I trust to share this with?" Jesus taught us "by their fruits you shall know them." Peace is one thing Satan cannot counterfeit.

People fight because they're not getting their way. Fighting is totally stupid and the only winner is the devil. Romans 12:16-21 teaches us how to get along with people. Stop doing things your way. Start doing things God's way. Pray "Lord help me not to think too highly of myself nor too lowly. Teach me to love others just as you have loved me." Amen!

Have you ever thought to yourself, "If I love him/her enough he/she will change"? And you struggled to keep the relationship going, you tried the hardest. The harder you tried the worse things got. And you wondered why and what you have done wrong. Sound familiar? The truth is what the Bible said in 2 Corinthians 6:14: stop forming inappropriate relationships with unbelievers. Can right and wrong be partners? Can light have anything in common with

darkness? After all, what does God have in common with the devil? The answer is NOTHING. Friend, stubbornness costs! We can learn things God's way or the hard way. Choice is ours. Choose wisely!

Philippians 4:6 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” God cares about you dear friend and if God is for you, who can come against you? Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. Fear not, for He is with you till the end of time. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved. Draw near to Him and He will draw near to you. He promised He will never leave you orphaned. Trust Him.

I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for a Christian to know the Holy Spirit and allow Him to govern their lives. See, there is a difference between just being a Christian and being a believer. Not all Christians are believers but all believers of Jesus Christ are Christians. Apart of the Holy Spirit we can never know the truth, exercise the truth, demonstrate the truth and understand Biblical truth. Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. But we cannot know Him unless we invite Him to come live in

our heart and yield to His leading throughout our lives. If you truly want to live a happy, prospering and influencing life as a Christian you need to receive the Holy Spirit as your partner. There is no substitute. Period!

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners.”

Do you know as a believer you are called into the ministry of Jesus Christ? 1 John 4:17 said, “...as Jesus is, so are we in this world.” Friend, since we are the believer of Jesus Christ, we are also the minister of God. The enemy wants you to be conscious about the “what is” by telling you “but...you have no credentials!” or “no one cares to listen to you preach!” or “you are a joke!” Thus the enemy shuts us up.

Nevertheless, remember this: neither Jesus nor all the prophets have any credentials. The evil one tells you, “You are not qualified,” but God tells you, “I use the humble to shame the proud!” Who do you believe? After all, God favors the humble and opposes the proud. If God said so, it’s so! End of story.

“The Lord is my Shepard, I shall not want...” (Psalm 23). Often time we find ourselves praying for our finances or someone else’s finances. Somehow we think that “if I have money everything will be okay.” That is nothing but a deception. Money is but “a” problem solver; it is but a commodity. Money is not the answer to eternal life, it cannot buy peace in life. In fact, along with money (riches) comes greed, selfishness, pride and all sort of evil thoughts. Jesus talks more about money in the Bible than the demons. 1Timothy 6:10 “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. Friend, money is a necessity in life but do not be controlled by it. For where the treasure is, there’s your heart also. If you make money your god, you are aiming for sure disappointment and destruction in life. Money cannot buy Salvation and that is fact.

A kind word, a smile or/and a hug can brighten people’s day. Do not be stingy about your God-given ability to put a smile on someone else’s face. It is so totally worth it and costs you nothing. Smile and be kind.

So, what's going to be today? Be positive in a negative world and be a godly influence to people or be a sucker branch and sucks the energy out of those you love?

There's no pit so deep that God cannot reach down to pull us out and set us on a safe ground. Question is are we willing to catch His hand and allow Him to pull us up and out. One thing God doesn't do is force us to catch His hand. He never obligates us, He wants our willingness, for then and only then can a person be set free from what was, is and is to come.

No one should be Lord over another fellow Christian. We are all created by Great God Jehovah. He alone is Lord over all. A leader is not someone who bosses people around and treats them like a second class citizen. Jesus told us clearly, "Whoever wants to be first must be last and whoever wants to be a leader must first be a servant." No one is more superior than the other. After all, we all have sin and fall short to the Glory of God. No one and I mean no one is perfect but Christ.

No matter what someone has said about you—good, bad or ugly—remember...it takes one to know one! Smile.

Do not waste time on senseless argument, because it produces quarrel (2 Timothy 2:23).

Why is it so important for us to be right and be the one who has the last word? Fighting is stupid and arguing is dumb, no one is righteous but Jesus and no one is good but God. So what are we fighting about? We fight to control and put fear in the other person, what do we gain? Don't we all end up in the same place called a cemetery? O foolish people, stop striving for justification but leave room for God's wrath. For rest assured that no evil doer gets away with evil doing. We reap what we sow, more than we sow and later than we sow. Take heed.

In order for us to be set free, we must know the Truth, accept the Truth and follow Truth. In John 8:31-32: So Jesus said to those Jews who believed in him, "If you live by what I say, you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." Noticed that Jesus did not say "prayer" will set you free. Nowhere in the Bible does it say "prayer" will set a person free, but rather Truth. Prayer is good and necessary, however, what good is

it if a person prays till they turn blue and yet refuse to be corrected by Truth and change the way they think and act? For stubbornness is like rebellion and rebellion is like witchcraft (I Samuel 15:23). Friends, do not be deceived, only TRUTH can set you free, there is no other way. Come to Jesus and He will teach you the Truth.

Do not seek healing but seek the Healer Jesus Christ. Do not seek prophecies but seek the True Prophet Jesus Christ. Do not seek wealth but seek the One who gives you the power to get wealth His name is Jesus. “Do not be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Be afraid of God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28).

It is true that we want to have a better life for our loved ones and ourselves. Some people work like a dog just to make ends meet. Some can care less where the money comes from as long as bills are paid and they can buy whatever they want to satisfy their cravings. We often think to ourselves, “If I could have ‘that’ I will be happy.” But we neglect that “that” thing or person you want could cost you your soul. In Mark 8:36, Jesus said, “And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your

own soul?” Friend, decision making and regret are the two most difficult and painful things we face in life. That is why we need the help of the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of Truth to guide us and lead us to all truth so that we can live an abundant life that Jesus Christ has given to us.

When the fruit of the tree is gone, move on! Stop dwelling on the past but learn from it. Our past is an experience we learn from to prepare for a better future. A wise man once said, “First time shame on him, second time shame on you, third time there’s no excuse.” We are what we are made of. As a man thinks, so is he. Nothing we suffer in life can be greater than what our Lord Jesus went through. So, stop your pity party, get up and keep walking forward.

When you think you can’t, you can’t. What you fear you also create. Remember, what is impossible for man is possible with God. The truth is that apart from the Holy Spirit we can do nothing. But thank God He promised He will never leave us nor forsake us. So, relax and give it all to Jesus and He will give you rest. “Be still and know that I AM God!”

Before we seek someone to share or confide our problems with, be sure to seek God first and ask, “Lord whom can I trust to share this with?” Do not rely on your own understanding as sometimes the one you trust is the one who stabs you in the back. Only God knows everyone’s heart. Jesus warned us, “By their fruits you shall know them.” A good counselor will lead you to the truth of Jesus Christ. For only He can help you get out of whatever mess you are in. We all need someone to hear us but not everyone we think can be trusted is trustworthy. Be smart and always seek God first.

Have you ever been wrongfully accused of something you did not do? Especially if it targets your personal value and dignity? Jesus taught us in John 10:10, “The devil comes to steal, kill and destroy. But I have come so that you may have life and have it more abundantly.”

The truth is, dear friend, no one can make you feel inferior without your permission. So, don’t allow it! For greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. If God is for you who can come against you? Stand firm and do not be moved.

A simple life is a happy life. Everything else is vanity. The book of Ecclesiastes teach us about this topic. One thing is for sure...after all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world and we can't take anything with us when we leave it (1 Timothy 6:7).

Friend, time is more important than money. Money can be made but time is a one way street. Stop taking life for granted. Enjoy all that you do have and stop complaining about what you don't have. Be grateful and thank God daily for His love and forgiveness of your sins.

If you can't trust God, you can trust no one. For human intellect is but a foolishness before God (1 Corinthians 3:19).

People lie because they are afraid of being exposed and/or getting in trouble. People control because of fear. Fear of what? Fear of losing either the person they want or things or position or whatever they hold ownership over. People fight simply because they are not getting their way. Yet the Bible told us in Romans 12:18, "Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone." Friend, remember this: where

there's unity there's miracle. Stop all the nonsense and start getting along with people. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Amen.

We all see things in our own perspective and in our own eyes we are always right. We often say things we later regret. Yet the Bible taught us so much about taming our tongue. Here is a good one...1 Peter 3:10, "People who want to live a full life and enjoy good days must keep their tongues from saying evil things and their lips from speaking deceitful things."

Friend, life and death is in the power of our tongue. Think before you speak. For a spoken word cannot be retrieved and those who love it must eat the fruit of it (Proverbs 18:21).

The spirit of fear cripples us from advancing God's best. Fear is a torment. Spiritual warfare is the longest warfare we ever fought in human history. Fear is the root of all sorts of evil thoughts and actions and many of us are prisoners of fear. Clearly fear exists when we stray from Truth. If we know who we are in Christ and allow Christ to govern our lives, fear has no place in us. So what is the Truth? Jesus Christ is the Truth. Until one gets to know Christ

intimately, fear will always have a foothold in you. The Bible told us clearly in Hosea 4:6, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” Do not be ignorant dear friend; stop allowing spirit of fear to cripple your life. But allow Christ to take the driver’s seat and be free from your torment.

Again...stubbornness is rebellion and rebellion is like witchcraft (1Samuel 15:23). Many of us are suffering painful consequences due to our stubbornness and bad choices in life. We chose to do things our way. When the outcome is bad we blame the devil and if the outcome is good we take all the merit. We confess in our mouth that Jesus is Lord and yet our heart is full of stubbornness and deception. We cry out to God all the time, “Lord help me!” yet we refuse to trust Him and let go of our control. In the book of Deuteronomy chapter 11, God teaches us obedience brings blessing and rebellion brings curses. It is as simple as that. Choose wisely people.

As holiday season is drawing near, we began to feel the pressure and stress more so than ever. Nevertheless, remember: “This too shall pass.” Everything in life has a season and a reason (Ecclesiastes 3). Nothing is forever but God. So turn that frown up-

side down and march on Christian soldiers. There's more in life than worries.

Whichever door God has closed in your life, don't try to pry it open.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God (Philippians 4:6). For He cares about you and all He requires of you is: *Believe*.

James 1:13-16. Whenever you feel tempted to do something bad, you should not say, "God is tempting me." Evil cannot tempt God and God himself does not tempt anyone. You are tempted by the evil things you want. Your own desire leads you away and traps you. Your desire grows inside you until it results in sin. Then the sin grows bigger and bigger and finally ends in death (spiritually, physically, financially). Desire = the need to feel pleasure but avoid suffering. Desire always leads to shame, pain, fear and suffering. My dear brothers and sisters, don't be fooled concerning this.

It is wise to live simple especially during the holiday season. For holiness means innocence, purity and simplicity. God is not complicated, therefore holiness is not impossible. Simplify your life and you will taste the fruit of peace, joy, hope and love...even better yet, experience life at its best...holiness. What is impossible for men is possible for God and YOU can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. A simple life is a happy life. Live it out.

Stress is the root cause of many sicknesses and diseases in our lives. Anxiety is the root cause of stress. Nevertheless, we possess the power to overcome anxiety. It is a choice! The enemy has no power over us unless we give it to him. So don't sweat the small stuff and don't take anything people say or do personal. Don't go ahead of God's plan and don't be calculative; stop seeking "guaranteed" in all you do in advance. In Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught us to not be anxious for anything. Psalm 23 and Philipians 4:6 also remind us not to be anxious. Friend, anxiety is very dangerous and even deadly. The only guarantee in life eventual physical death. So, as long as you are breathing, be of good courage and kick anxiety to the curb for your own sake.

“Be still and know that I Am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world” (Psalm 46:10). God is still stronger, He is still in charge and the devil is still subject to His power and authority. So “fear not, for I Am with you; be not dismayed, for I Am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10). And “I will never leave you nor forsake you,” says the Lord.

In the midst of all the chaos and frustration during this holiday season, let us remember every day is a good day with the Lord and every day should be Thanksgiving Day for us. God doesn't just choose one specific day to be good to us; rather, God is good every day. In Philippians 4:8 Paul told us, “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” Happiness is choice. Choose to be happy.

Do you believe God loves you and cares about you no matter what? Do you believe you are a child of God and He will never leave you nor forsake you? If you say “yes” then show your faith by casting all your burdens and cares unto the Lord and allow

Him to give you rest. If you say “yeah right”, “whatever,” or “BS” then I pray that the Lord grant you repentance so that you can come to your senses and set yourself free from the devil’s snare to do his will (2 Timothy 2:25). For today salvation has come to your house. Today is the day. Come to the Lord and allow Him to love you. Lay it all down friends, for He cares about you!

When God created human beings He has only one desire: to demonstrate His love for us and through us. When we rebel against His command, sin against His will and choose not to believe His sovereignty, it is like taking God’s heart and slicing it with a razor blade. When Jesus Christ died on the cross, He took on our suffering; mentally, physically, emotionally, financially and spiritually. He conquered fear and paid our sin’s debt in full. If we continue to be stubborn and choose to be in unbelief, we are nothing but an infidel. Friend, are you sick and tired of being sick and tired yet? How long are you going to continue your way instead of God’s way? Proverb 1:7 told us, “The fear (acknowledging God’s sovereignty) of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Choose to believe.

A home is where love dwells, where the heart sings and where souls are comforted. A God-centered home is a safe fortress and strong tower. Because I built my home under God, my heart rejoices and I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust” (Psalm 91:2).

Not being needed is a slow death for a person. It is a tragedy for someone who doesn't have God in his life. If you claim to be a child of God, you are needed anywhere at any time. In this Thanksgiving season be thankful that you are needed. After all, it is a privilege to be a blessing in someone else's life and it is an honor to represent Jesus Christ in whatever good work we do. Be kind to those who are less fortunate, and love one another just as Christ has loved you.

Proverbs 3:5, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.” It is never too late to come to the Lord, He loves you no matter what. There is nothing you can do to make Him love you less or not love you. God is Love and Love is the language of God.

We all know this verse by heart: Jeremiah 29:11-13 “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you a future and hope of final outcome. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”

Friend, memorizing and believing are two different things. You may memorize scripture but do you believe its promise and power that can change your life for the better? If you say yes, then why you are still worrying and trying to control the outcome of a matter?

There’s no pit so deep that God cannot pull you out of it. Psalm 40:2, “He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along.”

Friend, two things God will not and cannot do:

1. He does not lie and
2. He never voids His promises.

Numbers 23:19, God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

God can and will pull you out of your mess if you allow Him. All He needs is your willingness to grab hold of His hand.

Is there anyone you love who is self-destructive, rebellious and your heart bleeds for them? Bad news is their heart is hardened. Good news is God promised in Ezekiel 11:19-21 that He will give them a new heart and a new spirit. He will replace their stony heart into a heart of flesh and He will bring them into obedience to Him. They will be His people and He will be their God. However, we have to stop shoveling the Bible down their throats and drive them crazy with our “own understanding.” Remember, trusting God means let go of your grip and pray and wait. The Law of nature is Seed, Time and Harvest. Before we can change someone else we have to first change the way we think and treat others. Amen!?

We all have been a victim of rejection at some point in our lives. Rejection is a *very* painful experience and it can scar for life. Nevertheless, we have a choice to continue to be a victim or shake it off and say “That’s it!” Here are three core points to help restore your life:

Deep

1.) Sense of belonging = Remember you belong to God (Romans 14:8).

2.) Sense of worthiness = because you are worthy enough Christ die for you! (John 3:16).

3.) Competence = "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4: 13).

Friend, rejection is a choice, do you believe what God has said about you, or do you believe what people have said about you? Who is your daddy anyway?

So what is the Truth? In John 8:31, Jesus told us, "If you abide in My word, then you shall be My disciples and you will know the truth and truth will set you free." How many of us really know the truth? All truth begins with the finished work of the Cross and the power of the Holy Spirit. Here are the four things we have to understand, believe and live by in order to be set free by the truth:

- 1) Salvation;
- 2.) Your spiritual position;
- 3.) Your spiritual possession;
- 4.) Your personhood in Christ.

In other words, to be set free by the truth we must respond to our daily circumstances with the above knowledge. Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge." Only truth can set you free but you must believe and apply truth in your life in order to be set free.

Often times we find ourselves wanting someone else's ministry. We admire them, their success and their fame, but did we ever stop and think what this person must have been through to get where they are? The truth is with every success there is a sacrifice and a process. Revelation 3:19, "As many as I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be committed and repent."; Proverbs 3:12, "For the LORD corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights."

Friend, we all want "Microwave style" lives. Unfortunately, it doesn't work that way. God will refine us like silver and gold if we genuinely want to be used by Him. Be careful what you wish for; ask yourself this question, "Can I handle the refining fire?" Be honest with yourself, then seek God and wait for His prompting.

Do your best; Trust God; And allow Him to do the rest. Philippians 1:6, "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

Every morning when we wake up we are being challenged by three enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil. That is why it is crucial that we know

the word of God to keep our feet firmly grounded. Our enemies love to trip us and make us fall and get a bloody nose. But the word of God keeps us steady and not be moved. Ephesians 6:10-20 urges us to put on the Armor of God every morning so that we can stand against the devil's tricks throughout the day. It's a choice, choose to be smart.

In Matthew 24:24 Jesus warned us, "For false christs and false prophets will arise and they will show great signs and wonders so as to deceive and lead astray, if possible, even the elect (God's chosen ones)." Friend, no one is immune to the devil's scheme and temptation. Satan is a mimicker and a counterfeit. But we have the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of Truth who guides us into all truth. Stop reasoning with God. God will never tempt you nor will He lead you astray. However, God will not violate your freewill nor will He obligate you to do something. It is all about your choice, so choose wisely in all you do and beware of those dogs (religious spirited people) (Philippians 3:2).

How many times has God answered our prayer and closed the door regarding those who causes us pain and grief, only we open it again because of false humility? Friend, disobeying God brings us unavoid-

able and sometimes painful consequences. When God closes the door do not force it open but thank Him for rescuing you from future regrets and move on. God knows what He is doing. Romans 8:28, “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

If you trust your intellect more than you trust God you are heading for destruction...and guess who is laughing but your enemy the devil.

Although it is good to serve in the church, nevertheless, we need to differentiate between serving God and serving men and the motives we are carrying while serving. Ecclesiastes 5:1 says it plainly “Be careful what you do when you go to the House of God; draw near to listen rather than to offer a sacrifice like fools, for fools do not realize that they are doing wrong.”

Friend, a fool is a person who is stubborn, self-righteous, refuses to learn and is unteachable. A student is not greater than the teacher; a servant can never be greater than the master. God is God, we are not. We are to be like Jesus. We are not Jesus.

Have you ever found yourself defending for Jesus and getting into an argument with someone and it

turned friendship into resentment, anger and even hatred? 2 Timothy 2:14, Paul taught us “Remind everyone about these things (the love and faithfulness of Jesus Christ) and command them in God’s presence to stop fighting over words. Such arguments are useless and they can ruin those who hear them.”

Friend, remember who we represent. The best way of proving to people you are a believer of Jesus Christ is to behave like one...for out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks (Luke 6:45).

When we are in a dispute with another person, it is foolish to think that God favors you more than the other person; or that God will justify you and zap your opponent. The Bible says it loud and clear: “God does not play favoritism” (Romans 2:11). In fact, those whom God loves He chastises. So, before we put God as a referee remember this: God will first correct us before He corrects the other person. For “indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins” (Ecclesiastes 7:20) but God.

Teach the teachable but love the unlovable. Don’t waste time on someone who refuses to learn; you will only wear yourself out. But pray for their heart to be softened, blindfold removed and ear un-

plugged. They will eventually come to God one way or another...for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me and every tongue shall confess to God" (Romans 14:11).

God will send you people He wants you to witness or minister to. But we are to go where God tells us to go, say whatever God tells us to say and do whatever God tells us to do (Jeremiah 1: 4-7).

Never, never go seek ministries. The devil is the one who seeks whom he may devour.

One way to enjoy a Christmas gathering is "do not take offense" of what other say or do. For offense comes from the devil. And the devil comes to steal, kill and destroy. Pray "Lord, help me not to think too highly of myself nor too lowly. Keep me grounded in Your humility." Amen.

The only New Year resolution we all need is to get to know the Lord Jesus Christ more intimately. For He is the answer to all your questions in life. Without Christ, you have nothing and can achieve nothing. Without Christ life is simply superficial and meaningless. Matthews 6:33, "Seek ye first the kingdom

of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Be a blessing not a burden to those around you. Life has enough burdens as it is, you don't have to be another “add on” simply because you have a bad day. There's no excuse for a bad attitude, it is a choice. So be a blessing today and every day and you will see the beauty in life. Change begins with YOU and your willingness to become the person God created you to be which is a blessing in other's life (Genesis 12:2).

Sin does not separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:31-39). Sin however makes way for Satan to disturb our lives and thus allows him to steal, kill and destroy what God has given us. God does not discipline us with guilt, shame and condemnation; Satan on the other hand can't wait to beat you to a pulp so he can separate you from God by using your own understanding. Nothing can separate us from God but our unbelief. And that is a sad, sad thing.

Spiritual maturity is not measured by your age or how many years you have been a Christian, nor is it measured by your position in the church or how

well you can quote the scriptures. Spiritual maturity is measured by your relationship with others and how you handle situations when you are in a situation. Spiritual maturity is measured by how well you know the Truth and follow, not how much you pray or how long your prayer is. A spiritually mature person is one that is calm, cool and collected (Matthew 5:13-16).

God gave us the power to get wealth; Satan gives us wealth. The difference: not all good things come from God but ALL things that come from God are good (Romans 8:28).

Friend, Satan is a mimicker and a perfect counterfeiter. The only way you can triumph over his wile is through the eyes of the Holy Spirit which is the microscope of our soul. Don't live life without Him...He alone is the Spirit of Truth.

Time is a one-way street. And we all abuse our time. We spend too much time arguing, fighting, debating and getting mad. Who are we hurting? The Bible urges us not to waste time on senseless arguments for a reason. Should have, would have, could have is too late. God is the great "I AM." Stop wasting precious time feeling discontent and live each day as your last (James 4).

When God forgives your wrongs, let go and move on. When God says, “Good work, My faithful servant,” stop thinking you haven’t done enough or been good enough. When God says, “You are qualified, you are worthy, I Am sending you,” stop thinking “I am a sinner and I am not worthy.” Bottom line is that self-blame, self-doubt, self-pity, self-torment, self-righteousness does not make you more holy or more “Christian.” It meant you are under the influence of religious spirit. So get rid of it!

Pride comes before fall (Proverbs 16:18). In today’s society, being high maintenance is viewed as being classy...boy, what a deception from the pit of hell! There’s nothing cool about being high maintenance. It just shows how immature and insecure we are and who we are following: God or the devil? (2 Peter 2:19).

Remember...God favors the humble but opposes the proud. Be cool. Be like Jesus.

A simple life is a happy life. When we try to be something we are not, it is like going against the current. As Christians we should imitate our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 11). That is why He came to earth two thousand years ago to set the example for us, to teach us how to live simple so that

we can stand against the devil's wiles. Living simple is not impossible, rather it is a choice and willingness to sacrifice for the sake of peace.

Peace is knowing and believing that you belong to an absolutely powerful family of four: God (Father) Holy Spirit (Mother), Jesus Christ (Big Brother) and you (little brother/sister) (Ephesians 1). If you believe in your Divine position, then and only then will you experience the abundant life that Lord Jesus has promised us (John 10:10). Why? Because no weapon formed can succeed against this family of the most high God. Amen !

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything seek God for guidance” (Philippians 4:6-7).

When we feel exhausted—mentally, physically, emotionally and financially—we can't serve God effectively. It is very important to rest in the LORD and recharge. A tired soul is good for nothing but filled with all sorts of evil thoughts. However, a tranquil heart is good for the soul and it's effective in all your endeavors.

Do not let money stop you from dreaming and achieving your goals. The Bible told us, “The Earth is the Lord and all that is in it...” (Psalm 24:1). The

Lord is the Owner of the cattle of a thousand hills (Psalm 60:10). After all, it is God who gives us power to get wealth. Satan on the other hand uses money to distract your focus, discourage your dreams, and destroy your goal. Money is a commodity but the love of money is the root of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10). Naked we came to this world and naked we shall depart. If you make money your God, you will have sorrow in life. If you make God your treasure, you will live happily ever after (Matthew 6:33).

The sad truth: we all allow money to control us instead of allowing God to take control of our lives. We bow down to money but we can't give God a minute of our time. Matthew 6:21 told us, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Unfortunately we all live in the carnal self and we judge by what we can see, hear, taste, smell and feel. Yet, the Holy Spirit is tasteless, formless, odorless and soundless and His touch can only be felt in our spirit. But, who really cares? And what good is a man who gains everything but loses his soul? (Mark 8:36).

It is easy to say "I love you God" but do you truly believe He *truly* loves you no matter what? Do you stand on your belief that God loves you so much

that He causes all things to work together for your good (Romans 8:28) and He will never leave you nor forsake you (Deuteronomy 31:8)? Do you genuinely believe that all things are possible with God and apart from Him you can do nothing? If you answer “yes” to all then why are you still restless and wary? Why do you take offense? Why the hostility? The best way to evangelize to people is by being a living testimony. Remember, people don’t read the Bible, they read YOU! Going to church does not make you a believer of Jesus Christ. But your demonstrations and your conduct do.

Really, the only prayer we all need when either praying for ourselves or others is Strength, Wisdom and Courage. We all live in the desert (spiritually) and we all face Satan’s challenge every day just like Jesus was tempted in the desert for 40 days (Matthew 4:1-11). We need Strength to go on, Wisdom to outsmart the enemy and Courage to overcome temptation. For these are part of God’s attributes and if you pray according to His attribute He will answer you and give you what you ask of Him. Why? Simply because He loves you too much to see you become or remain a victim of deception. So stop praying for vanity and start praying for activating and increasing of the Strength, Wisdom and Courage that you

had already received when you were born again. And put them into practice.

Faith doesn't mean denial of an existing problem (mentally, physically, emotionally or financially). Faith is trusting God will never leave you alone in the desert and watch you die of hunger and thirst or be eaten by wild animals. Faith is believing that no matter how bad of a person you are and how much evil you have done, there is enough grace to cover all your sin (Romans 5:20 where sin abounds Grace abounds much more!). Faith is looking in the eyes of your adversary and saying, "Bring it on, my Father will flatten you like a Pita bread!" Faith is knowing who is in charge and who you belong to. So fear not brothers and sisters, Our Father promised He will never leave us nor forsake us and He is not a God who lies (Numbers 23:19). You are not alone!

Do you know you can give without loving but you can't love without giving. Tithing is a way we show God our appreciation and love for Him and in return He blesses us for our acknowledgment and love for Him. In 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Paul reminded us that God loves a cheerful giver. Therefore it is very important that we tithe not under obligation

but under grace. Otherwise we make God the Father the godfather.

Truth is God doesn't need our money, He needs our time. For Time is the currency for God and money is the currency for humans; if we can't give God what He wants which is our Time, why should He give us what we want which is His money? After all, we are just stewards of what we possess.

When trouble strikes and you feel like the whole world is collapsing on you, do not fear! There's no pit so deep that God cannot pull you out of it. Psalms 40:1-2, "I waited patiently for the LORD to help me and He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along." Friend, the Bible also tells us, "He who waits upon the Lord shall renew his strength" (Isaiah 40:31). God will never forsake us; all we need to do is reach out and grab His hand.

True humility is selfless thought-life; it is dead to the flesh. Unfortunately, most people often mistake politeness for humbleness. False humility however is self-centeredness. And the root of it is pride.

Proverbs 13:10, "Pride leads to conflict; those who take advice are wise."

A truly humble person is a God center person. It is not what we can do for God but what He can do for us. A truly humble person is not weak but wise. He does not take anything personal nor does he pity himself. Self-pity is self-center and it is pride. "Self" is the obstacle that prevents you from achieving your calling and your goal. So, crucify your "self" with the Lord. If you are not the center of the universe, you cannot intimidate people.

There are two ways of doing things; your way or God's way. Isaiah 55:8 "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the LORD. "And My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine." Anytime we do things our way that is a MESS waiting to happen. And often times we blame others and the devil for messing us up, but the truth is we are to blame for being stubborn and disbelieving. Haven't we all learned from the past? If you trust your ability more than you trust God's abilities you are destined for regret and suffering. So, stop fighting with God; you can't win. For the clay cannot tell the potter what to do and how to do it. May I remind you dear friend that God is the Potter and we are the clay (Isaiah 64:8).

Don't wait for people to do right and treat you right.

You can't be a servant of God and be a people pleaser the same time. 2 Corinthians 6:14 "Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness?" We don't want to be a "bad" guy, so we either look the other way or be an instant "peace-keeper" instead of being bold and calling it as it is. Tell the truth, preach the Gospel and be unashamed of who you are in Jesus Christ, we compromise. Friend, be strong in your conviction, make God the center of your life and all things will go well (1 Corinthians 1:17-19).

Again, I say only Truth can set you free and you can't know the truth unless you know Jesus Christ intimately; and, you cannot know Jesus Christ intimately unless you received revelations from the Holy Spirit; and, you cannot receive revelation from the Holy Spirit unless you invite Him into your heart and be Lord over your life. So first thing first, you must invite the Holy Spirit to live in you and allow Him to take over your life before you can receive any revelations or miracles. For it is said "Not by might, nor by power, but by the Spirit (of God)," (Zechariah 4:6) so quit trying to be god but surrender your

will to the Lord and watch Him work. For He alone is Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnipresent. He alone is worthy to be praised. Amen!

It is not hard to be a true Christian (believer) of Jesus Christ. Here are a few core truth to help you succeed...Remember:

- 1) Pride (self-centeredness) comes before destruction (Proverbs 16:18).
- 2) Obedience brings blessing, rebellion brings curses (Deuteronomy 28).
- 3) Without faith it is impossible to please God (Romans 14:23).
- 4) Only Truth can set you free (John 8:32).
- 5) Apart from the Holy Spirit, you can do nothing (John 15:5).

Friend, if you could engrave these five core truths in your heart, you will see the Light and become the light in this dark world. Last but not least...Jesus is the only Way, the only Truth and the only Life and no one comes to God but by Him (John 14:6).

Our biggest enemy is not the devil. Satan was defeated by the Cross two thousand years ago. Satan is a defeated foe! That's what the Gospel is all about. Our enemy is "self" a.k.a. "flesh." As long as we are seeking self—self-promotion, self-satisfaction,

self-glorify, self-everything—we are no different than an addict. “Self” is like drug addiction, the satisfaction does not last and we will always need more and a bigger dose of it. Friend, unless we crucify our “self” with Jesus Christ on the cross (Luke 9:23), we will continue to suffer just like an addict. We will never be satisfied no matter what life brings.

Truth: If you have not experience the presence of the Holy Spirit throughout your Christian life then you are living in flesh and it is time to shake off that religious spirit and practice the presence of the Holy Spirit. Because it is only in the presence of the Lord that darkness shall flee (John 12:46 “I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in Me should stay in darkness”); sin has no dominion over you (Romans 6:14 “For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.”); and you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you (Philippians 4:13).

Friend, religion is based on performance. Jesus did not die to bring us religion, He came to deliver us from this present evil world (Galatians 1:4). Unless Jesus is real to you, you are wasting your time trying. To do that you must surrender your will and crucify your flesh. And put God first in your life. Amen.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty (2 Corinthians 3:17).

Again and again I come across Christians who try so hard to please God that they are miserable! Friend, if you are one of them, I have good news, stop trying so hard! Trust me, you and I make a very poor holy spirit. There's nothing we can do to make God love us less or more. It is not who we are but what He has done, not what we have done but who He is. So stop being so religious and just bathe in God's love and be thankful. Better yet, stop worshipping your pastor but worship God. For He alone is righteous and He alone is worthy to be praised. Relax and just enjoy the ride. Psalm 46:10 "...be still and know that I Am God..."

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things (Philippians 4:8).

Our mind is the battlefield and spiritual warfare is the longest warfare ever fought in human history. We are caught in the middle of a vicious war between our flesh and our spirit. Many Christians have good intentions and want to live right but our flesh is weak. Like Jesus said in John 3:3, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born

again.” Friend, that which is flesh belongs to flesh; that which is spirit belongs to the Spirit. All things are possible if you are willing. That’s why God gave us freewill.

We often take God’s love for granted; we think God loves us no matter what so “I can do whatever I want.” Yet in Galatians 5:13 Paul warned us “You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free (liberty). But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.” It’s true that God loves us unconditionally however that does not stop us from suffering consequences of our choices.

Proverbs 3:12 “For the LORD corrects those He loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom He delights.”

Friend, this saying is truly “you play, you pay.” The forgiveness of sin is to prevent you from going to hell but it does not take away the consequences of the choosing. Wise up people, satisfying the flesh can be very costly.

Often times when things go wrong in our lives, we automatically blame God for our misfortune. The truth is God always warns us before things get to a point of no return. And how many of us actually lis-

ten to that warning? We all have a story to tell about that but how many of us actually learn from it? Fact: Jesus talks more about hell than heaven, why? Because he said in John 10:10 “I have come so that you can have life abundant.” And in the Lord’s Prayer “let Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Friend, going to heaven should not be the primary focus for a Christian, rather we need to practice Christ likeness so that we can be an influence and impact lives; so that we can bring heaven on earth and magnify Jesus Christ. Everything else is just ritual, superficial and meaningless.

In Matthew 22:14 Jesus said, “Many are called but few are chosen.” How many times have you felt like you are called to do certain things or speak up or express the truth in church or in a meeting and you act upon God’s prompting, then suddenly you realize people are not so friendly anymore and you become the topic of gossip? Have you ever experienced that? Then we get discouraged and hurt, so we give up prematurely and the assignment was never carried out. Does that sound familiar? The truth is, dear friend, Jesus warns us in John 15 that the world will hate us because of Him and in Matthew 10:22 Jesus also said, “You will be hated by all for my name’s sake (for Truth sake). But the one who endures to the end will be saved.” What more can I say? Only

the strong survive and continue on with the torch. However, we are weak without the Holy Spirit, for it is written, “My strength makes perfect in your weakness.” Don’t quit! You are important to God. You are part of His plan.

God judges our motives not our actions. Therefore be careful and don’t think for one minute that you can get away with whatever. Luke 8:17 Jesus warned us, “For all that is secret will eventually be brought into the open and everything that is concealed will be brought to light and made known to all.” Friend, we may fool people but we cannot fool God. For it is written: “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” Take heed!

To live a God-centered life we must practice God-centered prayer such as, “Lord, what do You want me to do today?” “Lord, what do You think?” “Lord, how do You like it done?” “Lord, how do You feel about this?” etc. Matthew 6:33 Jesus said “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you.” Friend, when you turn your daily focus on the Lord and seek Him first in all you do, in no time you will experience that His presence and His love and care for you is real. That’s when healing happens and darkness flees. Only in the presence of

the Lord do miracles happen. On the other hand, if you focus on “me, myself and I” and “I think, I want, I feel,” you will continue to stumble and fall.

God desires for us to connect with Him 24/7. But we tend to only call Him when we need something or when we are in a jam. That is a sad truth. We make God a magician with a magic wand and expect Him to do what we say, when we say and how we want it done, or else! We even go on starvation and call that “fasting” to try to manipulate God like some hunger strike. If that doesn’t work and God still doesn’t answer our prayer, we call upon the whole congregation to pray and make prayer requests wherever we go in hope of moving God to give us what we want. Yet, God only moves if we trust Him enough to let go of our grip on what is. The world is constantly seeking answers to everything but God told us to be anxious for nothing. In Matthew 6:8 Jesus said, “Do not be like them (the world, non-believers) for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.” Stop trying to manipulate God; you are wasting your energy. And it gives Satan an inroad to harass you. For Satan is like a roaring lion crawling around seeking whom he may devour.

If you are not willing to surrender your will and give yourself as a living sacrifice to the Lord, what good is your faithfulness to the church that you are serving? Isn't that just another religion? Isn't that just another deception? There is a difference between serving the Lord through the church and serve the church to get to the Lord. God wants your heart not your work. Your work is to satisfy your own craving and status but what matters in your heart matters to God. For you are saved by grace through faith, not by work, so that no one can boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).

“Don't worry, be happy!” “It's ok, God is in control!” “Everything is going to be fine!” “It will all work out!” “You can do it!” ...All these things are true and possible if you trust Him!

When in doubt, wait it out. Not all “good” things are from God. But all things from God are good. Read the fine print before you sign the dotted line. For what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (Matthew 16:26).

It's fun to go to church, it's necessary to fellowship with other believers, but above all getting to know

Jesus Christ and having an intimate relationship with Him is most important of all and a must! For He alone is God. Glory to the Lord forever amen!

When we go through trials and challenges in life, instead of ranting about “why God why; when God when” we should stop and ask, “Lord what are you teaching me?” “Lord what are you telling me?” Assuredly I tell you, the lesson is to humble yourself before God. Why? Simply because God favors the humble but opposes the proud. With humility there’s obedience. And obedience always brings blessing. However, pride is rebellion and rebellion is like witchcraft, nothing good will come out of that. It is that simple.

Fear is the opposite of faith; good is the opposite of evil; kindness is the opposite of selfishness; humbleness is the opposite of pridefulness. You can’t put one foot in the Kingdom of God and one foot in the world. Jesus said, “I rather you be cold or hot, but if you are lukewarm I will spew you out of My mouth” (Revelation 3:16).

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles;

they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

Remember who is your Daddy and smile!

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Matthew 5:11-12).

Stand firm in your conviction children, for if God is for you who can come against you? Do not shut up but keep testifying of His glory. Amen.

“Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed My teaching, they will obey yours also” (John 15:20).

Friend, do not waste time on senseless arguments. You don’t have to defend Jesus, I am sure He can defend for Himself. Just be a witness of Jesus Christ and be Christ-like. After all, actions speak louder than words.

Jesus said to the people who believed in Him, “You are truly My disciples if you remain faithful to my

teachings. And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32).

We suffer and struggle because we do not have the truth in us. Yet no one likes the truth because truth convicts us and leads us to repentance and repentance leads us to liberty and liberty sets us free from our torment. But we are stubborn and rebellious in nature, that’s why we need a Savior and His name is Jesus Christ.

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39).

Friend, your sin can never be greater than the love and grace of God. The Cross is the finished work. You are forgiven. Stop beating yourself up with the past. It is water under the bridge. Repent, receive God’s forgiveness and move on. Stop wasting your precious time dwelling in your wrongs. Life is too short and Jesus Christ has paid a high price for your freedom. Embrace this truth.

“And because they decided in themselves not to know God, God handed them over to a worthless

mind so that they would be doing whatever is inappropriate. Their lives are filled with all kinds of evil intentions, wickedness and greed. They are mean. They are filled with envy, murder, quarreling, deceit and viciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents. Because they have no stability, neither love, nor peace, nor compassion in them” (Romans 1:28-31).

God is King of kings not “Burger King”; you can’t have it your way! Wow!!

“The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want.” (Psalm 23:1). We all know this famous Psalm but do you know that “wanting” is what gets you in trouble? We want what we don’t have, so we covet, quarrel and fight. We have not because we ask not; when we ask, we do not receive, because we ask with wrong motives, that we may spend what we get on our pleasures.

“Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him” (Psalm 34:9). Selah!

“Be still in the presence of the LORD and wait patiently for him to act. Don’t worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes.

Stop being angry! Turn from your rage! Do not lose your temper—it only leads to harm” (Psalm 37:7-8).

Do you have any such experience in your life that it makes you want to take justice into your own hands? Well, I am glad you didn't or you wouldn't be reading this post. Rest assured people, no evil doer gets away with evil doing. Vengeance belongs to the Lord, you shall hold your peace.

“Because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am sure of this, that He who begun a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:5-6)

Friend, God never promised us smooth sailing in life but He promised us we will have a safe landing if we walk alongside the Lord. Therefore let your heart not be troubled nor let it be dismayed. You believe in God, believe also in Jesus Christ. For He cares about you.

“Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world” (1 John 4:1).

Amen! Friend, the best way to test a person is to say “NO” and you will see how fast their head turns, their voice changes and their face drops. There!

Since we know we are the body of Christ; therefore stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. And “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil (Ephesians 4:25-27).

Friend, Satan has only as much power over you as you give him. So resist the devil and he will flee from you. Put God first in your life and all things will go well for you.

“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. And do everything with love” (1 Corinthians 16:13-14).

Truth: God will never obligate us to do something, that’s why we have freewill. If we are not willing to submit ourselves to God and do things His way, His timing and His order, don’t blame God for our failure. So, whatever we do in life, either do it with love for Christ and others or don’t do it at all.

“If you need wisdom, ask our generous God and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking” (James 1:5).

So...what is the excuse for being ignorant?

“There is no fear in love. But perfect love casts out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18).

O that thing called LOVE! Can't live with it, Can't live without it.

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres...” (1 Corinthians 13).

Now you say: “I know all that!” So, I ask you: “What is your problem?”

So...You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is good for you. You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is beneficial. No one should seek their own good, but the good of others (1 Corinthians 10:23-24).

The word JOY means Jesus, Others, You. To love someone is to do what is good for that person. Remember that.

“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water” (John 7:38).

Beloved, out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. Listen more, talk less. Unless the Holy Spirit is speaking through you, we ought to guard our mouth and watch our lips, for a spoken word cannot be retrieved and a loose tongue is more poisonous than the cobra. If you have nothing good to say to a person, better to not say anything at all. Amen!

“Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. You will know them by their fruits” (Matthew 7:15-16).

Friends, before you confide your innermost secrets to someone you think you can trust, it is wise to examine their fruit. What kind of fruit does this person carry? Does this person have peace in him/her? Does he/she carry the light of Jesus Christ? Two things Satan cannot counterfeit: Peace and Love. Why? Because Satan has no peace nor love. You can't give what you don't have. Period.

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction and many enter through it. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult and only a few ever find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

Friend, if you want to end up in the pit fast, just keep walking in your rebelliousness and you will get there in no time. But if you are sick and tired of being sick and tired, then it is wise to turn around and start walking toward the Light of Jesus Christ. It is never too late.

When you think you can't; you can't.

When you think you are a failure; you are a failure.

When you think you are a victim; you are a victim.

Bottom line, as a man thinks in his heart so is he. Get rid of the negative thoughts and think positive. A tranquil heart is good for the soul. Live it up!

True! Without faith, it is impossible to please God. However, without humility you won't go far in life. James 4:6 told us, “God favors the humble but opposes the proud.” When we humble ourselves before God, heaven opens and the favor of God will pour down on us like midsummer rain, so much favor and blessing that you have no room to contain it. So you want God's blessing and favor? Start humbling

yourself before God and wait to see His miracles shower your life.

To every shepherd is given a flock of sheep. And the shepherd's job is to take care of the sheep's need and keep them from harm's way. Sheep are stupid and can't do things on their own, that's why God uses sheep to represent us. It is unthinkable when shepherds expect the sheep to take care of their own needs. If shepherds have needs they should take it to the Boss who is God the Father and trust that in His mercy and kindness He will provide all their needs, rather than going after the sheep and forcing them to yield more wool. John 10 teaches us clearly that Jesus is the good Shepherd but the hirelings only care for themselves. So, to all leaders in the body of Christ, be a good shepherd and not a hireling. Remember, we reap what we sow, more than we sow and later than we sow. Take heed!

As long as we are holding on to controlling the outcome of a situation or circumstance, we will fail! The result will not last and often times it ends up in catastrophe and chaos. In Isaiah 55:8-9 the Lord declares, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, for just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so My ways are higher

than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts.”

Friends, if you think you can do a better job than God, you are kidding yourself. Don't be a fool, let go and let God. Peace be with you all!

What makes Christianity *Christianity*? Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ; The Way, The Truth and The Life and no one comes to God but by Him. Everything else is just religion. So, what are you waiting for? Tell Him you want to get to know Him and tell Him to come to your heart and reveal Himself to you. He promised, “I will never reject anyone who comes to Me” (John 6:37).

Someone said to me with great pride “Tell me something I don't know.” I said, “Do you think you really know Jesus Christ?” She looked at me, rolled her eyes and no word came out of her mouth.

Truth: Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions (Proverbs 18:2). Be smart!

So, you think you're not fit to be used by God because of your past or you've thought to yourself a million times, “God will never use a loser like me.”

Well, Praise the Lord, I have good news for you my dear friend; “But God chose what the world considers nonsense (worthless) to put wise (prideful) people to shame. God chose what the world considers weak to put what is strong (self-righteous) to shame” (1 Corinthians 1:27).

There is hope people, don't ever quit! It is not over until the Holy Spirit says, “It's over.” Amen!

Jesus said to His disciples:

“I Am the true vine and My Father is the gardener. He cuts away every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit. But He trims clean every branch that does produce fruit, so that it will produce even more fruit” (John 15:1-2).

Isn't it time for you to go out in the field to share your fruits with those who are hungry for Truth? What good is it to be fed all your life by going to church and learning but never putting what you learn into practice? The field is ripe but the workers are few. Get off your seat and make yourself useful for the Glory of Christ sakes. It's time!

“Then Jesus told them, ‘A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family.’ And because of their unbelief, Jesus couldn't do any miracles among

them except to place His hands on a few sick people and heal them” (Mark 6:4-5).

Unbelief is the #1 killer in Christian faith. Unbelief gives birth to pride; pride gives birth to stubbornness; stubbornness gives birth to rebellion; rebellion gives birth to witchcraft. End result is a discontented, dissatisfied and chaotic life and Eternal damnation! Yup! It is that serious.

O the power of Prayer; so many got their prayers answered and so many didn't. Why? Prayer is powerful if you pray it God's way:

Jesus taught us clearly in Matthew 6:5-8 God's way to pray: “When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues (churches) where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask Him!”

Friend, you all already know this, now engrave it on the tablet of your heart.

Christians are not called to destroy the work of the devil, Jesus already did that. Christians are called to be the Light in the world and Salt of the earth. Jesus came to demonstrate that. So you say, "But that's too hard." Or, "I am not Jesus." It is only hard if we allow our flesh to take control of our intention. The Bible says, "Our spirit is willing but our flesh is weak." Friend, nothing is impossible with God. It is only impossible if you focus on your carnal self a.k.a. FLESH (me, myself and I; I think, I want, I feel). We are to walk by faith not by sight; we are to pray from victory not for victory. We are to imitate Jesus Christ not use His name to deceive, oppress and abuse others.

God judges motive of the heart not action; the World judges action not motive of the heart. No wonder we are in such a mess. The Bible tells us we are from the world but not of the world (John 17:16). If we choose to follow the world and be a puppet of the evil one to do his will, don't blame God for our failures. After all, we all have a freewill. And God will not violate our freewill, neither will He obligate us to do His will. We are the puppets; who do you choose to be your puppet master?

So, what is success? In the world, success is measured by prestige, position and wealth. In the Kingdom it is done by humility, obedience to God and relationship with others (love). Jesus came to demonstrate humility, obedience and love two thousand years ago while He walked on Earth. Satan however uses lust of the eyes, lust of the heart and pride of life to tempt us and cause us to stumble and fall. Friend, be careful what you wish for, no one is immune to temptations of the evil one. Humility is the avenue to true success in life.

The step to achieve humility is to praise and thank God everyday. Begin, follow through and end your day with praise and thanksgiving and over time you will see how small you are and how BIG God is.

John 3:30 said, "He must become greater and greater and I must become less and less.

Friend, that which you set your focus on will multiply and magnify. Focus on the Lord not self.

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Don't give up guys! "For I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns" (Philippians 1:6). Blessed are those who endure to the end. Hold on to the Holy Spirit and don't let your hand slips.

"Whoever lives under the shelter (secret place) of the Most High will remain in the shadow (protection) of the Almighty" (Psalm 91:1).

There is a secret place in the Kingdom that Satan does not know and can't be touched. I often pray, "Lord, thank You for keeping us in Your secret place. Thank You that all my children and grandchildren are taught by You and great is the peace of all my children and grandchildren (Isaiah 54). Thank You for the Grace and Favor You gave us and whatever we land our hand on we prosper."

Friend, Faith is not belief without proof, but trust without reservation.

The first commandment, "You must not have any other god but Me" (Exodus 20:3).

Do you know the reason why God made that the first commandment?

The reason we must not have any other god (people, things, career, etc.) is so that the devil cannot use

it to torment us. The enemy is constantly crawling around us seeking whom, what and how he may use to devour us. But he cannot use God to torment us. For God alone is the creator and everything else is created. Creation can never be greater than the creator. So, of whom shall you fear, if you put God first in your life?

For the wisdom of this world (human intellect) is foolishness to God. As the Scriptures say, "He traps the wise (self-made) in the snare of their own cleverness." And again, "The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise (self-proclaimed); He knows they are worthless" (1 Corinthians 3:19-20).

Truth: Everyone can quote scriptures and many can even preach the Bible. But only those who are anointed by the Holy Spirit and carry the commission of the Lord can preach the Truth and make the Gospel easily understood by all. God is not complicated nor is He confusion. Beware of who you are following. Satan knows the Bible better than you do.

Too many Christian stay faithful only as long as it's safe and doesn't involve risk, rejection, or criticism. They are afraid to speak up or rock the boat. They run after prophecies and seek healing instead of going after the Prophet and Healer Jesus Christ. They

follow, worship and are faithful to their leaders but yet they can't follow the simple commandment to love one another. Jesus says it right, "Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit" (Matthew 15:14).

Because the Lord disciplines the one He loves and He chastens everyone He accepts as His son (Hebrews 12:6), do not be discouraged nor be dismayed, for the pain of discipline is temporary but the pain of consequence is permanent. God loves us too much to see us go down. Blessed are those who endure to the end.

There's no pit so deep that God cannot reach down and pull you out (Psalm 40:2). And nothing you suffer in life can be greater than what the Lord Jesus suffered before, during and after His arrest even to the Cross. So, turn your focus on SELF to focus on CHRIST; the ONE and ONLY means of your total freedom in life.

Fear not little one, "I have told you all this (the knowledge of the Gospel) so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many tri-

als and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world” (John 16:33) .

Praise the Lord Jesus Christ. For Thy is the Kingdom of Power and Glory forever. Amen.

A humble heart is a heart filled with gratitude.

When you are facing challenges, stare into your adversary’s eyes and do what Jesus would do.

Unforgiveness leads to resentment, resentment leads to hatred, hatred leads to bitterness and bitterness is like having cancer in the final stages. It KILLS!!

Never, never, never argue with the devil; for he has had thousands of years of practice and he is good at it.

We all know Satan is our adversary and accuser of the brethren. But do you know we are not to fight Satan on our own? Effective and powerful spiritual warfare must done under the authority and guidance of the Holy Spirit, lest ye get beat up! Be smart!

Chinese have a saying: “If you think you are the tallest mountain in the world, you are deceiving yourself, because there is always another mountain taller than you.” In other words: pride precedes a disaster and an arrogant attitude precedes a fall (Proverbs 16:18).

Stop trying so hard to please people. Stop condemning yourself for not being good enough. Stop comparing yourself with others. Stop telling yourself you are a sinner. Jesus said in Luke 5:32, “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” Friend, come to the Lord and let Him clean you white as snow. Stop being so hard on yourself. You are wasting your life away. And that is dumb!

Unless a person has experienced the unconditional love of God, he/she is not capable to love another human being fully. We are naturally selfish and stubborn and we can't give something we don't have. So, in order for us to love fully we must first believe and accept God's love for us. For Love is the language of God.

Do you know if you openly proclaim that you are a Christian and every word coming out of your

mouth is “praise God, Amen and Hallelujah” you are being watched by the world? Why? Because you are an open Bible; people don’t read the Bible they read you! So, be sure to watch your attitude and remember, actions speak louder than words.

Sometimes, you just have to say “No!” and quit worrying about how the other person will receive it. When you speak the truth, the rest is between them and God. You are not responsible for someone else’s miseries. After all, happiness is a choice.

People fight because they don’t get their way. Ask yourself this question before you start an argument: “What do I have to gain through this?” If you answer “satisfaction!” then you have a long road in front of you to get to the “peaceful lane.” The Bible teaches us: “The LORD shall fight for you and you shall hold your peace” (Exodus 14:14). Therefore, dear friend, learn when to speak and when to shut up. For in a dispute no one wins but the devil. Be smart!

We can give without loving but we can’t love without giving. When we love someone, we naturally want to give them our all and our best. It’s the same with caring; we can’t care for someone if we don’t

love them. Unfortunately, many people have experienced rejection and abuse by the one they love (parent, child, siblings, spouse, friend, etc.) Why is that? The answer is simple: hurt people hurting people! In order to be able to receive love and accept care from those who love you, you must first forgive yourself and those who wrong you. Proverbs 14:10 “The heart knows its own bitterness and joy; he will not share these with a stranger.” Friend, if you know someone with a hardened heart, pray for them not crucify them. Amen.

There’s no such thing as never ending banquet. Everything must come to an end. Ecclesiastes 3:1 “There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens.” Friend, cherish all that you have; forgive all those who wrong you and tell someone you love them while they are still around. Can anyone promise tomorrow will be another day? Isn’t God the one who counts our days on earth?

I have said this before and I will say it again—only TRUTH will set you free (John 8:32). We can not and will not know the absolute TRUTH unless we are guided under the HOLY SPIRIT. For He is the Spirit of Truth. So first things first, you want to get

out of your jam; you are sick and tired of being sick and tired. Ask the Holy Spirit to come live in your heart and He will transform you and lead you to the way of the Master—Jesus Christ. Then you shall know the Truth and Truth shall set you free.

We all want God to bless and prosper us and our children. And the only way we are going to get that is through obedience to God's command. Deuteronomy 28 speaks loud and clear: "Obedience brings blessing; rebellion brings curses." Friend, you can't expect God to bless you if you keep on walking on the path of rebellion. God's love is unconditional but His blessing is conditional. Remember that.

When in doubt wait it out. Whatever you are doing or plan to do, always pray first, wait upon the Lord and then act. Remember, God will never rush you into something. Rushing comes from the devil. Why? Because when you rush you make mistakes. So, learn to be patient and wait upon the Lord.

Where the genuine servant of the Lord is, there will be the counterfeit also. The Bible tells us to test the spirit of the person. Do not be fooled by soft spoken, extremely friendly and falsely humble people.

The only way you are going to be able to identify the counterfeit is through the eyes of the Holy Spirit and “by their fruits you shall know them” (Luke 6:43-45). Pray “Lord, help me see this person through your eyes.” “Lord, show me the governing spirit of this person.” “Lord help me to be sensitive to Your voice.” Amen.

What good is it to worry? What do you gain from worrying? The Bible tells us: “All things are wearisome, more than one can say. The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing. What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:8-9).

Friend, when life takes you to a rough place, remember what Jesus said: “Fear not! For I Am with you always.” Stop worrying!

How do you identify genuine people of God vs. Religious-spirited people? Simple:

Religious-spirited people use guilt, shame and condemnation to keep you in bondage, they make you dependent on them (false humility) and thus you become their slave. They are power hungry and are control freaks; while genuine people of God always point you to Jesus who is the only truth, only way and

only life. They take no offence and humility is their trademark. When you are with them you feel safe (mentally, spiritually and physically). They demonstrate the love and kindness of Jesus Christ.

We all have so much to be thankful for. Nothing hurts God more than an ungrateful child of God. One way to show God you really appreciate Him is to STOP complaining about your lack and dissatisfaction for what you have. Honestly, you can't afford for God to lift His hand. If He does, you would be doomed!

To increase your faith in God, begin with praise and thanksgiving. Build a habit of thanking and praising God every morning when you wake up, throughout the day and before bed. The more you focus on praise and thanksgiving, the more your faith will grow and in no time you will begin to see the beauty and the glory of God in and around you. Miracles will begin to happen and God's presence becomes so tangible that you become totally powerless! And all you want is to pour out your love for Him and worship Him. That is the true power of being a child of God.

You cannot know God if you do not know Jesus; and you cannot know Jesus if you do not have the Holy Spirit as your partner in faith. Period!!

To all my Christian brothers and sisters,

As a Christian we are called to demonstrate God's loving kindness and tender mercy. We are called to be a witness of Christ' goodness and salvation. We are not called to self-sufficiency, we are called to God-sufficiency. We are not called to self-reliance, we are called to God-reliance. Not self-righteousness but righteousness in Christ. Know the truth because it will set you free.

“I have hoped in you, Lord Jehovah; I shall never be disappointed; deliver me in your righteousness!” (Psalm 31:1).

Friend, if you cannot trust God; you are setting yourself up for failure and disappointment in life. No one knows you better than God. Trust Him! He knows what He is doing.

So often we seek someone to pray for us. Why? No one knows you and your situation better than you and God. All prayer is, is telling God what is going on in you and how you need Him to help you. Can

another person express in a better way in prayer concerning you than you yourself? Does that person or people have more privilege and power to get the prayer answered than you do? Isn't God a no respecter of person and isn't he a no rewarder of favoritism? Friend, when Jesus died on the cross, the veil was torn in two. The only thing that separates us from God is our faith in Christ. You don't need someone else to take your petition to God. You have been granted the free entry to the throne of Grace. It helps when someone prays *with* us for moral support but not pray *for* us. Do your own homework, children.

“The earth is the LORD’s and everything in it, the world and all who live in it” (Psalm 24:1).

What a gorgeous day to be alive and well! There is so much in life to be thankful for. So, stop your pity party and enjoy what God has put in your hand. Be grateful for what you have.

Our greatest enemy of all time: the flesh, a.k.a. self!

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. Fools are quick to judge, quick to anger and slow in learning.

They are stubborn and understanding is not in them (from the book of Proverbs).

“The fear of the LORD is the foundation of true wisdom. All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom. Praise Him forever!” (Psalm 111:10).

A fool is a fool is a fool until he/she decides to change and meet Jesus face to face.

God is a God of second chances. Stop beating yourself up for your mistakes in life. Prolonging regret and suffering does not make you holier, neither does it please God. So, stop playing the same song “I am a sinner” over and over and start accepting God’s forgiveness and move on. For His mercy is renewed every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23). Praise Him forever and ever. Amen!

Again, you cannot teach those who refuse to learn and you cannot help those who refuse to change. Stubbornness is rebellion and rebellion is like witchcraft. Instead of force-feeding them, surrender them to God and pray that God would grant them repentance to come to their senses so that they may deliver themselves from the devil’s snare of doing his will. (2 Timothy 2:25). Beating them up with the Bible or dragging them to church is not the answer.

It won't work. Change has to come from inside out and only God can do that.

I have often heard people say, "I want God to use me; I want to serve God!" But one thing they do not realize is that when you really want God to use you, then it is all according to His terms and conditions. It is what He says, when He says and where He says. It is getting out of your box, stepping out of your comfort zone. It is doing what He says do and going where He says go. It is uncomfortable and often times one will suffer rejection and persecution. Jesus warned us that "the world will reject you." Are you really willing to deny yourself and pick up the cross? If you only do what is convenient for yourself then you are not serving God but self.

In John 17, Jesus prayed to the Father, "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one" (John 17:15). Friend, no one is immune to the wiles of the devil. You can run but you can't hide. Your only way out is run towards the Lord Jesus Christ. For He alone is your strong tower and your safe fortress. Not the church building.

If you want to be successful in all you do and with lasting results, do it God's way.

When two people are in dispute. The one who is in the wrong is the one who talk the louder and the most. James 3:8...but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

Friend, As long as God knows you are innocent, you don't have to justify your action or your behavior. If God is for you who can come against you? Rest assured, no evil doer gets away with their evil doing. We reap what we sow. Take heed!

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty; where the demonic is present, there is strife and chaos.

No good thing will happen to people whose hearts are evil. So, humble yourself before God, stop all your evil intentions and all things will go well with you (Proverbs 6:16-19).

If you claim that God is the potter and you are the clay, then your part in this is just a lump of lifeless dirt. Clay cannot make plans nor talk back nor tell the potter what to do. After all, a lump of clay is...

just a lump of clay. It needs the Potter's hand to mold it into a useful vessel. Make yourself workable.

Do not seek anointing, but seek the One who anoint you.

Do not seek healing, but seek the One who heals you.

Do not seek provisions, but seek the One who provides for you.

Do not seek revenge, but make room for God's wrath.

Do not run after prophecies, but run after the one true Prophet Jesus Christ.

Christian often have a hard time saying "No" to people. Jesus taught us in Matthew 5, "Do not promise anything so quickly. Instead, all you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one" (Matthew 5:37). Fact: decision making and regret are the two most painful things we all have to go through in life. If you are not sure then just tell the person "let me pray about it and get back with you." But never, never tell someone "yes" when your heart says "No." Only the religious-spirited people will not take "No" for answer, but then you should know what to do...RUN!!

Happiness begins with thanking God daily for what you have and to be anxious for nothing.

Isaiah 40:31 “But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.”

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and all things will go well with you. Amen.

How do you tell if someone is a genuine follower of Jesus Christ? By their fruits you shall know them (Luke 6).

Jesus told us to test their spirit. One easy way is to listen when they open their mouth, for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. We can fake everything, but we can't fake Holy Spirit.

Never ever underestimate the power within you. What is impossible for men is possible for God. If you have the Holy Spirit living in you, nothing can stop you from achieving your goal, for it is not by might nor by power but by His Spirit. Friend, all things are possible with God, provided you allow Him to intervene in your affair.

Condemnation! The root of fear; fear creates stress, stress gives birth to sickness and disease; thus we lose our blessing from God due to premature death. And Satan then succeeds in his plan to steal, kill and destroy our destiny. Romans 8:1 tells us, “There is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Friend, condemnation kills! Do not allow the enemy to take you down with guilt, shame and condemnation. For where sin abounds, grace abounds much more. You are under GRACE not under condemnation. Wake up!

So, I have been asked many times, “What is the right way to tithe?” Answer is simple: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Friend, God will never obligate you to do something. Unless you do it with your heart and love for God, don’t do it at all. Tithing done under obligation and grudge does not bring blessings but curses. Take heed!

God uses people to bless you. If you don’t learn to receive, how could God bless you? Pride is the

stumbling block from receiving God's blessing. Be shameless and you will see God's blessing falling on you all the time.

Human beings consist of spirit (heart issues), soul (mind issues) and body (physical issues). Our soul is our mind, will and emotion, a.k.a. I think, I feel, I want. If our spirit is weak our mind will take charge thus we live in our soulish realm ("flesh") and our body (action) will carry out the command of our thought (mostly selfish and evil). When we allow our flesh to be our guide in life, the end result is chaos and catastrophe. That's why Jesus told us that if inside (spirit) is clean then outside (behavior, action) will also be made clean. Friend, apart from the Holy Spirit we can do nothing. That's the truth.

Not all chaos in life is created by the devil. God allows situations in our lives to teach us and bring us back to Him...especially if you have wandered away from God's protective circle.

Romans 8:28 "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose."

Friend, when things goes wrong in our lives, the first thing we need to do is pray, "Lord, what are you

trying to tell me?” “Lord, what are you trying to teach me?” Then be still and know that He is God.

With all the crazy and disheartening events going on in the world, Christians should never fear of evil. Why? Because Jesus tells us in John 16:33, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Do you know who is your daddy? So then, of whom shall you fear?

How often have we done something in secret, hoping that no one will find out, not even God. We plan secret plans in our heart, we plot secret plots and conceal our motives by pretending, hiding our wicked intention with fake smile. How foolish! The Bible tells us, “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows” (Galatians 6:7).

Friend, do not walk in darkness lest you stumble and fall. Walk in the light so you know where you are going with your life.

Never argue with the devil, for he has thousands of years of practice and he is good at it. The Bible tells us he is the accuser of the brethren. If you must win the argument then use the WORD! For God’s word

is truth! In Luke 21:16 Jesus tells us "...For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict." Friend, when God speaks, it is absolute! We don't have to justify ourselves, for the Lord is our vindicator. Of whom shall we fear?

God hates sin not the sinner. We ought to do the same. "It is the Holy Spirit's job to convict, God's job to judge and our job to love" – Billy Graham.

Fact: God did not give us a spirit of fear (evil spirit) but spirit of love, power and a sound mind. The world constantly injects fear in us because fear torments. Fear cripples us from achieving our God-given purpose and thus we live in darkness, pain and never-ending agony. It is like living in hell on earth. Here is the good news: Jesus Christ has overcome the world! Believe and you shall receive. He alone can set you free and whom the Son sets free is free indeed! Praise Him!

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you (1 Peter 5:6-7). Fear not little flock, for

the Lord your God will never leave you nor forsake you...no matter what!!

As humans we often get taken over by our emotions and when someone hurts us we secretly wish they would just drop dead. God however takes no pleasure in seeing the wicked die, rather He wants to see them turn around from their wicked way and do good (Ezekiel 33:11).

So, next time when someone wrongs you, hurts you or violates you, don't wish that they would just disappear or wish you could just disappear. Instead, ask God to convict their heart and give them no rest until they get right with God. But, remember this, God will first change you before He change the other person. For there's none righteous but God.

When you find yourself overwhelmed with people, problems and demands then you need to take a deep breath and say "God, take care of it. I can't do it but You can. Now give me peace and help me rest in You."

Friend, as long as you are trying to figure things out, God will not act. God acts when you let go of all your control to try to figure things out. "Be still and know that I Am God." Spend your energy learning to rest in the Lord not in your "solution." If you can't

trust God who created heaven and earth and all that's in it, you are killing yourself, slowly but surely.

Love the unlovable, but teach the teachable. How do you help someone whose heart is hardened? You give them to God and remind yourself daily he/she is God's problem not yours; your job is to do what God says do, not by your own understanding but by what God said. And God said, "Love one another just as I have loved you" (John 13:34-35). So, take nothing personal and take care of yourself. Focus on Christ, pray that you will not be tempted (Matthew 26:41). For there is none righteous but Christ.

Our greatest enemy is none other than our flesh (our mind, will and emotion). We let our mind govern our actions, our will to steal God's blessing and our emotion to handle relationship with others. We can't put one foot in the world and the other in God's Kingdom. Jesus told us in Revelation 3:15-16 "I rather you be hot or cold, but since you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold I will spit you out of my mouth." Friend, the greatest tragedy for a person is not being needed or used by God in His Kingdom. A life without purpose is a sad, sad life no matter how rich you are. That my friend is the truth. Amen!

Have you ever asked this question: “What is our chief purpose when God created mankind?” The answer is simple: to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. God created the earth and all that is in it for our enjoyment and in return He wants us to acknowledge Him and glorify Him. Nothing hurts God more than an ungrateful child. We often take life for granted and we often believe we are entitled to what we have since, after all, we earned it. Sadly, the truth is: naked we come to this world, naked shall we return to our creator (Ecclesiastes 5:15).

Friend, nothing we have belongs to us. We are here but for a moment. Stop taking people or life for granted but thank God always for He is the One who gives you the power to get wealth and keep you in good health by His grace. Amen.

To many Christians, the word “Judgment” brings much fear and discouragement. In truth, “Judgment” is not a punishment from God to send someone to hell because of sin. Rather, “Judgment” is a form of God’s love and discipline to turn us around and prevent us from falling into eternal damnation. God is a good Father and He takes no pleasure to see His creation being destroy by the evil one (Ezekiel 33:11). Friend, God disciplines those He loves and

He chastises those He considers as His own (Hebrews 12:5-7).

Are you a child of God? Action speaks louder than words. If you are straight and narrow then you have no need to fear of God's "Judgment", otherwise, the time is now for you to turn around. Before it's too late!

Not all of our misfortune comes from the devil; in fact, 90% of the time it is our own making and the cause of that is stubbornness and unteachable spirit. We don't want to be corrected or told what to do until...Then we blame the devil as an easy way out. Friend, wisdom is essential to live a peaceful life. James 1:5 tells us, "If any of you lack wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault and it will be given to you freely." Ask and you shall receive. That is the promise of our Most High God.

When the disciples of Jesus asked Him, "Lord, what should we pray?" He replied, "Pray that you will not be tempted." Friend, Jesus knew it was impossible for us to be immune to temptation, but that it is possible that when we are tempted we not act upon it. Temptations does not just apply to drinking, smoking, sex, drugs, porn etc. it also applies to

anger, unforgiveness, envy, jealousy, gossip, covetousness, grumbling, murmuring, worry, offense... on and on and on. Fact is, we cannot fight temptation alone, that's why we need the help of God and His Holy Spirit. To begin with, we need to humble ourselves before God and admit that we are powerless apart from Him. Secondly, pray, "Lord, I can't do it, but You can! Help me set myself free from the tormenting spirit." Third, forgive yourself and all who wronged you in your life. Brothers and sisters, a tormented soul is like living in hell on earth. Don't allow it!

Our job as Christians is to demonstrate who Jesus is, what Jesus does and how Jesus works. As Jesus is so are we in this world. If Christians focus more on demonstrating the character of Christ instead of trying to sell Christ by forcing the Bible down people's throat, then the results of getting people to come to Christ will soar. Better yet, people will receive Christ from their hearts and not because of obligation or pressure, thus getting to know Christ instead of trying to shut you up. After all, we are called to be a witness of Jesus Christ, not enforcer or punisher. And certainly not a beggar to beg for people to receive Jesus or worse yet, using HELL as a threat to lure people. That is evangelism at its worst.

“Abide in me and let my word abide in you; then you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free” (John 8 and 15).

Truth hurts and it offends people, that’s why the pharisees seek to destroy Jesus. If you are truly a follower of Jesus Christ, may I challenge you not to compromise with evil. For if you do, evil will win every single time. So stand firm in your conviction dear brethren and give no inroad to the evil one, for his only purpose is to steal, kill and destroy what is rightfully yours from the Father.

Prayer is good, powerful and necessary, however, prayer does not set a person free. Only TRUTH can set a person free. You can pray till you turn blue but if you insist on believing in your own erroneous understanding, you will remain in bondage until you decide to face the truth, accept the truth and live by the truth. Hosea 4:6, “My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.” Friend, until we have a humble and teachable spirit and are willing to learn the truth, no prayer in the world can rescue us from our torment. So, which is it? To be set free or continue to be a slave of our own deceptions? Choice is yours.

Spiritual maturity is not measured by your age, gender, kind of job you do, position in church, how

much money you have in the bank, how soft spoken you are, how many people you lead to Jesus, how often you pray, how faithful you are to your church, how much you tithe, how many things you are involved in, how popular you are in your church circle and/or how well you quote scripture. Spiritual maturity is measured by how you react to people when they disagree with you, when they say “No” and when they reject what you have to offer. Spiritual maturity is...simply put...Take no offense!

God will never give you more than you can handle. He knows what you need and what you need He provides. If you trust Him!

Hosea 6:6 “For I desired mercy (love, kindness, loyalty) and not sacrifice; and the knowledge (acknowledgment) of God more than burnt offerings.”

Friend, partial obedience is rebellion. Partial faith is no faith at all. God is God, we are not. Satan is a liar and deceiver, but it is we who make that choice...the choice of Good or Evil.

“But you do not believe because you are not My sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow Me” (John 10:26-27). Friend, knowing who you are in Christ is the first step to overcome

the adversary. Jesus further reminded us, “I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

This too shall pass. Let your heart not be troubled, neither let it be deceived. All things happen for a reason and for God’s purpose. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.

God does not condemn us for getting wealth or being wealthy, but the LOVE of money is THE ROOT of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows (1 Timothy 6:10).

Friend, do not let money control your life. Remember that your Father is the most high God and He promised what you NEED He will provide. Everything else is a WANT.

To love God is not measured by what we do or how much we give. But, it is measure by our relationship with others. Forgive and you will be forgiven. “For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged” (Matthew 7:2).

