

KEEPING JESUS BEFORE PEOPLE

TESTIFY **MAGAZINE**

40
Anniversary

Pastor Jimmy Francis
40 Years of Ministry!

MARCH 2024

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TESTIFY MAGAZINE

MARCH 2024 EDITION



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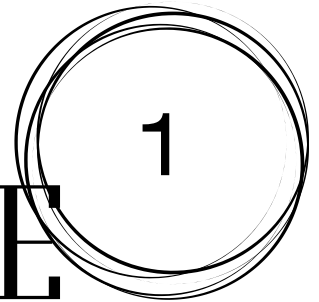
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TESTIFY MAGAZINE

MARCH 2024 EDITION

WHAT HE HAS DONE



What He has done, What He has done! This is a song we sing at church and has He not done so many things in our lives. We just have to keep thanking and praising Him!

We continue forward at a rate of knots and we continue to do what God has called us to do: Telling people's stories, Enhancing the Bible, publishing books and giving to the needy. We thank you all for whatever contribution you have made.

Please get onboard and assist us in whatever way you can, we cannot do this on our own.

1. Advertisers: We are seeking constant and regular advertisers for each and every edition of the magazine. Our goal is 8 advertisers per edition plus the usual promotions. Please assist us in this regard.

Then our next challenge that we would like to overcome is:

2. Our Children's Section.

We are looking for somebody to take ownership of this section and write for us every month in order to better our magazine and bless our children readers.

If you can help in these regards please contact me asap!

Blessings

Mark



50 YEARS OF GRACE

Mark Page 12th March 2024



I want to give God all the Honour and Glory for my 50th birthday, as without Him in my life I would never have reached this mark in my life. I love you Jesus!

TESTIFY MAGAZINE

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www.frcrehab.co.za / freedomrecoverycentresa@gmail.com

Contact Derick on 078 465 4243 / 082 506 7890

WHO ARE WE?

Welcome to Freedom Recovery Centre - one of the first long-term rehabs in SA operating since 2008!

We are registered with government and medical aids and have won several awards for Best Practise Treatment Facility.

- Our values are based on Christian principles.
- We are a registered Substance Abuse facility as per Act 70 of 2008.
- Affordable 3, 6, 12 and 24 week programs from R9000pm (excl medical, tuck shop & recreation fees)
- We offer family counseling and support.
- We have full-time medical staff on the premises.
- We are a long term centre that offers weekly visits to families / sponsors.
- We have support groups in all major cities.
- **Most Medical aids pay for a 9 week program!**

OUR PROGRAM

FRC is proud to say that it remains one of the most affordable registered, long-term rehabs IN THE COUNTRY!

What services do we provide at our centres? Clients will participate in Individual and Group sessions conducted by:

- Psychologist (on recommendation)
- Registered Psychiatrist (on recommendation)
- Occupational Therapist (on recommendation)
- Registered HPCSA Counsellor
- Professional Registered Nurse
- Registered Social Worker Groups
- Spiritual Groupwork and counseling
- Family Group Therapy

Our program cost includes:

- Twelve Step Program
- Food as approved by dietician.
- Accommodation
- Individual Sessions with Registered Counselors, Social Workers, Addiction Counselors
- 24-hour medical services
- Detox facility
- Arts & Crafts
- Sport sessions
- Recreation such as pool, swimming pool facilities etc
- Skills development training.

Facebook:



We have strong focus on Prevention, Rehabilitation and Skills Development!

Website



From Gangster to Counsellor - through Grace Alone!

**Freedom
Recovery
Centre**



My name is Randall Palmer, and I'm a recovering drug addict that's just over 8 years clean, and this is my story.

I grew up in a coloured community formerly known as Westbury in Johannesburg. I come from a wonderful God-fearing family. I'm the eldest of 3 siblings. I'm also a father of three beautiful children. A son and two daughters.

Growing up without a father figure in the early parts of my childhood was tough for I had to learn about boy stuff from older cousins and friends while my wonderful mother worked 2 jobs to look after myself and my granny.

The door to addiction was opened in high school when I was introduced to cigarettes and weed (marijuana). I didn't like weed because it gave me a funny feeling but I smoked it in any case.

I failed grade 9 because I started smoking mandrax and my craving for stronger substances grew and grew. I started stealing to support my habit as the spending money given to me was not enough. I started hanging out with the neighbourhood gangsters to feed my habit. I was introduced to rock cocaine and cat in my matric year. Only God knows how I managed to still pass my matric as I was using drugs everyday of my life.

As my addiction grew, so did the crime sprees. I got arrested for the first time robbing people at a petrol garage one evening. Spending that weekend in jail changed my life because I realised what disappointment it brought my mother. I stopped using drugs for a couple of years.

I started working at a bank and life was good - until I got mixed up with the wrong friends again. They were defrauding the bank through false card reinstatements. Naturally, I got caught and subsequently lost my job. It brought more shame and disappointment to my mother, as she organised me the job and was still working for the same bank.

Stealing anything and everything landed me in prison countless times. And this after having two kids already and being put out in the street! I was not really ready to stop and continued for a couple of years stealing cars and breaking into companies and people's homes. I did things for drugs that I'm truly not proud of.

The turning point in my life came one night on one of my crime sprees. I was having this uneasy feeling in my spirit and decided to leave and go home. Walking around in the early hours of the morning, I reflected on how my life was and how I messed up. I remember asking myself, "When is this life going to end?"

Suddenly I remembered the Bible verse Ephesians 2:8. "For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." (NIV) I realised that my life was not mine to end. I went home and cried out for help. I was booked into a rehab a few days later. I have not looked back since.

A big part of my recovery was when I was given an opportunity to volunteer at a Sober Living home in Randburg. From there I worked my way up to house manager and when the place closed down, I was given an opportunity at Freedom Recovery Centre to work for them.

Since working at FRC I have experienced growth in my relationship with God. My life changed for the better and I even reconciled with my family. At FRC I'm one of the many Care Workers that help other recovering addicts get their life back on track.

Through the saving grace of God, and FRC that believes in me, my life is wonderful once again. I recently got engaged to the lovely Tammy, and I am forever grateful for a second chance at life!

PASTOR JIMMY FRANCIS

40 YEARS IN MINISTRY!

2

BUILDING LASTING RELATIONSHIPS AND EMPOWERING LIVES.

Growing up as the second youngest in a big family of nine, money was tight, and the idea of going to college seemed almost impossible. Most of us just hoped to finish school and find a good-paying job. For me, the church became a haven. As a young boy, I dedicated myself to serving as an "altar boy" at the local Catholic Church, finding comfort in the things of the Lord.

But things took a surprising turn in 10th grade when a friend invited me to a church youth gathering. It was there that I accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour. This moment changed my life, turning confusion into purpose. It confirmed God's call for me to serve Him full-time, a calling that had always been inside me.

Instead of becoming a Catholic priest, I chose to attend Bible School to prepare for Pastoral ministry in the Full Gospel Church of God in Southern Africa, where I serve today.

From the time I accepted the Lord at a church youth gathering at age 10 to becoming the Pastor of Bethel Tabernacle Full Gospel Church in Kraaifontein and reaching 40 years of faithful ministry, I am filled with gratitude.

What I treasure most is the grace of being married for 38 years to my wife Eleanor and having our daughter Roxanne. Roxanne, a constant light in our lives, shows devotion to the Lord, making me a proud Dad. My ministry journey started in 1983 when I was accepted as a probationary Pastor in the Full Gospel Church of God in Southern Africa (Wynberg Department...also known as the “Colored Assemblies” By then most of the church world in South Africa was divided in racial terms. Thank God that the church became a catalyst for change in our beloved country. I started my journey for a period of 6 months in the picturesque town of Swellendam in the Cape Province. The humility and simplicity of the people have



taught me from an early stage to value people irrespective of their social and geographical backgrounds.

On completion of that period, I was called upon to take up a Pastorate in my home Province of “Transvaal” now known as Gauteng. The church I pastored was in Nigel & Geluksdal on the far East Rand. At the tender age of 21 years old. It is here where my ministry was shaped through the interaction with people mostly twice my age. The church back then was male-dominated, traditional, and patriarchal. For a young unmarried man to survive in these tough conditions of ministry took a lot of commitment, prayer, and support. This is where I decided to marry my beautiful wife, of 38 years to this today. She became my pillar of strength and support



throughout this journey. As already mentioned God has blessed us with a precious and beautiful daughter Roxannean only child.

From 8 members in a school classroom to a church of 250 people four years later in our building, we began to see the hand of God in our life and ministry unfold. From the very first day I set foot in Alrapark, Nigel God blessed me with a very good, Pastoral family in the late Bishop Charles & Apostle Whittaker who took us by the hand and mentored us to this day we share a special bond with their children Bishop Oral & Orietta Whittaker. They became Roxanne's big brother and sister.

Our time in Nigel was fruitful and rewarding, but after 7 years we felt the urge to take up a call in the

Western Cape in Kalksteentfontein, opposite Bishop Lavis. A place notorious for gangsterism faced with extreme poverty. Rarely in my life have I seen people in such appalling conditions, but a love for God and a desire to succeed against all odds.

The church could not sustain us we were moved to Paarl in the Boland area. After six years away from our first real ministry in Nigel we again received a request from our National leaders to return to the assembly in Alrapark-Nigel. By then the church had four pastors in the space of four and a half years and a year and a half without a shepherd. After much prayer, we decided to return, to a situation where the church had split and the new building unfinished for six years. This was not a better situation to return to, but we trusted God and by God's Grace we completed the building in three months.

Because of this miraculous intervention, the church started to fill up again with people who left, and many new souls were added to the work. All Glory to God.





Even though we obeyed the call again, resulting in a collective period of 11 years in Alara-Park, Nigel our hearts were always moved to the Western Cape. Nigel though became our first love being the place where Roxanne was born and spent her first few childhood years. In September 1999 we were called to take over the church of my lecturer. Pastor DW Sass (Who coincidentally started the church in Reigerpark Boksburg where I grew up as a child got saved and was called into full ministry). Pastor Sass retired after 30 years in ministry and we became the new Pastoral family of the Full Gospel Church in Bellville, South Western Cape. After 10 years of fruitful years, together with its challenges and hard knocks, we decided in 2009 to move to Durban North Living Waters Mission to assist a church that had

experienced great turmoil and was left with very few people left over. Again we saw God's hand in the area of restoration, however, this seemed to be just a detour to where God wanted us to be. We left Living Mission after 13 months because of the need to be with our daughter Roxanne who we left behind in Cape Town and were struggling to cope without us being the only child. This a period where we had to make a tough, tough decision, It was the church or our daughter. It is here where we decided that we could always get another church, but should anything happen to her, we will not be able to have another child. (when we were ready to have a second child my wife was diagnosed with cervical cancer and had to undergo a hysterectomy at age 34) family has always been my first ministry.

We resigned from Living Waters Mission in Nov 2010 having received the best remuneration of our entire ministry life, to return to Cape Town without an assembly and income for 7 months. Everyone said that we were foolish to do this, but by consulting a senior leader and mentor and with prayer, we made the move into the unknown. In Feb 2011 we took out membership in Bethel Tabernacle Ministry as ordinary members. In May 2011 we against all expectations were successfully called to be the Senior Pastors of the Bethel Tabernacle Full Gospel in Scottsville Kraaifontein. The senior Pastor VJ Christian retired after 30 years at Bethel Tabernacle and from 10 candidates we were chosen as the successful Pastoral couple.

Today we are celebrating 12 years at Bethel and 40 years of full-time ministry in the Full Gospel Church of God in Southern Africa. All Glory to God. A journey that in some sense has brought us full circle. My wife grew up two streets away from the current where we are pastoring now myself being from Reigerpark Boksburg. I met her on my graduation day after 3 years of full-time study at Chaldo Bible Institute in Wynberg Western Cape. Together with her five sisters they

sang at our Graduation Service. Her late father was one of the founding members of the Bethel Assembly, the first couple to be married out of the first building of the church that started in a tin structure. We are honored to follow in the footsteps of great men and women of God, Pastor DW Sass (Bellville South).

Pastor JJ. Vries is a veteran who still pastored and completed a Church building at age 96 in Steinkoff, Northern Cape after retirement from Bethel Tabernacle from 30 years of service. Pastor Vries passed on at the beautiful age of 106 years. Then following Pastor VJ Christians from whom we took over after 30 years at Bethel Tabernacle.

We may not be able to complete 30 years at Bethel due to our age, but this is unless the Lord decides otherwise this will be the place where planning to officially retire from active ministry. I guess one can never really retire from serving God and His people, but we realize that our success lies in succession. There needs to be a new and younger Pastoral leadership taking over from us when the time comes. I have been Blessed to serve on various levels of leadership in the Gospel Church of

God in SA.

From district to Regional to National Youth Director, National Welfare Department, and Finance of the FGC. For most of my time, it has been a pleasure to be on the Regional Management Committee in The Peninsula Region where I currently serve as Deputy Regional Overseer and my wife as regional Chairlady of the Regional Ladies Ministry.

Having made the sacrifices for our daughter earlier on we have seen how she has grown and excelled in her work environment. God has Favoured her to visit several countries, representing government communications as a digital specialist in journalism. Countries like Germany, India, Russia, and Ethiopia amongst a few.

By God's grace ministry has taken to different parts of Africa, Europe, and America, where we have gained valuable friendship and ministry experiences. We have been and are still blessed to have so many seasoned men and women in our corner cheering us on. Quite a few to mention. The most important being my late father and mother-in-law Br Koos and Sally Manuels who are stalwarts in the FGC.

My very own Spiritual Father and Mother Pastor Isaac & Sister Hettie Abrahams still serving in the Reigerpark Assembly almost if not 50 years on. They led me to the Lord and nurtured me to be who I am today.

The Late Pastor & Sister Adam and Anne Cloete my wife's spiritual parents for 30 years. Our families and peers who came alongside us and supported us during this journey of 40 years of God's Grace. The highlights of our Ministry have always been the lives touched, the relationships we were enriched by, the people we served, and mostly the souls that came into the Kingdom of God through preaching and ministry.

I have been able to further my studies by completing an honors degree at the University of the Western Cape at the age of 40 years old. One of my greatest fulfillment has been the process of writing a first book in an area I feel most passionate about, following is just an overview of the content of it. My latest book, "The 5 Key Relationships Necessary to Succeed: Navigating Life's Most Important Relationships," is based on my 40 years of ministry experience. It shares personal



insights into the scars left by broken relationships, both in ministry and personal life. The book takes readers on a journey through the shadows of hurtful relationships, emphasizing the importance of successful relationships for overall success.

The first key relationship, "Pioneering Partnerships," stresses the commitment to building bridges with ministry trailblazers, focusing on integrity, decision-making, and serving others. My approach to ministry includes insights into personal hygiene, marriage guidance, and working with people. The second key relationship, "Matrimonial Marvels," shows my dedication to strengthening families. In a world with a high divorce rate, I share lessons on choosing a life partner. My lessons, gained from both success and

struggle and leading a church, provide a roadmap for lasting and successful marriages.

The third key relationship, "Leading in the Lowlands," shares lessons learned from navigating relationship challenges while leading a team. I offer valuable insights for successful church leadership, emphasizing the importance of a unified team with a bold vision. The fourth key relationship, "Allies on Assignment," explores the impact of friendships on our lives. I encourage readers to cultivate positive connections, recognizing the transformative power of uplifting friendships. The final chapter, "Lifting the Low to Better Places," confirms my message of empowerment. Using success stories from my time in ministry, I illustrate the transformative power of encouraging and empowering others.

I stress the importance of believing in people, sharing power, and helping others develop as leaders. As individuals embrace the Christlike principles outlined in my book, they not only navigate life's challenges but also contribute to a legacy of positive change. As Christians, let's live empowered lives by following Christ's example of love, compassion, and serving others.

My gratitude once more goes to my Heavenly Father who counted me worthy to be in His Service. My wife and daughter who supported me along this journey, and everyone who crossed our paths and enriched our lives in one way or another. We love and appreciate everyone who continues to pray for us, known and unknown. Until we've come to that place where our Heavenly Father

deemed it necessary to lay down the call may we be counted worthy to serve His People.

congratulations

**Pastor Jimmy
and family and all those
who have supported
them!**





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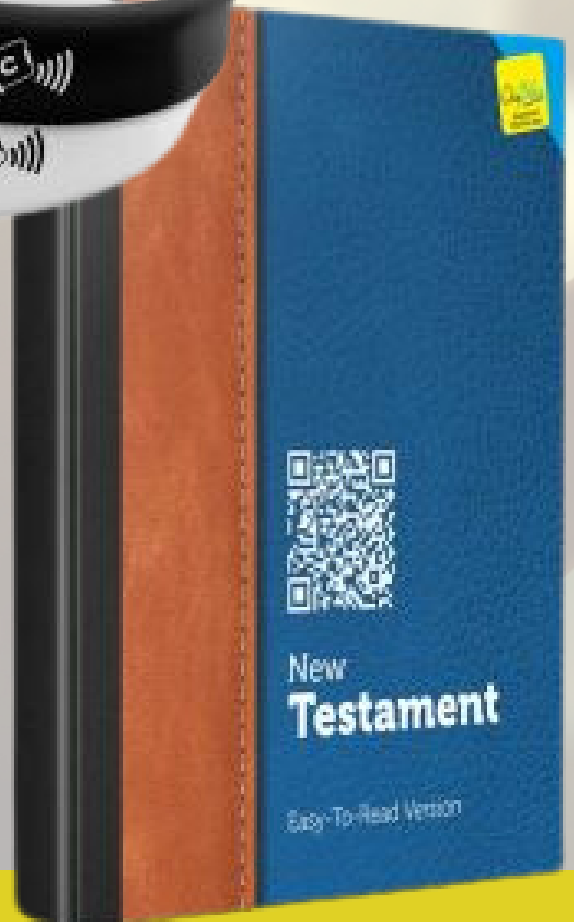
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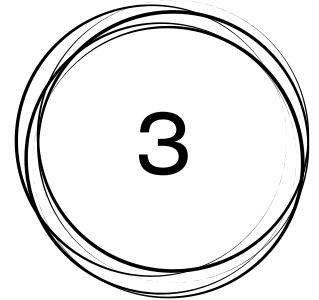
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TRANSFORMATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

BY PASTOR MIKE GOBEL

THE DISCIPLINE OF *DISCIPLESHIP*



Discipline #1: The Discipline of Discovery

This month I will be starting with the first discipline of Discipleship, start begins with “The Discipline of Discovery.”

When we speak of being followers, we are followers of someone not something. When we speak of being a disciple, there needs to be a Master and that Master must be Jesus.

Becoming a follower is a life changing decision and should not be taken lightly. Choosing the wrong person to follow through life would be a waste of time, perhaps even disastrous. It is important to know that the One we follow is who He claims to be, that He delivers what

He offers and that in following Him our lives will not only matter but will have meaning and purpose in the knowledge of securing the gift of



eternal life.

There are many 'masters' in the world today who have disciples; but there is only One true God - only One worth following and only One who can save you and l from dying to a life of eternal hell and condemnation.

The first goal of this Discipline is to seek for this Master, the One who is worth following, the Master who has "all authority in heaven and earth" - our Lord and Saviour, Jesus the Son of the True Living God. The second goal is to embark on a journey of continuous discovery that will last a life time.

This is the journey of sanctification. In and through this journey you will learn much about God as your Lord and Saviour but it will also enable you to learn much about yourself. You will discover that in order to know God better you need to put 'self' last. Our lives must become all about Him and less about ourselves. When we put Jesus first we begin to understand our true purpose in life.

Who is this Jesus?

Many people say they are followers of, or believers in Jesus. Yet their Jesus is not the Jesus of the Bible. Their concept of who He is has been

formed by opinion and not fact. They have no knowledge of the true Christ, and their lives reflect it. A small dose of knowledge can be a dangerous thing. Misunderstanding the nature, character and will of God will almost always lead to heartache. This is one of the reasons why it is so important to study the Word of God. Cults and false religions love to swallow up baby Christians who do not know the Bible; misleading them with lies about Jesus and about the church.

As you start following Jesus, or even if you have known Him for years, it is important that you know who you are following and serving and worshipping. It is vitally important that you discover Jesus for yourself - not just through what others say about Him. The Bible is our source of truth and of knowledge. Let us find out I will start to show us more about Jesus, but you must realize that who the Jesus of the Bible really is. The following characteristics this Discipline of Discovery is a process and not an event. God will continue to reveal more and more about Jesus as you make the effort to find Him. This is just the beginning of your journey...

Discover the Master - The All Powerful Jesus

Jesus is completely different from all other gurus or teachers or human leaders. The Bible reveals that our Lord existed before time began, that all things were created by Him and for Him and that He is powerful and able to do all things. He is more than a mere man, but He is also a man. Jesus is unique.

Jesus is the Creator

Jesus is the source of all things and has the preeminent position in the entire universe. John 1:3: Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

All of creation should bow before Him, honour Him and give Him glory. All of mankind should be His disciples and all should worship before His feet. The sad reality is that most don't. Even sadder is the fact that many in the church, those who bear the name "Christian", don't.

Heb. 1:1-2: In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

1 Cor. 8:6 says: ...yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live; and in Eph. 3:8-9, Paul makes it clear who Jesus is: I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

He made all things. They were made BY Him and FOR Him (Col. 1:16). He made you! He loves you and he wants you to fulfil His purposes for you. Not only did Jesus create all things and all men and women, he did so skilfully, carefully like a master craftsman preparing usable tools that could do His will. *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* (Eph. 2:10)

This means that your life has purpose. When you and when you obey His commands, you fulfil the

very reason He created you. There are deep joy and peace when creator and creation are in harmony.

All of creation points to His majesty and glory.

All of nature reflects the brilliance and wisdom of God. The stars and the universe declare His greatness and awesome power. A flower reveals His care and concern for detail. Your body in it's intricate design points to God's planning and foresight. The landscape speaks of God's artistic genius. God's many creations point to a God worthy of praise, adoration and glory.

Truly, Jesus is worthy of being our Master, our leader, our Lord. We don't follow a mere man, we don't follow a politician, or a sportsman or even a great leader - our Master is truly the Master of the universe, the Designer and the Maker of all things. If He made all things He also understands how all things work or should work - therefore His words have authority. When you follow this Jesus, you do so in humility because you are overwhelmed by His awesome greatness, you are reminded that He is the creator and you His creation, that He is Lord and you are His servant.

Jesus Is fully God

Many want to argue Christ's divinity. They want to make Him something less than He is. They want to bring Him down to the level of their 'gods' or prophets or leaders. They realize that if Christ were fully God, then they would have to align themselves with Him. They would rather ignore scripture and deny its claims. The Bible says that Jesus is God in the flesh. He became man to rescue us from sin. Only God could do this. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1.

There are a multitude of scriptures bearing witness to the divinity of Christ. As part of your journey of discovery you might want to study them in detail. For now, here are a few: *Rom. 9:5: Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen. Col. 2:9: For in Christ all the fullness*



*of the Deity lives in bodily form.
1 Tim. 3:16: Beyond all question,
the mystery of godliness is great:
He appeared in a body, was
vindicated by the Spirit, was seen
by angels, was preached among
the nations, was believed on in
the world, was taken up in glory.*

Jesus is fully God, not just an imitation or a weak copy, or a close representation. He came from God the Father, was God Himself and returned to God to be God forever. He is your Lord and your God!

Heb. 1:3: The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Rom. 1:4: and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

When we decide to follow Jesus we are not following a mere mortal, not a philosopher, not a celebrity, not a guru or spiritual leader - NO, we are followers of the living God. Jesus the Eternal

One who claims: *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."* (Rev. 22:13)

To be His disciple means to learn from Him, to obey Him and to become like Him.

Discipleship is the road to godliness. Being His disciples means to have His character built into us; to fulfil His divine purpose, the very reason He created us.

The journey of discovery is far more than a mental exercise. It is not just an academic process of gathering facts about Jesus. As you discipline yourself to find out who Jesus is, each new revelation should lead to a deeper understanding of the Saviour. Each new discovery will draw you into increased intimacy and lead you to stand in awe, and to bow in adoration and worship.

Part of the Discipline is to apply new knowledge. Just knowing the fact that Jesus is God is not enough. Ask questions like "How does this affect me?" or "Does this discovery require some form of life change?" or "How should this affect my attitude, thoughts and behaviour?"

Just imagine. You discover that Jesus is more than a prophet, more than a healer, more than a holy man. The one you are following is God Himself, Creator of the universe, Maker of all that is, God who became man. Wow! If he is able to do all this He must be obeyed, worshipped and adored. If He spoke a word and created the world; His words must be powerful, His will is important and His presence something to be cherished.

How does this affect my life? I know I am a servant to the Most High God. My Lord is also my God. I need to stand in awe of Him, revere Him and obey Him. To be a disciple of Jesus is to fulfil the will of God for my life.

Each new discovery, when acted upon, will aid my transformation if I allow my mind to dwell on it, if I pray back to God what I have learnt and if I am willing to obey whatever flows from that discovery.

Jesus has all authority

Then Jesus came to them and said, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."* Matt. 28:18. Even those who did not believe in Jesus recognized His authority....because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law. Matt. 7:29.

Jesus not only taught with authority, He also displayed authority such as the people had never seen - even authority over evil spirits: The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, *"What is this? A new teaching - and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him."* Mark 1:27.

We usually understand limited authority - the authority of a policeman next to the road, or the authority of the chief in the village or even the authority of a general or President. Imagine what ALL authority must be like. To be able to command anyone or anything and have your commands obeyed.

We follow the one who has all authority, the authority of God. It will be manifest in the transformation of our own lives and then in the power and authority with which we tear down the strongholds of the devil as we proclaim the coming of the Kingdom.

Jesus has dominion

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. Eph. 1:19b-23.

Jesus has dominion - this means that Jesus rules! He brings all things under submission to Himself. Jesus has dominion (he rules) over:

The church

Col. 1:15-20: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and things on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities. All things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood,

shed on the cross. Jesus alone is the Head of the church. HE is Lord, He is Master, He is the only One to whom we owe allegiance - King Jesus. When we follow Him, become His disciples, we are in step with the Boss of the church.

Ask yourself the discovery questions. How does Jesus' dominion over the church affect you? Will it change your attitude towards the church, leadership and fellow believers? If Jesus is Lord of the church and you are a member of that church; how does this impact your willingness to serve and to give?

Heavenly Powers

1 Pet. 3:22: who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand-- with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Satan and all his demons are subject to Christ. Jesus has already defeated the enemy. Jesus is Lord over every power and authority. The angels of God are at His disposal and do His will. We have nothing to fear. When Jesus walks ahead of us, we follow in the wake of the One before whom all heavenly powers must yield.

Nature

Matt. 8:27: The men were amazed

and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

The One we follow can still the wind and calm the storm. He speaks and nature listens. He created all things and He commands all things. As a disciple of Jesus we walk in the shadow of the Almighty. He can do all things. His power is immeasurable. How does knowing this impact your prayer life? We don't pray to the sun or the wind, we pray to the One who commands and has authority over the elements.

All the earth

Zech. 9:10: I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Nothing on earth exists outside the dominion of our Lord. He rules over everyone, every place and everything.

Forever

Isa. 9:6-7: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the

government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

His rule and His reign are not temporary, but forever! This gives us even more motivation to walk hand in hand with Jesus. He will never go away, never be defeated and never see an end to His kingdom. Death is not the end; it only means transferring our address. Both here and in eternity, Jesus rules.

He rules over you

Submit to His dominion. Follow as He leads, do what He says, and give Him all the glory.

Application

Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords is eternal, mighty in Power and able to do all things. Everything seen and unseen was created by Him and for Him and He holds dominion over all things. He has demonstrated His power and His

glory.

The amazing thing is that the God of the Universe would allow us to walk in His footsteps. We can know Him, love Him and serve Him; but we must remember to respect Him.

The Bible calls this respect "*the fear of the Lord*." It does not mean that we are scared of Him but that we recognize His greatness and our sinfulness. It means that we stand in awe of Him. It means that we yield to His greatness - recognizing His authority. *How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you. (Ps. 31:19)*

As you follow Jesus as His disciple you will often need wisdom. The Bible says; The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. Ps. 111:10 (also see Ps. 112:1)

To truly be a disciple we need to constantly be reminded of who our Master is. We need to come again and again and gaze at His glory, remember His power, recognize Him as creator God.

We need to stand in awe of Him, impressed by His greatness. Then we need to get up and follow Him wherever He leads us.

Be disciplined. Make sure that you get hold of an exercise book or somewhere where you can keep notes. Read all the Scripture verses again for yourself.

Meditate on them - this means take the time to think about them, pray about them. Write down what you are discovering about Jesus. Give God praise and glory for who He is and what He is able to do. Do what He tells you.

Often when we look at His majesty we are confronted by our own sin. If God shows you your sin, confess it and walk away from it!

From time to time it is a good idea to take your notes and remind yourself of what you have discovered about Jesus. Amen.

May you be blessed by this message and may through God's Spirit you be moved to get back to what should always be your first love – **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

If you wish to support my ministry or the efforts of Planting Hope Foundation to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost and to help the widows, orphans and most vulnerable people in our region, feel free to contact me on the details below.

In God's love,

Pastor Mike & Jada Gobel

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HAVE YOU ACCEPTED JESUS
CHRIST?

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Romans 3:23 ESV

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

The abovementioned verse is an extremely well used verse and many people know it and can even quote it off by heart, but the significance of it is the reality that every single person needs to contemplate.

If you have not accepted Jesus as your Personal Saviour yet or are thin king about it, you have to start here. The reality of your sin problem cancels and disqualifies you from the very presence of God and this bars you from eternal Life. Your choices are simple here, either an eternity with God or an Eternity without God. I would think that the logical answer would be an Eternity with God. Why? Well let's look at this:

2 Thessalonians 1:9

"They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might"

NASB

This is the reality of a choice that omits Jesus as your Personal Saviour -

= Everlasting Punishment

= Destruction

= Shut Out

= No Godly Presence

= And no Glory at all

This is not something to take lightly and by the way this is not scaring you into making a false decision, God is love, thus we as His followers are love, this means if I say I have the love of God, it is my duty to tell you the truth and point you into the right direction.

So in looking at the sin problem and the reality of this, what is the answer then? Let's look at this:

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

NASB

What a wonderful solution to an immense problem, Go gas made a way and in making the way He has also made it very clear that this is the only answer to the problem. You have to accept Jesus His Son in order to obtain Eternal Life and ward off all the destruction and other bad things spoken about in the previous Bible verse.

It also makes it very clear that this can only be done through JESUS CHRIST His Son, there is no other way to salvation or Eternal life other than through Jesus, NONE!

Let's look at this too:

John 1:12-13

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

NASB

Wow! Just look at this, not only do we get Eternal Life but we become Children of God. The impact of this is massive as it speaks to the fact that we now belong to the family of God and receive the benefits of being part of a family, and not just any family but a royal family (1 Peter 2 vs 9).

So in looking and understanding all of this, How do you accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour?

Romans 10 vs 9-10

"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

NASB

Let me just make one point very clear before we look at the above verses, your salvation cannot be obtained by good works, you cannot go to Heaven or be part of God's family because you are a good person, or you do good deeds, No! The Bible makes it clear, if you want to accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour then it gets done on the basis of two things. These two things are critical because it will also help you on your work with the Lord and attain righteousness and a life pleasing to God.



Firstly, you have to confess with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord, this is very important because by your confession God will know and people in the world will know. This is significant because one does not hide a light under a bowl. Everyone must see and hear that you are a child of God.



And secondly you must believe in your heart, with your whole being and understanding that Jesus was raised from the dead and is alive and is your only Saviour.

So if you have read all of this and the Holy Spirit is directing you to accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour please pray the prayer on the next page, God loves you so much.



ACCEPTING JESUS IS EVERYTHING!

PRAYER FOR SALVATION

Dear Lord Jesus,

I understand that I am a sinner and in need of desperate saving, The Bible tells me clearly that the only answer is for me to confess with my mouth and believe in my heart. I am now confessing with my mouth that I am accepting You as my Personal Saviour and believing in my heart that you are alive and well and dwelling within me. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the fellowship of other Believers and allow me please to follow in your footsteps. Amen!

Wow! Congratulations if you have just prayed this prayer, and know that you are now part of the family of the Kingdom of God. Please tell someone about your decision, pray all the time and read and study your Bible. Find a Holy Ghost, Bible preaching church and join.

Please let us know if you have made this decision and allow us to point you in the right direction.

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1 Timothy 4 vs 13

NEWS ZONE

NEWS FROM THE GROUND

4

1



Freedom Recovery Centre

has won the Award as the Alrapark/McKenzieville, Community Builder Award - Substance Abuse Programs for 2023/2024. Thank you to our communities who acknowledge the work that we are doing! This coming year, we will grow even bigger and better! Proud to see how our outpatient impacting so many lives!

OUR GRAFITTI WALL

TESTIMONIES OF NOTE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR *MINISTRY*

Leanne's testimony of a faith tested through depression and ultimately redeemed:

I grew up in a Christian home. My parents took me and my three siblings to church every Sunday—twice. We attended the Christian Reformed Church. I knew who God was and what Jesus did from a pretty early age. I can't say that I had any doubts as a youngster.

But I grew up in a dysfunctional family. I noticed that my sisters, who are twelve and ten years older than I am, often fought with my mom. I knew something was off.

When he got to high school, my brother, who is four years older than me, avoided my mom, even though

he was the favored one because he was the boy. He would come home after school, watch a movie, eat dinner, and disappear to his room.

Paper heart pinned to a string across a white wall. Think about your testimony and how you would tell it to others.

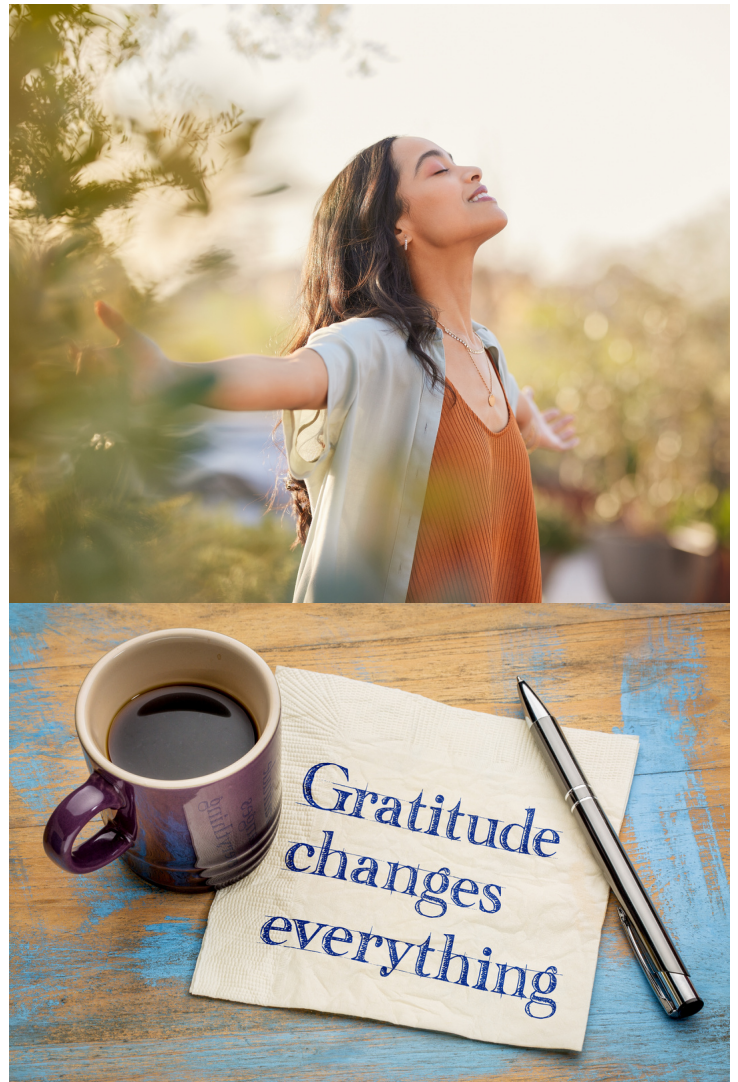
I was a super active kid. I played outside a lot, either with my brother or with the neighbor kids. We lived on a dead-end street. When I was 10, I was outside with two younger friends, and we were doing pop-wheelies into the street. As I picked up speed down the driveway and went into my wheelie, the last thing I saw was a speck out of the corner of my eye. Next thing I knew, I was waking up in the hospital. I had been hit by a pickup truck, flew into the

air, did a summersault, and landed on my back, skidding a little. My bike ended up in the ditch on the other side of the street.

I spent five days in the hospital—my spleen was bruised, and they wanted to make sure it wouldn't burst—but otherwise I only suffered a concussion and got stitches in one leg. In those days, you didn't wear a helmet either. The doctors were amazed I was alive; it really was a miracle.

At 10 years old, I was already asking big questions: Why am I still here? What purpose does God have for me?

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JEHOVAH NISSI

BY APOSTLE MATTIE HAMM



SHALOM

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

In this year 2024, we need the peace of God to keep us like never before. For those who hold fast to faith, walk in peace, love, sows, and fellowship one with another, will experience supernatural power that will cause them to be unmoved or unshakable and provided for by God's divine assistance.

John 16:33 tell us that, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." This scripture is telling us that there is no need to worry or be fearful when are faced with any trial or tribulation as Jesus has conquered our past, present and any future circumstance when He died for the

remission of our sin.

Because Jesus overcame the world, greater works than this shall we do. The very same power that raised Jesus from the dead dwells within us and has already given us Supernatural Victory. Hallelujah!

Be like the tree that is planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; His leaf also shall not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalm 1:3 Everyone will face trials and tribulations at some point in their lives that, can cause them to become oppressed or stressed. Whenever this happens, remember that, Jesus the conquering force has already given us the victory.

Colossians 2:15

As we look around we can see that the world is in a state of chaos.

However, I encourage you just like the Bible does, to stand on the authority of God and his word. In doing so, Almighty God will intervene on our behalf and guide us through the eye of the storm so that we are not overtaken by what is around us.

Satan is the god of this world. 2 Corinthians 4:4 tells us that, "in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." No matter what power Satan thinks he has, because of the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, Satan has been stripped of his authority over you and I. We have the authority of Christ Jesus not to be overtaken by any trial or tribulation that we face.

Lastly, I pray you are encouraged by what you have just read. I implore you to develop a relationship with God because, He too wants to commune with you.

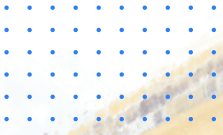
Romans 10:9 let's us know, "that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Blessings!

Apostle Mattie Hamm is an anointed woman of God, who loves God deeply and his people. She was born in Henderson North Carolina but grew up in Brooklyn New York. She is a graduate of Brooklyn College after which, she attended Tabernacle of Prayer Bible Institute for five years. In 1990, Triumphant Holy Anointing Lighthouse, now located in South Richmond Hill

New York, was established in the home of Apostle Hamm. Presently, Apostle Hamm is the resident overseer of said church along with the oversees ministry in the Netherlands, Europe. Apostle Hamm has been honored with merit awards from two of our New York City Mayors, for ministering within the Prisons and her Street Teamwork. By the grace of God, her outreach ministry has continued to expand in many places such as: East Africa, West Africa, North Africa and South Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia, South America, and the Caribbean. In addition to the merit awards received, God has allowed Apostle Hamm to provide counsel to Ambassadors and Law Makers from different nations. Apostle Mattie Hamm' goal is to set the captives free, see the sick healed and to bring hope to the hopeless by the spirit of God.





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DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY BISHOP MATTHEW DANIELS

THE POWER OF FAITH AND *LOVE*

6

"As I trust God more and more, I learn to follow His ways"

Let read 1 Corinthians 13:13 from Amplified version meditatively:

1. "And so Faith, Hope, Love abide [faith—conviction and belief respecting man's relation to God and divine things; hope—joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation; love—true affection for God and man, growing out of God's love for and in us], these three; but the greatest of these is love."

According to this Scripture, Faith, Hope, and Love are the powerful sparks that ignite our activities with God. There are three different things that happen in us as a result of their influence upon us:

(1). First. Faith produces our work: That word literally means your assignment. It's the task that God has given you. As you go before God in

faith, He gives you grace for the calling He's placed upon your life. As I trust God more and more, I learn to follow His ways. Eventually I start to understand why He wanted me in His kingdom. Faith enables me to remain in my assignment.



(2). Love —it prompts us to labor:
That word labor, means to use up
your strength in performing a task.
Without the love of God, we'll never
pour ourselves into the calling He's
placed upon us. We're called to serve
and to work with all of our strength.
Without love, that will never happen.

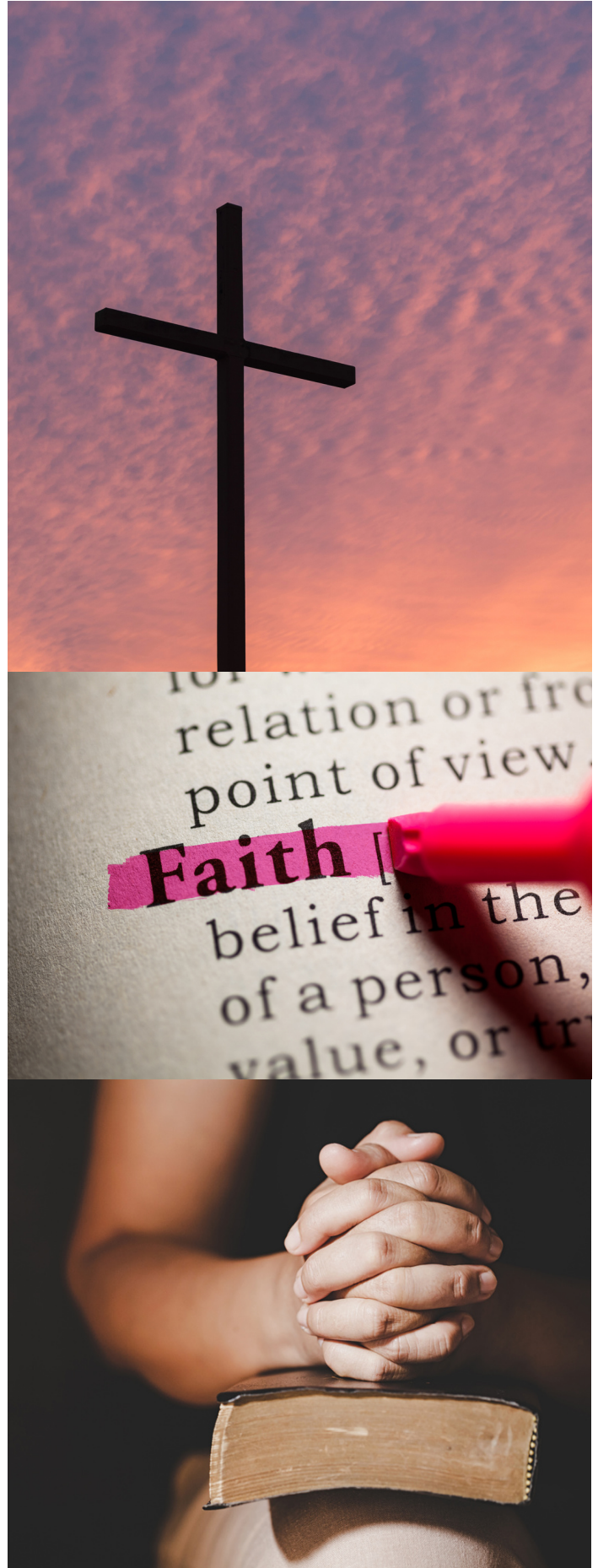
(3). Finally, Hope inspires Endurance:
It's easy to start out strong, but it's
how we finish that matters the most.
Hope is the Biblical word for
expectation. If I do my part, then I can
expect God to show up and do His
part.

That's what keeps me going even
when I don't feel like moving. I know
what God says in His Word. Because I
place my expectation on Him, I can
continue to live for the Lord. Hope
gives you the endurance to persevere
to the end.

Allow faith, hope, and love to give
you more than just a warm feeling. Let
them spur you on to accomplishing
your high calling in Christ Jesus.

Question: How have you seen faith,
hope and love at work in your life?

**Bishop Daniels can be contacted at:
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Psalm 46 :10 "Be still and know that I AM GOD"

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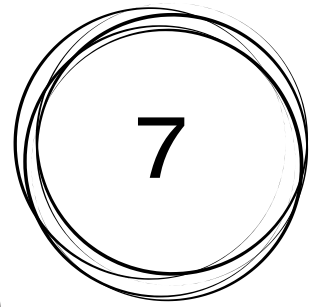
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Today I am
grateful for

Philippians 4 vs 6

IMPACT YOUTH

BY DANEVILLE H. AND ZELNA THYS



NEVER DID WE *EVER*...



On 5 June 2023, our lives were irrevocably changed when our daughter, together with two other young girls, died in a motor vehicle collision. On the night of the accident, we couldn't imagine life without her. It all seemed so unreal, as if we were caught in a nightmare that would not end. The days that followed the tragic night were filled with sorrow, sadness and grief. The type of grief that no parent should ever experience. We were preparing to bury our daughter and never, did we ever think that we would bury one of our children. We were a close-knit family and shared many happy moments together. Like most families, we had

our good moments and also the bad. Times of celebration but also the moments where some correction was needed. We talked about everything; God, church, relationships, finances, life, and yes, death. Our children knew exactly what we, their parents, wanted for our funerals, how we wanted to be buried. And like many parents do, told them where to find what and where to go upon our deaths. But never, did we ever discuss how they, our children, wanted to be buried. We guess the expectation always was that they would bury us. As it should be! For the first time we were required to arrange a funeral. The type of funeral that a parent should not arrange.

Immediately after the news of her death broke, we were inundated with support from family, friends the broader community, across cultural and religious boundaries. The church and Christian community showed their love and support for the family in a special way. On the day of the funeral, we were stunned at the large congregation and this really brought the family comfort at the time. Never, did we ever think that her life meant such a great deal to so many people. Our journey of dealing with the tragedy, the loss and the grief is not much different from that of other parents who lost children to death. We all deal with loss differently and this article is not meant to give direction or give advice, but to share how we deal with it individually. Grief does not have an expiration date nor can anybody, with certainty, say how long the grieving process will take. This our story and our journey.

Daneville

On the night of the accident, driving to the scene seemed like it took forever and when my son and I arrived, I could identify my daughters' lifeless body on the tarmac in the light cast by my vehicle. The only words I could utter at that point was "son, it doesn't look good, brace yourself". I might have been too shocked to show emotion and at the time thought only of my wife who was sitting at home awaiting our feedback. I called our minister immediately who, together with his wife went to my wife to break the news. I only broke down in tears once we arrived back home and had to embrace Zelna and say "she's gone". For the rest of the week and during the funeral I was strong, because at the time I thought that I had to be for her and Danwils' sake. But when the house got quite and we needed to get back into routine, it struck me; I would never say good morning or goodbye, I love you or Zenilda!! ever again. This is where my faith in Gods' goodness amidst turmoil and

trouble was being tested. The words of comfort we so easily share with grieving people are being tested. Now I knew how it felt to lose a child to death. Other peoples' reality had become mine and now for the first time, I could have empathy not only sympathy with other people. Another sad reality I had to face was that I would never give her away in marriage or hold her new-born babies in my arms. This was my reality and never, did I ever think that it would happen to me. Regularly after the funeral I had experienced breakdowns, but my most severe was when I had to answer a question pertaining to loss and grief for an assignment. My faith in God and his comforting work through the Holy Spirit had been my anchor and a source of strength in this time. At the time, a comforting scripture for me was 2 Samuel 12; the account of David and the death of his child with Bathsheba. I regularly experience off days and breakdowns when I really miss her, but my strategy is "One day at a time".

Zelna

On the night of 5 June 2023, after receiving the news about my daughters' death, I thought my life had come to an end and I did not know how I would live my life without her. The saddest part was the day of the funeral, when my daughters coffin left our house and I realised that it was the last time my daughters body would go out of our house. Never ever did I thought that I will ever bury a child As days went by, I was hoping it was all just a dream and that my daughter would come back home soon. The last eight months has not been easy, but I thank God for my friends, family, my in-laws, my community and our church for all the love and support daily. Not to mention my husband and son who is also dealing with pain but is always there for me and gives me all the space I need to grief. Above all, I thank God for Zelkies Daycare, the children bring me so much joy. I am thankful to God for the special mother-daughter relationship we had and all the beautiful memories that I can hold on to. Putting on socks with pink cotton make me smile as I remember our fights for socks in the morning. When I wash my hair I can hear her say "Zelkies it is now your turn to buy shampoo and conditioner, please stop buying cheap things". The most beautiful memory is the birthday party my daughter hosted for me two days before her passing Yes I still cry for my daughter but I thank God that I stand strong because he is my strength. On days I really feel weak and cannot pray or sing, I listen to wordship music as it lifts me up and the bible verse that keeps me going is "the joy of the Lord is my strength", which I confess daily. We grief not as those who have no hope.



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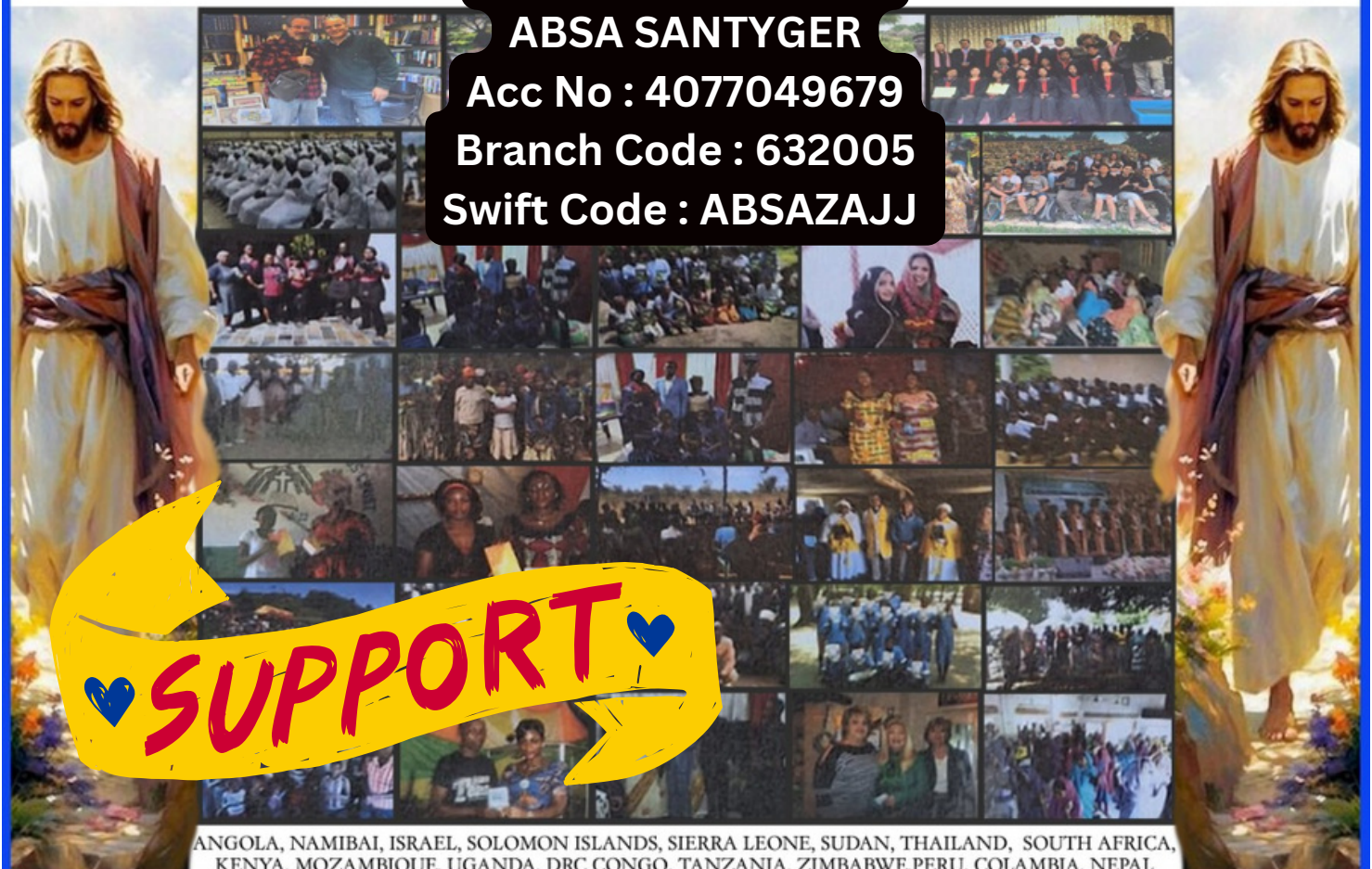
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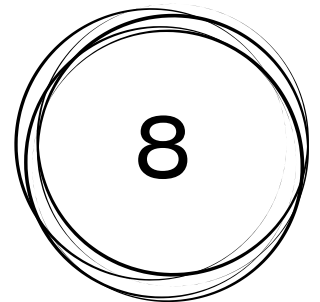
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1 Peter 2 vs 24

GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

BY HYBRE KIVEDO



GRIEVING

Scripture: Revelation 21:4

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Some of our toughest moments make us question why God allows bad things to happen to good people. Life’s difficulties can feel overwhelming, and it’s natural to wonder why we face such hardship. There are many questions and many explanations given. We seek comfort from the Bible, our faith, and any other thing life will offer, yet the questions persist. Many of us feel like “Why does God break my heart with all this happening in my life”? God is sitting and weeping with you. As grief comes, go with it. Do not judge or curb it. Give space for this appointed time to mourn, then mourn with all your heart, soul, mind and strength,

and watch love become grief’s counterpart, equal in measure.

In Psalm 34:18 it says, “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.” God is always with us during any season of our lives.



We sometimes ask the question; Why does God allow us to grieve? God wants us all to reflect on our life choices outside of His created intent and feel grief for the losses they create. When we do not let ourselves feel grief over sinful life choices, we block our ability to participate in God's grace. The process of grief and mourning is seen throughout the Biblical narrative. Many in the Bible experienced agonizing moments, including Jacob, Job, David Naomi, and Hannah. Even the Lord, Jesus mourned **(Matthew 23:37-39; Luke 22:44; John 11:35)**

It is only natural that we should miss our loved ones when they are promoted to eternal life in heaven. We know we will see them again, but in the meantime, we grieve. In his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul shows sympathy and understanding for the bereavement we all feel over the loss of a loved one.

The end of 2018 to 2019 was a big year for me, do you ever have that, just like a big year, like a banner year? For me it went like this; I lost my uncle to cancer at the end of 2018, then in February 2019 I lost my best friend in a car accident, in June 2019 I lost my cousin to cancer and in September 2019, I lost my aunty (my second mom) due to illness. Now, since 2019, I will tell you it has not been easy, I

have been angry with God, especially for the passing of my best friend. He was my go-to person for anything and everything, he was just my pillar of strength during the lowest moments of my life. I questioned God's love toward me because I felt that he took away the one person who understood me. He was that kind of support in my life that would drop everything to just be with me and always wanted to see me happy. I mourned his death for so long, that many times I could not see myself moving forward.

My go-to person was gone, and I did not know what to do, I found myself many days, picking up my phone to call or message him with the news I wanted to share with him and then realized that I would never have that moment again, this set me back even more. I would stay in my room, lying in bed and not wanting to live anymore, then one day I had a dream of my friend and in the dream, he told me that this was not what he wanted for me. He wanted me to move on and be the phenomenal, strong woman that he knew I would be. This was a life change in how I picked up the pieces after his death, I would always talk about him and my children would remind me of the many precious memories we had with him, but every time I would go into my grieving state, I remind myself what

he said to me in the dream.

I met Kevin end of 2020 and we connected immediately, things happened in our relationship, and I ended it in January 2022 and the only person I wanted to share all this with was my friend and this set me back again into a state of questioning the Lord why all these things would happen to me, His daughter that loves Him and follows His ways. Kevin and I reunited in December 2022 and never looked back, but I thought that I moved on from the grief I had for losing my best friend. I haven't moved on and I hate that phrase so much, and I understand why other people do because what it says is that my best friend's life and death and love are just moments that I can leave behind and that I probably should.

The hardest time would be when Kevin and I have arguments and I wish that he could be here to tell me that everything would be ok and talk to someone who understands me the way he did when I talk about him, I slip so easily into the present tense and I have always thought that made me weird and then I noticed that everybody does it. And it is not because we are in denial or because we are forgetful, it is because the people we love, whom we have lost are still so present for us. So, when I say, oh he is, it is because he still is.

He is present for me in the work that I do, especially with my writing, as he was the one cheering me on to write a book and never giving up on life. He's present in my relationship with Kevin because his life, love, and death made me the person that Kevin wants to marry, so I have not moved on from my best friend, I have moved forward with him. These are the experiences that mark us and make us just as much as the joyful ones and just as permanently. We do not look at the people around us experiencing life's joys and wonders and tell them to "move on", do we? But grief is kind of one of those things, like falling in love or having a baby, where you do not get it until you get it until you do it. And once you do it, once it is your love or your baby, once it is your grief and your front row at the funeral, you get it. You understand what you are experiencing is not a moment in time, it is not a bone that will reset, but that you have been touched by something chronic. Something incurable. It is not fatal, but sometimes grief feels like it could be. And if we can't prevent it in one another, what can we do?



We need each other to remember to help each other remember, that grief is this multitasking emotion.

You can and will be sad and happy, you will be grieving and able to love in the same year or week, in the same breath. We need to remember that a grieving person is going to laugh again and smile again. But yes, absolutely, they are going to move forward. It took me long enough to realize that if he was still here with us, he would have been so hard on me for not moving on and being happy the way he always wanted for his friend.

The comfort of knowing that, the Lord has blessed me with the four years (knowing him for 30 years but lost contact when I got married) I had with my friend and that these were the best years, that not only molded me into who I have become after my divorce but also made me who I am for the person that God has placed in my life right now and that I can continue to be reminded by the friendship we shared, that I deserve all joy and happiness in my life. In this article, I just need to thank Kevin for understanding at times how I have missed my friend and the bond we had and that he has supported me in everything I do, not many partners would understand this bond and I am truly blessed that God has given me such an amazing partner like him. I know that my friend would have said

the following to me “H, you have chosen well and now I can rest knowing that you would be taken care of the way it should be.”

Amid our most considerable losses, we can pursue God and bring all of our pain and all of our emptiness to the Lord, asking Him to remind us once again that His “love is better than life” (Ps 63:3). He is sufficient to fill the deepest yearnings of our soul. And so, in the end, grief and lamenting is a call to worship.



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How old is the Earth?

4.543 Billion yrs or +/- 6000 yrs?



What the Scientists say:

According to planetary.org the Solar system formed about 4.6 billion years ago from material in a massive rotating cloud of gas and dust called the solar nebula. Gravity caused this cloud to collapse in on itself, spin and flatten into a disk shape. Most of the material in that cloud was pulled toward the center, forming the protostar that would eventually become our Sun. The rest of the material came together into clumps called planetesimals. These in turn gradually came together with other planetesimals forming larger bodies called protoplanets. Earth started as one of these protoplanets, likely about 4.5 billion years ago.

Life emerged around 3.5 to 4 billion years ago in the form of simple, single-celled organisms.

How do scientists determine the age of the Earth?

The most precise method is radiometric dating, which measures the decay of

radioactive isotopes in rocks. Because geologists know how long these isotopes take to decay, they can determine a rock's age by looking at the ratio of parent (pre-decay) and daughter (post-decay) isotopes in a sample. One challenge with dating the Earth via rocks is that most of the original rocks that formed on our planet at the earliest stages of creation have likely been recycled into the mantle since then.

What we learn from The Bible:

Before we go a little deeper into this debate, let's first read the mentioned scripture in Genesis.

GENESIS 1:1-31

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

3Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. 5God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So, the evening and the morning were the first day.

6Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." 7Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. 8And God called the firmament Heaven. So, the evening and the morning were the second day.

9Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. 10And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

11Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. 12And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that

yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 13 So the evening and the morning were the third day.

14 Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; 15 and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. 16 Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. 17 God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

20 Then God said, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.” 21 So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” 23 So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

24 Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind”; and it was so. 25 And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

29And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. 30Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food”; and it was so. 31Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So, the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

GENESIS 1:1-31 UNDER THE MAGNIFYING GLASS

In verse 1 and 2 we read that God created the Heavens and the Earth. The Bible doesn't give us a specific time frame from the beginning to where God's Spirit hovered over the Earth, which was a rocky planet covered by water at that time. From the beginning to where God's Spirit hovered over the void Earth covered in water could have been many years or only a few days.

Next God divided the light from the darkness and called the light Day and the darkness Night. Then came evening and morning, it was the First Day.

The word day is used 2,182 times in scripture and always refers to a literal day, unless qualified as “the day of the Lord”, “the day of God”, “the day of Judgment”. The days of Gen. 1 are literal, because they are not so qualified, they are numbered 1 to 7 and begin and end with an evening and a morning, as all other ordinary 24-hr. days.

On day 2 God separated the waters from the land.

On day 3 God commanded the Earth / Soil to bring forth trees and all sorts of plants, those that bear fruit and others that bear grain.

Footnote: God in His sovereignty knew that there needed to be plants and trees in their full-grown state before the next step of creation could happen.

On day 4 God created the Sun, Moon, and Stars, which would be for times and seasons and separate day from night.

Footnote: The Sun and Moon were not the source of light or life. God is light and life. His presence is all that was needed to bring forth the plants etc.

Since the plants were fully-grown at this point, they had to now continue with the life cycle of producing fruits, seeds etc. and had the heat of the Sun which is necessary for growth.

On day 5 God commanded the water to be filled with all kinds of creatures and the air be filled with all kinds of flying creatures and birds.

Footnote: Only after the Sun and Moon was set in place for heat and tides could the sea creatures and birds be created. The ecosystem was now fully functioning.

On day 6 God commanded the Earth to bring forth all kinds of living creatures and They also created man in Their image.

Footnote: Some scientists argue that it would have been impossible for Adam to name every creature in just one day. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that Adam named all the creatures in 1 day. This could have taken several years. What is more important is the fact that God trusted Adam with such a big task. I am a firm believer that all animals were created in their full-grown state as well, hence which came first the egg or the chicken theory. It has been proven that in order for an egg to form the Chicken needs to produce layers of egg white and protective membranes sealed with a protective shell before the egg could be released. Without chickens there would be no eggs. This is actually true for all species where you need a male and female to reproduce an offspring.

What do we know?

Fossil records, according to atheistic scientists speak of death and suffering on a massive scale—which mostly happened before people were created (or evolved). However, this view has serious repercussions for the rest of the Bible because it:

□ Undermines the goodness of God

Romans 8:18–25 affirms that the whole creation (not just people) has been “subjected to futility” and is now “groaning” and “in bondage to decay”, waiting for its redemption. Leading commentators on Romans such as F.F. Bruce, C.E.B. Cranfield, and James Dunn agree that Paul here refers to the Fall.⁴ This is consistent with the real history of Genesis 3, where the creation, not just the people, was cursed because of man’s sin. For example, the

ground would now bring forth thorns and thistles (Genesis 3:18). There are thorns preserved in the fossil record, supposedly some 300 million years before man came on the scene. If this is so, as the above 're-interpretations' maintain, then the Bible misleads.

❑ Undermines the Gospel

The Bible speaks of a future where the present order will be destroyed and God will make a new heavens and earth where there will be no more suffering and pain—the former things will have passed away (2 Peter 3:10–13; Revelation 21:4–5). But if God 'created' things much as we see them, with death and suffering instead of the created order, which the previously mentioned views of Genesis suppose, why would God want to destroy the existing order and create a new one? Why does Revelation compare the removal of the Genesis Curse with the removal of death and pain (Revelation 21:4, 22:2), if the Curse did not bring those things into the world in the first place? It does not make sense.

If Genesis cannot be understood as history, as it is meant to be, then how should we understand the rest of the Bible? Perhaps the Israelites didn't actually cross the Red sea or Noah's Flood was only a parable (it is the same form of literature); maybe these writings are just theological arguments? Perhaps the accounts in the New Testament of Jesus' teaching, death and Resurrection are not actually history (although it seems like they are)?

❑ Undermines confidence in the rest of the Bible

If Genesis cannot be understood as straight-forward history, where does history begin? Many accept that Abraham (Genesis 12) was a real person but refer to some of his ancestors as metaphors (especially Adam). But Jesus' genealogy goes back to Adam (Luke 3). Even Jesus took Genesis as history.

❑ Undermines other doctrines that are based on Genesis

For example, doctrines relating to marriage, moral law, the wearing of clothing, and the meaning and purpose of our existence are all based on the history of events in Genesis.

CONCLUSION

The scientific atheistic argument of a very old Earth has many flaws. For example, that their method of radiometric dating is not very reliable.

Evolution can still not be proved, because not once have they actually seen an ape evolve into a human being etc.

Their fossils contradict what the Bible teaches of especially when the seven-day creation process came into existence. The oldest trees according to bonsaialchemist.com and treesatlanta.org is The Methuselah tree that is approximately 4850 yrs. old and the Great Basin Bristlecone Pine that is over 5000 yrs. old.

It is clear that both arguments for a young and older Earth have some valid points, but as a Christian you should ask yourself the question. Why does it really matter how old the Earth is? Because according to the Bible there is a time frame not mentioned from the Beginning to the actual 7 days of creation of life on this planet and how long the rocky planet hung in space covered in water only God knows.

What really matters is the fact that there was and still is a Creator who has a plan to restore all things as it was from paradise to paradise again, since sin entered the world and corrupted everything.

Don't get caught up in silly arguments. Look at Biblical facts. It requires faith to believe in an Almighty God, but when you truly seek Him with all your heart, soul and mind, He will reveal Himself to you as the scriptures says in:

Eccles. 3:10-11 I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. 11He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.





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**DON'T LET TRUTH BE
YOUR ENEMY!**

FOR THIS CAUSE BY BISHOP O T WHITTAKER THE CHALLENGES *OF WOMEN*

9

Introduction:

Mark 5 presents a captivating account of 'A Possessed Man, Bleeding Woman, and Dying Youth,' which serves as a reflection of our modern society. Our current series will focus on the enthralling story of the Bleeding Woman, whose physical affliction provides an avenue for exploring broader issues confronting women. Through this narrative, I aim to offer insights and healing that can be applied to critical challenges encountered by women today. By delving into the complexities of this remarkable narrative, I hope to illuminate significant themes and foster meaningful dialogue and contemplation within our community.

In this segment of the series, we will delve deeper into the story of the Bleeding Woman and scrutinize how her experience sheds light on issues that women face today. We will explore

themes that could be a cause to some of the bleeding issues in the lives of our women e.g., such as absent fathers in the lives of the children, physical and emotional agony, societal stigmatization, financial abuse, verbal abuse, spiritual attacks, neglect, organizational or institutional harassment etc. The text also provides lessons for applying faith in God's healing power. Through this exploration, I aspire to provide a fresh perspective on these challenges while



equipping individuals with tools for empowerment.

When we look at the Mark 5:25 the woman suffered a flow of blood for twelve years. She was in a desperate condition. Her condition made her ceremonially and socially unclean, and this was a significant burden to live under for 12 years. According to the Jewish ideas of the time, if this woman touched anyone, she made him or her ceremonially unclean. This uncleanness did not allow them to take part in any aspect of Israel's worship (Lev_15:19-31). "By the very law of her people, she was divorced from her husband, and could not live in her home; she was ostracised from all society, and must not come into contact with her old friends; she was excommunicated from the services of the synagogue, and thus shut out from the women's courts in the temple." (Morgan) Similar to the genuine struggle of this woman, there exists women within our societies who may not be encountering identical challenges but are undoubtedly facing their own hardships. These challenges that they are facing affects their self esteem and makes them feel discouraged; overwhelmed, leading to a negative self-image. Furthermore, these challenges can

also have a significant impact on their mental health and well-being. In many cases, a negative self-image can lead to feelings of low self- esteem, anxiety, and depression. It can also affect one's ability to form healthy relationships and make sound decisions. Having a negative self-image can be detrimental to one's personal growth and development. It can act as a barrier that prevents individuals from taking risks, trying new experiences, or pursuing their goals and aspirations. This negative mindset can lead to an unproductive and unsatisfying life, where one feels stuck in the same routine without any progress.

The fear of failure that comes with a negative self-image can keep people from exploring their full potential and hinder them from achieving success. It is important to acknowledge and work on improving one's self-image in order to live a fulfilling life filled with personal growth and achievement.

Conclusion:

Women not only face individual challenges, but they also bear the weight of societal expectations and stereotypes. These expectations require women to excel in both their personal and professional lives, while also caring for their families and maintaining certain appearances or behaviors. The pressure resulting

these expectations can cause immense stress, especially when combined with personal challenges such as mental health issues or financial difficulties. This burden on women is evident in the case of the individual mentioned above, but it is a reality that many women face every day. Society must acknowledge and address these burdens placed on women by creating a more supportive and inclusive environment where gender or circumstances are not used as parameters for judgment or discrimination. By recognizing the unique struggles faced by women and working towards a more equitable society, we can alleviate the personal struggles of women while promoting equality and empowerment for all. It is imperative that we support and uplift those who have been marginalized due to societal pressures, in order to create a world where everyone can thrive regardless of their gender or circumstances.

**Bishop Whittaker can be contacted at
michelley679@gmail.com**



WISDOM SEED

BY PASTOR OLUWATOMI OYEBANJI

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May the extraordinary and overwhelming blessings of God come upon you and the members of your great family.

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May the Almighty God breathe life into you and all that is yours. You shall thrive and not merely survive.

May your lives from this day forward be a testament to divine restoration in the name of Jesus. Amen. Hallelujah!

No one has an inheritance in Christ Jesus except such a person is committed to a life of sanctification. Every true child of the Most High God must walk in love and be spirit led.

Allowing the truth to prevail is cardinal to godly living.

Whatever will be delivered to you in the kingdom is a function of your orientation.

God shed His light in our hearts through His word with the help of the Holy Spirit. However, the performance of His word is a function of what you hear or see, receive, and believe.

Your perspective will determine the quality of your divine package.

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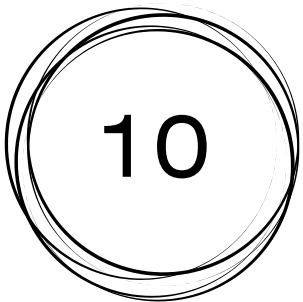
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Answer: An Easter Basket Case



REVIVAL'S FIRE

BY PASTOR RIAAN
ENGELBRECHT



10

REVIVE US *AGAIN*

Revive us again Lord Part Two

Isaiah 55 says, “11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” If God has spoken revival, then so it shall be!

Revelation 7 says, “9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” 11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, 12 saying: “Amen! Blessing and

glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen.” 13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?” 14 And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.”

According to Revelation 7, a great multitude of people has been revived, restored and worshipped the Lord during the tribulation. That speaks of a mighty harvest at the end of all ages! The only Body that can bring about such a harvest is the church, which is the holy priesthood. For this reason, the church first needs to be revived to walk in the

fullness of God as true disciples. This also challenges the theory that the church will be removed early during the tribulation. According to this chapter of Revelation, there is a great multitude who will be saved, but someone must be on earth at the time to help show them the way!

I do believe the greatest move of God is upon us. It is the last great harvest in times of great peril and danger (2 Timothy 3:1). God is going to demonstrate His power and glory in ways we have never seen before. His majesty is going to be revealed. The earth will shake and tremble with His power, His majesty, His goodness and His love. The earth will resound with the name of Jesus being proclaimed, and the Good News of the gospel will see the greatest harvest come in.

As the Lord showed me once, as darkness rises, so will the light rise in intensity. Oh yes, we are living in very intense times of great deception, wickedness, idolatry and carnality. Matthew 24 says, “37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” Of the days of Noah, we read in “Genesis

6: 5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

The problem is, that the church is not yet ready to bring in such a harvest. The church needs to be revived first, so it's about obedience and surrender to His way, His process and His Spirit. Habakkuk 2:14 says, “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the seas. Some regard this as a prophecy for the 1000 years of Christ, and others see this as the time of the New Jerusalem. We are not certain, but what if this speaks of a time during the end of the day's harvest?

To bring in this mighty harvest, God is raising a remnant that is completely and utterly set apart for His Kingdom. What is this end-time remnant? It is the true Bride on the earth, therefore, the sons and daughters who seek God, who follow Him, and who uphold God's values, ways, and truths and will as established in the eternal Kingdom. Yes, the dawn rises of God's end-time remnant, those who are humble, pure in spirit, and who are called to free the lost from the clutches of darkness through the Blood of Jesus. God is seeking His true worshippers who walk in love,

truth and honesty, seeking no glory but only His will. The Lord is rising up those who have a heart and a voice for the Kingdom. Oh yes, we need the Spirit of God more than ever to burn in believers for us to bring in the harvest.

Indeed, the harvest is great but the labourers are few (Matthew 9:37). Revivalist Duncan Campbell said the following: “Revival is not churches filled with people, but people filled with God...In revival the church, the roadside, the hillside—all become places made sacred by the presence of God and the cry of the repentant.

“The Kingdom of God is not going to be advanced by our churches becoming filled with men, but by men in our churches becoming filled with God.

“It is one thing to shout it, it is one thing to sing it, it is one thing to talk about revival, but give me a people on their faces, seeking to be rightly related with God, and when that happens, we will soon know the impact of God-realisation in our country. “There is a growing conviction everywhere, and especially

among thoughtful people, that unless revival comes, other forces will take the field, that will sink us still deeper into the mire of humanism and materialism.

“We long for revival, we are longing to see a movement in our own community, in our own church, hall or assembly, and we are crying: “God send it”, but heaven cries: “Is your eye fixed upon Me? Get rightly related to Me”.

“God is the God of revival and He will revive us again. God is a God of power and He will find a willing people in the day of His power.”

God is raising an army of labourers who refuse to be silent, who will not flinch in times of trial or tribulation, who will not shy away when faced with evil and who will not compromise His Truth.

Such an army is right now being formed on the earth, the remnant that will arise out of the ruins of religiosity and carnality. They are like the 7000 faithful whom God said to Elijah refused to bow the knee before Baal.

Yes, this is a dangerous remnant, filled by the Spirit of God, for they will be like the first apostles and disciples. They are dangerous for they are not unsettled by Baal, do not fear man, and laugh along with God at His enemies. They are dangerous for they love the truth, and they know the battle belongs to God.

One of the main secrets of success in the early church lay in the fact that the early believers believed in the unction from on high, and not entertainment from men. One of the very sad features that characterizes much that goes under the name of evangelism today is the craze for entertainment. It holds no power, for true power lies in God's Word and nothing else. Revival belongs to God. No man can manufacture revival. You can try to fake it, but the fruit of it will be evident. Revival is driven by the Spirit of God, and we cannot try and force revival through our strength or power.

In the beautiful song Show Your Power by Kevin Prosch, we read, "Show Your power, oh Lord our God, our God, Your gospel oh Lord is the hope of this nation, You are the Lord, It is the power of God for our salvation, You are the Lord, we ask not for riches, but look to the

cross, You are the Lord and for our inheritance give us the lost."

Yes, amen Lord! There is glorious power in the Gospel, for the truth of the Lord sets free. But then we must proclaim the whole truth of God. After all, these days there is a kind of gospel being proclaimed which conveniently accommodates itself to the spirit of the age, and makes no demand for godliness. It is a self-serving Gospel, instead of a Gospel that draws the sinner to the reality that redemption is sorely needed. Galatians 6:9 says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." God is indeed reviving His people, and I believe it is happening right now. A people dedicated to the cause, therefore to the Great Commission. They are the ones who agree with the prophet Isaiah when we read in Isaiah chapter 6, "8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." Yes, God is rising up a remnant – a people sold out for His Kingdom and who reflect His beauty by walking in holiness and purity. They will be sent to be carriers of God's fire.

Matthew 9 (KJV) says, “37 Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.”

We must pray for labourers for the harvest even since the days of Jesus are plentiful! We must pray for God to revive His people who are labourers called to the harvest field, We must pray for a great awakening in this church so that many know the reality of John 3:16.

The Bible says in Revelation 14:15-18, “And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. 16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. And another angel came out of the temple, which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully

ripe.”

It is not God’s Will that any soul He created should perish, but that all men should come to the knowledge of God and be saved. That is why He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ to come and save the world. As He completed the work, He handed over the mandate to His disciples to continue. God is calling on all believers to cast their net in the deep for the harvest of souls. The angels are crying, calling on every believer to go into the outermost part of the earth to preach the gospel and win souls for the Kingdom of God. The trumpet will sound soon, and any soul not harvested while the grace lasts will be lost to the devil to hell fire. This is not God’s will for the man He created.

John Wesley once said, “God does nothing but in answer to prayer.” Prayer is not an option for the church but a necessity. Prayer is man connecting with His Creator and seeking God’s help, His counsel, His guidance and strength to secure favourable outcomes according to His perfect will. God’s plan is for mankind to desire what God desires, to will what God wills, and to ask God to accomplish God’s purposes in the world, so that goodness and truth may reign on the earth rather

than evil and darkness. Praying does not mean convincing God to do your will but doing God's will through your will.

It says in "James 5:16: The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." Glory to God!

We live in terrible and perilous days of darkness, but those who seek His righteousness and follow God can stand upon the Word that one's prayer avails much! Prayer of the righteous will thus be useful and beneficial, all to the glory of God.

And so we can in God's power pray for labourers, for a revival and an awakening. Prayer is not an option for the believer.

It is a necessity to fulfil God's purposes in the world and our individual lives. Time spent in prayer is not time wasted but time invested. As we embrace the will of God, as we live before Him in the righteousness of Christ, as we seek to fulfil His purposes, nothing will be able to hinder our prayers, and we will begin to understand Jesus' saying, "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

We often read about the armour of

God, but so often we neglect a very important piece of the armour – prayer! A dedicated and functional prayer life is vital to see the manifestation of the end-time harvest, as we continuously seek the Lord's will, His ways and His truth.

Prayer is of critical importance in this revival and awakening! God shut the heavens and prevented rain from falling for three years at Elijah's request. He parted the Red Sea for Moses to lead His people through.

Do we realize the power we have available to us when we take our authority in prayer? If we did, we would be praying in Jesus' name more. There would be no such thing as doubt, fear, or anxiety because we would be on our faces before God. We have the authority firstly as stewards of the earthly domain and the custodians of the eternal Kingdom.

We move in such authority by the Blood of the Lamb that sealed the Covenant! Prayer is simply connecting with the Great I Am – thus the Deliverer of the Jew and the Gentile who seeks and worships Him.

We connect to an awesome and amazing God.

Riaan Engelbrecht is the co-founder of Avishua Ministries and also serves on the board of Lighthouse Ministries. He has been teaching the Word for the past couple of decades, which included being involved with online Christian radio stations (Lighthouse Radio, Rainbow Radio) for many years, and also featured on Osasogie TV (Nigeria-based). He has written over 85 books to uplift, edify, prophetically guide and speak the Lord's will in the last of days. His heart's desire is to seek the world flooded with God's truth, for only such a truth sets free. To contact the author, send an email to prophetriaan@gmail.com or forward a WhatsApp message to 084 666 3070.



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The Lylac Centre

Navigating a Loved One's Narcissistic Personality Disorder Diagnosis: **A Guide to Support and Self-Care**

Introduction

Witnessing a loved one grapple with a diagnosis of narcissistic personality disorder (NPD) can be an immensely challenging experience. NPD is a mental health condition characterized by exaggerated self-esteem, a lack of empathy, and other symptoms that often leave friends and family feeling devalued and unloved. While providing support to someone with NPD is crucial, it is equally essential to prioritize your own well-being amidst this journey. This guide offers

insights into eight effective strategies to assist individuals with NPD while safeguarding your mental and emotional health.

1. Educate Yourself About Narcissistic Personality Disorder
Understanding the complexities of narcissistic personality disorder is fundamental to providing meaningful support. Distinguish between everyday narcissistic traits and NPD symptoms, and familiarize yourself with common signs such as superiority complex, lack of empathy, and manipulative behavior. Recognizing these indicators will enable you to navigate interactions with greater insight and empathy.

2. Establish Clear and Healthy Boundaries
Setting and communicating boundaries is vital when interacting with individuals with NPD. Whether they are a parent, partner, friend, or coworker, delineate your limits with clarity and assertiveness. By doing so, you establish parameters for respectful engagement and protect your emotional well-being from manipulation or exploitation.

3. Cultivate Empathy in Communication
While challenging, employing empathy in your interactions with someone with NPD can foster more constructive dialogues. Validating their emotions, even when disagreeing with their actions, can de-escalate confrontations and promote understanding. By acknowledging their feelings without compromising your own boundaries, you foster a more compassionate connection.

4. Hold Them Accountable for Their Behavior
Consistently reinforce boundaries by holding individuals with NPD accountable for their actions. If they engage in disrespectful conduct or disregard established limits, communicate the consequences calmly and assertively. Reinforce the expectation of mutual respect and cooperation in all interactions.

5. Empathize with Their Inner Child
Recognize that narcissistic behavior often stems from unresolved childhood traumas or neglect. Endeavor to

empathize with their vulnerable inner child, understanding that their actions may be rooted in deep-seated insecurities or emotional wounds. By viewing them through a lens of compassion, you can cultivate greater empathy and patience.

6. Acceptance and Realism

While it is essential to acknowledge the challenges posed by NPD, accepting individuals for who they are is equally important. Understand that meaningful change may be elusive for some, and prioritize your well-being by setting realistic expectations.

Acceptance does not entail condoning abusive behavior but rather acknowledging personal limitations and boundaries.

7. Encourage and Support

Therapy

Encourage individuals with NPD to seek professional help, emphasizing the potential for personal growth and self-awareness through therapy. Offer your unwavering support throughout their therapeutic journey, recognizing the courage and commitment required to confront and address underlying issues.

8. Prioritize Self-Care

Finally, prioritize your own self-care and well-being in your interactions with individuals with NPD. Recognize that maintaining healthy boundaries, practicing self-compassion, and seeking support are essential components of supporting others effectively. Remember that you cannot pour from an empty cup and prioritize your mental and emotional health accordingly.

Conclusion

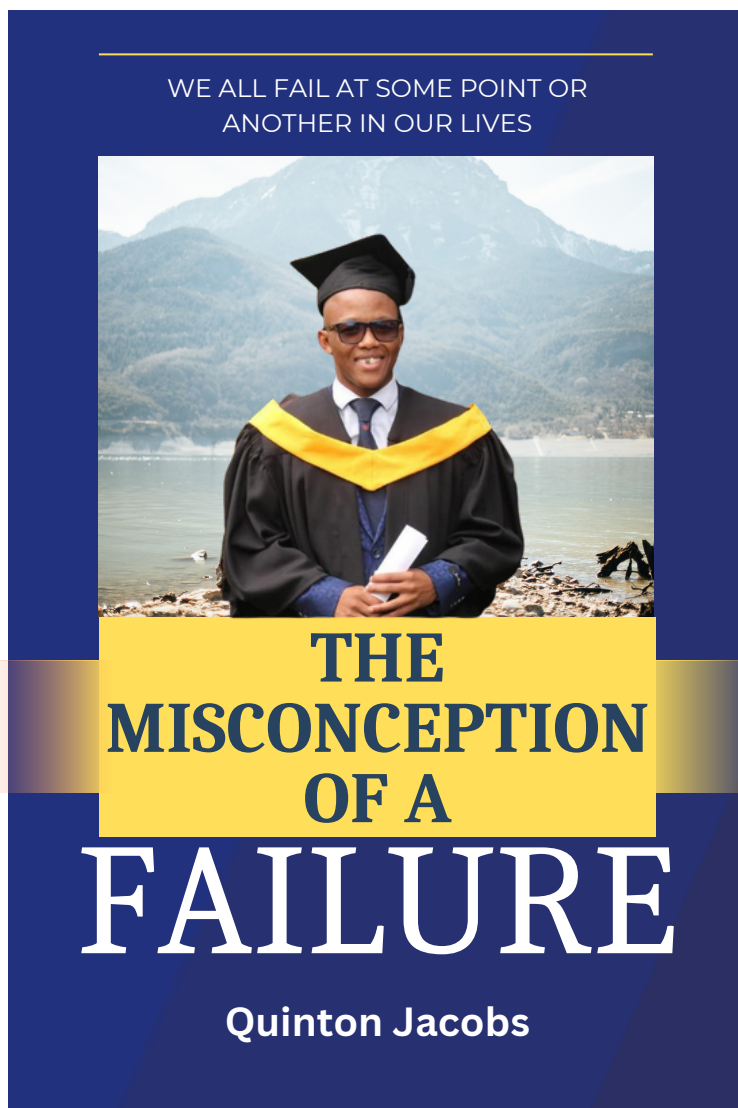
Supporting a loved one with narcissistic personality disorder necessitates patience, empathy, and self-awareness. By adopting strategies such as education, boundary-setting, and empathy, you can navigate these relationships with greater resilience and compassion. Remember to prioritize your own well-being and seek support when needed, as your mental and emotional health are paramount. With dedication and understanding, you can provide meaningful support to individuals with NPD while safeguarding your own emotional equilibrium.

Written By Dr F Benade



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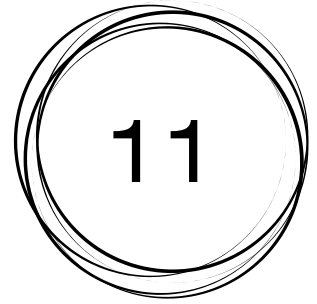
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James 4:17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.



THE HEART OF JESUS

Calling All Saints
Calling All Sinners!



BY PASTOR NOMSA

KINGDOM OF *GOD!*

5 Teaching 777: “Kingdom of God”!
(Date: 17 May)

PRAYER:

Wonderful Father of Mercy and Grace, Thank You for sending Your Son who died on a cross, to give us life in abundance, and saved our souls. We have been washed in His blood and were cleansed in Jesus Name. His sacrifice allows us to live in Your Kingdom (here on earth already now). Amen.

When we talk about the will and purpose of God regarding His Kingdom, we have to realize first of all that the whole Kingdom concept is about God and us. Mostly God of course, but also us.

Because God wants to be reconciled with us. God wants to see the physical manifestation of



the Kingdom here on earth while we are living here now, which is why Jesus taught His disciples to pray as such:

Mat 6:9 Pray, then, in this way: Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. **Mat 6:10**

Your kingdom come; Your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven. We also find a similar verse in **Luk 11:2** He said to them, When you pray, say: Our Father Who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come. Your will be done [held holy and revered] on earth as it is in heaven.

For interesting sake, it might be worth your while to look at the meanings of the two words Holy and Revered: Held Holy: consecrated, hallowed, sanctified, blessed, divine, sacred, righteous. Revered: respected admired, esteemed, valued, celebrated, well-regarded, honoured. Right there! This is where you see **God's will and purpose for this earth and for us....He wants His Kingdom to be so manifested on the earth** that every believer must live in the Kingdom every second of every night and day.

God is waiting for us to get in line with His Word and start living this good life He has promised us



for so long. Let us look at the Word in **Rom 8:19** For [even the whole] creation (all nature) **waits expectantly and longs earnestly for God's sons to be made known [waits for the revealing, the disclosing of their sonship].**

God wants us to be known as His true Sons in His Kingdom. Let me just explain quickly what the word Kingdom means. The Word Kingdom comes from the ancient Greek word "BASILEIA"; which means: "Royal Palace".

Obviously in the world we also find the word Basileia but it refers to a few different things, like for instance:

V Basileia Romaion is the Greek name for the Byzantine Empire, translated as "Empire of the Romans"

V It is also the royal palace (Citadel) of Atlantis, as described by the Greek philosopher Plato in the Critias*

V Basileia is the name of one of the daughters of Uranus, also

called Theia*

V Zeus's maid in the play "The Birds" by Aristophanes; is called Basileia*

And hence there are more meanings of the word *Basileia*, but in our Doctrine of Faith believing in Jesus Christ it means: "Basileia tou Theou" (The Kingdom of God). So, the Kingdom of God is the sovereignty of a King and he has the authority to rule in His Kingdom. A Kingdom (*Basileia*) is therefore a realm over which a sovereign Deity (for instance in our Christian Theology) God the Father; Jesus the Son; and the Holy Spirit exercises authority as Three-in-One.

Let us start by looking at the meaning of the word KINGDOM. The Hebrew word for Kingdom is Malku/Malkuth (soft "th"). This Hebrew *Malkuth* refers first to a reign, dominion, or rule and only secondly to the realm over which a reign is exercised. Other words that describe KINGDOM is Royalty, Reign, Dominion, Empire, Realm, Royal Power. Malkuth is also the tenth Sephirah of the cabalistic Tree of Life in Judaism (the bottom Sephirah on the whole Tree). The term is a Hebrew word meaning: Kingdom of Shekinah (glory). The

"Enthronement psalms"

(Psalms 45, 93, 96-99)

is also related to this view "The Lord is King!". So, when the word malkuth is used of God, it always refers to Gods authority or to His rule as the Heavenly King. George Eldon Ladd (Author) notes that ... "The primary meaning of both the Hebrew word malkuth in the Old Testament and of the Greek word basileia in the New Testament is the rank, authority and sovereignty exercised by a king. You can learn much more about the Kingdom of God by studying the Word of God regarding the Kingdom, because everything you need to know about God's Kingdom is in His Word. But there is a few books worth-while reading from other authors:

Books by George Eldon Ladd:
V Crucial Questions about the Kingdom of God. Eerdmans, 1952.
V Gospel of the Kingdom: Scriptural Studies in the Kingdom of God. Eerdmans, 1959.
V A Theology of the New Testament. Eerdmans, 1993, pp. 31-132.

You can also read a very good book about the Kingdom of God which was written by the late Dr. Myles Munroe, by the name of "Rediscovering the Kingdom". And it inspires to give us hope for

our world regarding God's Kingdom Life. Then there is another book I am currently busy with by the name of "The Kingdom of God" by John Bright...written in 1981. If you want to put it very plainly, Kingdom means: Noble Rule; Royal Authority; Sovereignty; Power & Kingship; Dominion; Reign; Royal dignity. It talks about the Title and Honour of a King; usually a realm; a Region or Country governed by a King; and also about Kingly power. In other words, It talks about an Area – subject to the Rule of a King – in our case Jesus and His reign. It highlights the Kingdom of our Messiah and His Requirements, Privileges and Rewards, See **Rom 14:17** for the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking [what one likes], but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

And the root word means: "Walking on foot" – Which suggests that we have dominion over where we place our feet in an area (on earth) ... God said: Every place you put your feet, that will I give you. Look at **Josh 1:3** Every place upon which the sole of your foot shall tread, that have I given to you... Also, read where the Lord promises that wherever we go, He will be with us, suggesting that

we will have authority where we go because He is with us. **Josh 1:9** Have not I commanded you? Be strong, vigorous, and very courageous. Be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

A nicer way to describe it is the way that Graeme Goldsworthy did: "The Kingdom of God is "God's people in Gods Place under Gods rule". It is an idea (concept) that we must be able to fully understand as children of God: The concept of the Kingship of God appears in all Abrahamic religions, where in some cases the terms "Kingdom of God" and other times "Kingdom of Heaven" are used. But since there is a whole other Teaching on the Kingdom of Heaven, I do not want to go into that too much now. But the notion of God's kingship goes back to the Hebrew Bible and The term "Kingdom of God"; does not appear in the Hebrew Bible. Sometimes when they are referring to God, they use the two terms: "His kingdom" and "Your kingdom".

When we talk about the kingdom of God we cannot forget the fact that there are other very interesting topics that comes to mind, such as the "Streets of Gold; Pearly Gates; New Jerusalem; New Heavens and New Earth..." The Kingdom of God

has everything to do with all these topics, and as we go along most relevant questions regarding God's Kingdom will be answered.

Anthony Hoekema has described God's Kingdom as "The reign of God that is dynamically active in human history through Jesus Christ; the purpose of which is the redemption of his people from sin and from demonic powers; and the final establishment of the new heavens and the new earth."

So, in fact, as we can see, the Kingdom of God has much to do with each and every Saint that believes in Jesus. If you say that you are a child of God and you said yes to Jesus, then you should by all means be living in the Kingdom of God, every moment of every day. Which means you have Authority to do many great things! For Instance, you have the Authority to trample on snakes and scorpions - **Luk 10:19** Let us stand still at the key teaching of Jesus for a moment - the "Kingdom of God" and "Kingdom of Heaven" in the Gospel of Matthew is one of the key elements of the teachings of Jesus in the New Testament; and in the book of John it was also the only teaching of John the Baptist. Both of them were warning

individuals to "repent", saying that the kingdom of God is at hand... Some translations of the Bible say: "the Kingdom of God is near; the Kingdom of God is upon you; the Kingdom of God has come close to you..." but no matter what translation you read, it all comes down to the same thing, the message is that **God's Kingdom has arrived on the earth.**

And this was preached 2000 years ago! There are many scriptures in the book of Matthew referring to the Kingdom of Heaven. Even from Old Testament teachings, The relationship between God and humanity naturally involves the idea of the "Kingship of God" We can for instance look at **1 Cron 29:10-12** "Yours is the kingdom, O Lord" and **Dan 3:33** "His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom".

Let us clarify which one of the Four Gospels describe the Kingdom of God more clearly to us. If we have a look at the Gospel of Luke it records Jesus' description of the Kingdom of God - **Luke 17:20** Now having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He replied, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed or with a visible display; **Luk 17:21** nor will people say, "Look! Here it is!" or

“There it is!” For the kingdom of God is among you [because of My presence].”

But I will say this: the four Gospels portray Jesus differently according to the vision that the Prophet Ezekiel had in Chapter One. In the book of Matthew, Jesus is our king, portraying the Lion in Ezekiel’s vision. In the book of Mark, Jesus is the Servant, symbolizing the Ox in the vision of Ezekiel. The book of Luke portrays the humility of Jesus, being our Saviour but becoming man and dwelling between us on Earth, portrayed by the man in Ezekiel’s vision, chapter One. And the book of John shows Jesus as part of the Godhead Deity – the Eagle in Ezekiel’s vision.

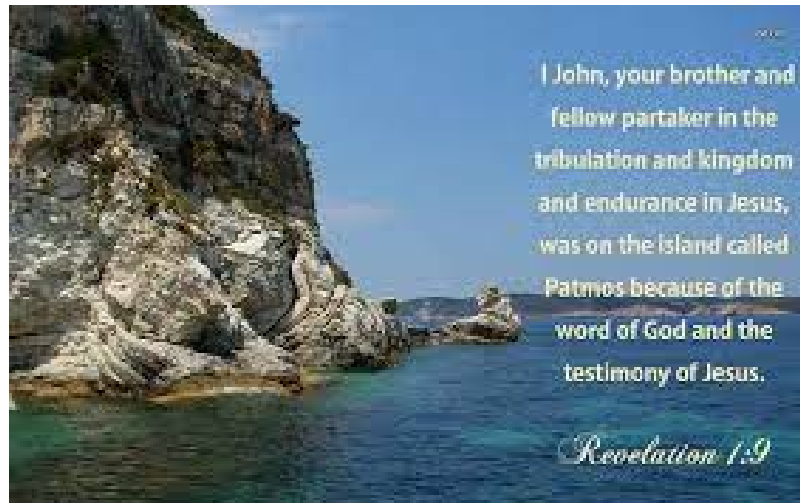
We note also that the term “Kingdom of Heaven” was used much more than the term “Kingdom of God”, most likely because Matthew wrote to a Jewish audience and in the Jewish religion there were restrictions on the frequent use of the name of God in the Public. However, Dr. Chuck Missler states that Matthew intentionally differentiated between the kingdoms of God and Heaven: “Most commentators presume that these terms are identical. However, Matthew uses Kingdom of Heaven 33 times in the Gospel,

whereas he also uses Kingdom of God 5 times, even in neighbouring verses, which indicates that these are not identical.

However, if we go to the Latin Vulgate, in Latin the term “Kingdom of God” is translated to Latin as “Regnum Dei” and “Kingdom of Heaven” is translated as “Regnum caelorum”. You can clearly see the Difference. So, there is a distinctive difference between Kingdom of God and Kingdom of Heaven. Karen Wenell wrote: Mark’s Gospel provides for us a significant place of transformation for the space of the Kingdom of God, precisely because it can be understood as a kind of birthplace for the Kingdom of God, the beginning of its construction.”

Jesus Himself also used the term “Kingdom of God” or “Kingdom of Heaven” often in His Teachings. In the Gospels, especially the Synoptic Gospels, Jesus speaks frequently of God’s kingdom. However, Jesus never explains the concept. “He assumed this was a concept so familiar that it did not require definition.”

When we talk about the Synoptic Gospels – we are speaking of the books Matthew, Mark and



Luke) but not in John. Let us talk about other Characters in God's Word for a moment – other Characters that spoke about the Kingdom of God from the Old Testament to the New Testament.

- The Apostle Paul defined the Kingdom of God in his letter to the church in Rome – **Rom 14:17** for the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking [what one likes], but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Daniel spoke about the Kingdom in **Dan 7:13-14** “And to Him (the Messiah) was given dominion (supreme authority), Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and speakers of every language should serve and worship Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

- John on the Island of Patmos (volcanic Island) wrote about the Kingdom of Kings and Priests.

See **Rev 5:10** You have made them to be a kingdom [of royal subjects] and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth

- God Himself spoke about the Kingdom – **Exo 19:6** and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation [set apart for My purpose]



Isaiah spoke about God's Kingdom – **Isa 61:6** But you shall be called the priests of the LORD; People will speak of you as the ministers of our

God

□ David spoke about God's Kingdom – **Psa 145:11** They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom And talk of Your power.

□ John spoke about the Kingdom of God - **Joh 3:3** Jesus answered him, "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, unless a person is born again [reborn from above-spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified], he cannot [ever] see and experience the kingdom of God."

□ Matthew, Mark, and Luke spoke about the Kingdom of God in the Synoptic Gospels. There is a lot of scriptures about Gods Kingdom in the Word of God, written by different people.

Let us talk about Salvation for a moment - What does Salvation have to do with the Kingdom of God? The Kingdom of God is the name for the domain of salvation entered into at the new birth (**John 3:5-7**) and is synonymous with the "Kingdom of heaven." **Joh 3:5** Jesus answered, "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot [ever] enter the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God embraces all created intelligence, both in heaven and on earth that are willingly subject to the Lord and are

in fellowship with Him; Of course, for us, Having a close relationship on an everyday basis with God is essential if you want to live in Gods Kingdom. Salvation has therefore everything to do with the Kingdom of God, since Jesus Himself said to Nikodemus: If you do not become saved you cannot enter into the Kingdom (**Joh 3**). The central messages that Jesus preached was that the Kingdom of God has arrived! And also the presence of God is now with His people! Jesus came to show His followers how to enter into the Kingdom of God – **Mat 7:21** "Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. He taught His disciples how to pray about the Kingdom of God – **Matt 6:10** "Your kingdom come, Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. He taught His disciples how to pray about the Kingdom of God – **Matt 6:10** "Your kingdom come, Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven ... His miracles were to prove that the Kingdom of God had now come upon them – **Matt 12:28** But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you [before you expected it].

His parables (stories) taught His disciples the truth about the Kingdom of God – **Matt 13:11**

Jesus replied to them, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted”. **[Mark 4:11]** Jesus promised that He would appear again on the Earth in glory to bring the blessedness of the Kingdom to those for whom it was prepared – **Matt 25:31, 34** “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory and majesty and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. **Mat 25:34** ”Then the King will say to those on His right, “Come, you blessed of My Father [you favoured of God, appointed to eternal salvation], inherit the kingdom [Gods Kingdom!] Prepared for you from the foundation of the world”. The night before He died He also assured them that He will still share with them the joy, peace, and happiness of the Kingdom of God – **Luke 22:22-30** and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you [the privilege] **Luk 22:30** that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones.... [we are kings!] We know that the New testament refers a lot to the term Kingdom of God, but what about the Old testament – Is this Phrase “Kingdom of God” common in the Old Testament books of the Word of God? No, the phrase “Kingdom of God” is not too common in Inter-Testamental literature. Where it

does occur, such as in the Book of Psalms of Solomon and the Wisdom Book of Solomon it usually refers to the REIGN [power/strength/etc] of God, and NOT to the REALM over which He reigns. So, it seems that there is a difference in the term KINGDOM OF GOD between the Old and New Testament?

In the book of “John”; John the Baptist sent his Disciples to Jesus to ask: Are you the One or shall we wait for another? Jesus replied: **Tell JOHN WHAT you See and Hear.... Act 2:16-18** but this is [the beginning of] what was spoken of through the prophet **Joel: Act 2:17** “AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS” says God, “THAT I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT UPON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE [divinely prompted] VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM [divinely prompted] DREAMS; **Act 2:18** EVEN ON MY BOND-SERVANTS, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR OUT MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy. Act 2:19 “AND I WILL BRING ABOUT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS. The Spirit of the Lord is poured out.... The Glory of God has arrived on earth..... This was the Physical Christ that was manifested on the earth.

In the old Testament in the book of JOEL there was a prophecy to the Church to WHAT they will, See and Hear: **Joel 2:28-30**. This prophecy was to the Church (global church) – for every believer in Christ....and that is the Spiritual Christ – this is the difference between the two Testaments. So, what was prophesied in Joel, happened in the Gospels and in Acts it is told about it! The spiritual Jesus was Manifested Physically of Earth **Joel 2:28** “It shall come about after this That I shall pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and your daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. Joel 2:29 “Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

Joel 2:30 “I will show signs and wonders [displaying My power] in the heavens and on the earth. In Acts the Disciples of Jesus witnesses to this incident and this prophecy from the time of Joel. SO, JESUS CAME TO MANIFEST THIS AUTHORITY (GLORY) ON EARTH! THEREFORE, GODS WILL AND PURPOSE WAS ALREADY FULFILLED ON THE EARTH- HIS KINGDOM HAS COME. Now the whole creation is waiting for the manifestation of the Sons of God’s Kingdom to be manifested (Rom 8:19)- we as Christians just has to start believing it, accepting it, living in it, taking hold of it.....

Trust God you have already received the glory, the anointing, the victory.... This is Kingdom Life! I hope that this Teaching will find you by grace. Shalom Aleichem till next month by faith. Ps. Nomsa, TRT Church, Meyerton. (Credits to Dr. Myles Monroe)

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