

## FOR THE DAY OF TROUBLE

“FOR THE DAY OF TROUBLE  
GOD WILL HIDE ME IN HIS SHELTER,  
AND SET MY FEET UPON A ROCK.”

PSALM 27:5A, C

DO YOU EVER FEEL LIKE YOU'RE JUST  
DYING INSIDE, LIKE I HAVE?  
WELCOME TO MY HEALING JOURNEY  
WITH JESUS!

I FINISHED THIS PAPER THE MOMENT THE LOCKDOWN BEGAN,  
AND I'M HERE TO TELL YOU THERE IS A WORSE PANDEMIC  
THAN CORONA GOING ON!

WRITTEN BY A FORMERLY DEPRESSED AND SUICIDAL BIBLE BANGER,  
ALL I WAS THINKING I WAS RIGHTLY FOLLOWING GOD!

SUE MUELLER

My blog is <http://forthedayoftrouble.org/> and to find it you must have the  
http://

OH HOW MANY THINGS THAT I'VE DONE,  
THAT A FOOL WOULDN'T DO ON A BAD DAY!!!  
TRULY BY THE GRACE OF GOD GO I!!!

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### Die Right Now

If you really want to die right now, there is a better way.

Why not give the Lord your life, yes, right here today!

If you really want to die right now, why not join with Christ,  
Who said "Your will, not Mine dear God", to You I give my life!

## Chapter 1 Armed and Dangerous??

Have you ever felt like screaming, “God! How in the world could You let this happen?!” “How can it be true that You love me! This just doesn’t make sense!!” Or maybe you have felt too weak to even cry out... like your inside is dying and you feel you need some sort of spiritual CPR like I have?

Maybe you’ve never heard the gospel... literally the good news, about Jesus. Or maybe you’re like me, and you’ve already received Him but still aren’t getting the upper hand.

“Jesus came to bind up *and* heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the [physical and spiritual] captives and the opening of the prison *and* of the eyes to those who are bound... and comfort those who mourn.”<sup>1</sup> When I read that, and when I consider how God has been healing me, not too unlike Jack London’s book, *White Fang*, where consistent, patient and caring love, finally, finally, finally broke through!

### The Me Inside

Nobody knows the me inside,  
How many times that I have cried,  
How many times I’d wished I’d died.

But before creation God says that He knew  
Every thought and action that I would do.  
Does God really know all my feelings too?

So accustomed to the pain I had grown,  
For so long, I’d felt all alone,  
Have I forgot I’ll stand ‘neath His throne?

Have I really taken God at His Word?  
Have I truly believed? Have I really heard?  
The words, “Jesus loves me” can sound so absurd!

God loves the whole world that He sent His own Son  
It’s easy to know, but for me... this one...  
For this me inside, I know what I’ve done!

God loves YOU! God loves YOU!  
Oh, preacher, preacher... tell me it’s true!  
Is God really willing to forgive me too?

(Now, believing this, is all up to you!)

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<sup>1</sup> Isaiah 61:1,2

I'd like to invite you into my world, how I learned that with Jesus, I didn't have to let tragedies destroy me. I didn't have to be so overcome. But there was a day I had no clue. I'd thought when I received Jesus to save me, it was only from hell and what more was there to it for me? Thus my focus was turned to y'all! Boy, did I have a log in my eye, as I had no idea how much 'saving' help I'd need on my way!

There's always hope, as long as "we haven't decided by conscious and hardened opposition, that leads a man away from humility and repentance, since one who does not acknowledge his sin, does not seek to have it forgiven."<sup>2</sup> But like Abraham, the father of the Jews, may we also be able to pray, "If I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways so that I may know You..."<sup>3</sup>

Just imagine this scene:

You are the main character, who has been out of it, like in a long coma for some reason not given. You have no idea as you slowly awake, where you are, how you are or even how you got there. Your vision's like a deep morning fog, slowly clearing.

Just then, entering stage right into the room is someone quite confidently walking your way... (make that your favorite actor or actress if you want to). As they draw hither, you notice that they're glad to see you as they say, "Oh good! You're finally coming around!"

In their hands they have a wide array of protective gear and weapons, which they plop on the bed right next to you, whether you are ready or not, saying, "Take these, you are SURE going to need them!"

Welcome to life, my dear friend!!

Almost 200 years ago, the evangelist, J.C. Ryle, wrote, "You live in a world where your soul is in constant danger. Enemies are round you on every side. Your own heart is deceitful. Bad examples are numerous. Satan is always labouring to lead you astray. Above all false doctrine and false teachers of every kind abound. This is your great danger. I shall not be surprised to hear that you are troubled with doubts and questions about assurance, grace, faith, perseverance, etc. The devil is an old and cunning enemy. He can quote Scripture readily enough when he pleases. Now you are not sufficiently ready with your weapons to fight a good fight with him.... Your sword is held loosely in your hand."

In Ephesians 6, we are told "Be strong in the Lord (be empowered through your union with Him), draw your strength from Him, (that strength which His boundless might provides). Put on God's whole armor that you may be able successfully to stand up against (all) the strategies and deceits of the devil... For we contend with the world rulers of this present darkness..."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Mark 3:28-29, Mt. 12:31-32 and Luke 12:10.

<sup>3</sup> Exodus 33:13

<sup>4</sup> See full reference in Ephesians 6: 10-17 and Luke 8:20

Strategies? Wait! What?! What's this about the devil having strategies? Strategies for me??? Strategies to line up with his stated goal, to kill steal, and destroy!<sup>5</sup> Well the good news is, the Lord has plans too, only His are good,<sup>6</sup> and we're the ones who get to choose!

I'm so glad God doesn't cover up the weaknesses and faults of the people in the Bible who needed Him just like I do. The liars and cheats, lustful and lost, depressed and discouraged, murderers too, even religious hypocrites, just like I used to be! Did you know it's possible to be useless to the Lord?<sup>7</sup> I thought if nothing else, I've served Him as a bad example. But today I can be a poster child to say, "Don't go that way!". Life rightly with the Lord as our Lord, will change us. God's truths are "life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh!"<sup>8</sup> And if you are truly belong to our Father God, you can count on His loving, perfectly applied discipline, so hopefully you don't make Him ashamed like I'm sure I did.<sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup>At this point in my life, even though the lessons were sometimes more than I thought could bear, I'm so thankful He's helped me to change! Well, as much as I have anyway, which I know y'all will appreciate, we really are in this together!!!

I'll be starting with what I learned in my first round of depression. It's important to me that you know how messed up I was, so you, or maybe someone you know might know there's hope for them too. Then what happened when I had no idea about God, and just tossed up a prayer in the dark asking if He was even there in the first place. I figured if He wasn't there, He couldn't hear me, anyway!

What are my qualifications you might ask?? Stay in bed depression? Check. Suicide attempt? Check. Time in a mental ward? Check. Panic attacks? Check. Lust? Check! Attempted murder out of a fit of rage? Check. But worst, all while telling everyone else and their dog, just what they needed to do to find salvation, or you could say, how to find hope in the Lord, when I had none. Check, check, check, check, check!!! At least I was sharing when I had enough strength. I sure had a log in my eye!!

I'll be including where I'm getting my information from in the Bible, as well as amazing supports and proofs I've discovered along the way that the Bible is the only true word of God. Well, unless you want to just take my word for it, which I don't even want to do anymore! Or, maybe you're busy taking someone else's word for it, on life and death, and eternal matters. That is up to you.

Having been a former Bible banger, I've had to be reminded in my own life to be careful about these things, because decisions to trust the Lord, or decisions to trust anyone else for that matter... really aren't always that easy, especially when you've been hurt. God warns us believers that when we're not sharing about Him in love, we'd be like an annoying clang, clang, clang, clang!<sup>11</sup> But I hope you give

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<sup>5</sup> John 10:10

<sup>6</sup> Jeremiah 29:11

<sup>7</sup> 2 Peter 1:8

<sup>8</sup> Proverbs 4:22

<sup>9</sup> 2 Thessalonians 3:14 and 2 Timothy 2:15

<sup>10</sup> Revelation 3:19

<sup>11</sup> 1 Corinthians 13:1

us a break for trying, because we're not perfect either, and when you believe what we do, who couldn't try to do everything in their power to warn one another? It's just that we have to learn to be gentle, just like the Lord is with us!

I've been praying for you, and I know about you. I watch the evening news, you know!

### Tested Positive

When I went into the doctor, I was frightened when he said,  
My child I must tell you, you've tested positive!  
When to your heart I listened, that was when that I could tell  
The symptoms of your unbelief, is why you don't feel well!

All those fears and doubts that are deep down in there  
Are really very serious, and difficult to bear!  
So if you will allow me to tell you what to do,  
Take 2 verses on the hour, for the whole day through!

I think that you'll feel better, and yes, so very soon -  
If you let them do their work, even then by noon!  
You must stay right up with it, this habit do not stop,  
Then you'll soon be viewing this world from right on top!

### Chapter 2 Ever feel like Humpty Dumpty, when he had a great fall?

I know a lot of people can't relate to what it's like to be so broken, where you can feel like you're short circuited, sort of like a radio that's been dropped off the Empire State Building. But if you do know someone like that, would you consider printing this off for them, (it's free, besides what that costs you), and maybe also wrap up a bottle of Joy? Or Dawn, because something 'dawned' on you when you read this? Or maybe a Snickers bar, because something made you laugh?

The greatest thing to me would be to see other people find their hope in the Lord!

Recovery doesn't even have to take all that long. Have you ever heard of the man full of demons in the Bible, who lived so very alone, naked in the cemetery, who ranted and raved, and couldn't even be chained? Have you read how his life changed after just one encounter with Christ?<sup>12</sup> Bob Bennet sings a wonderful song about him on YouTube, or YT for short. It's called Man of the Tombs

Or maybe you know a Christian hypocrite. I'd like to invite you to give them a copy of this as well, because God doesn't like out and out hypocrisy either.<sup>13</sup> But only to those who say they are a

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<sup>12</sup> Luke 8:28

<sup>13</sup> Well, it's **all** over the whole Bible, but you can see Psalm 25:23 and 71:1 for specifics.

Christian, because you wouldn't expect people who don't believe in God to worry about whether they are pleasing Him or not!

**Oh in this world of confusion, how we need to again-**

**“Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand!!!”**

**“Prepare the way of the Lord!”<sup>14</sup>**

“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”<sup>15</sup> Do you know the definition of the word? I'd like you to think on that one for a while. It has to do with what you would want someone to do, who has hurt you!

I'll be sharing resources I've found helpful, because I have needed so VERY many... along through my 46 years of trial and error. Because just like with our physical food, there sure is a lot of junk out there! Jesus warned us even more false teachers would come!<sup>16</sup>

To Every Man

To every man there openeth a high way and a low,  
To every man the choice is given, which way that man will go.  
To ask and seek and knock and find, is an honor due a king,  
because that searched out matter will affect his everything.

To every man there openeth a high way and a low,  
Have you heard what our God says, of how He loves you so?  
Come along and hear of weapons I did find,  
that helped my heart and my soul and gave me a right mind.

Here's an example of something about God's Word being the Bible, that confirms it to me, any time I have had doubts: Names are words and thus have definitions. If you take the Biblical genealogy between Adam, the first man, down 10 generations to Noah, (as in Noah and the Ark) and if you line up each one of these definitions of their names in a row, this creates the following sentence:... “Man is appointed mortal sorrow, but the blessed God shall come down, teaching that His death shall bring the despairing comfort and rest.” From YT (YouTube) the 14 minute program, Hidden Treasures in Genesis – Chuck Missler.

Mortal sorrow, mortal sorrow. Why yes, that's a good way to put all the pain I have felt!!

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<sup>14</sup> Matthew 3:2,3

<sup>15</sup> 2 Peter 3:9

<sup>16</sup> 2 Peter 2:1

### Humpty Dumpty

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.  
All the king's horses, and all the king's men  
Couldn't put Humpty together again!

But the Prince of all Healing heard Humpty's dear cry  
And the God of Compassion, with a tear in His eye  
Felt Humpty's pain and in love drew near,  
Saying, "Never give up! And please do not fear!"

For if Humpty would trust and just lean upon Him,  
His adventure of healing, soon would begin!  
As Humpty considered his alternatives,  
He knew nothing else had helped him to live.

He wisely decided to trust in this God,  
And each time he did, he felt rather odd  
As any semblance of hope that had gone away,  
Started to grow and with him did stay!

Notice how it was by each 'faith choice' he changed? we'll talk a lot about those precious choices (not feelings) later, but for Humpty Dumpty not to be outdone, also ahead we will learn a lesson about The Big Bad Wolf, The Emperor's New Clothes, and The Little Old Lady Who Swallowed a Lie.

The faith that WE'RE called to is not pure mental ascent! No, not at all. For even the demons believe and they tremble!<sup>17</sup> The demons believe... yes they know who Jesus Christ is...

### Mental Ascent

The demons, they knew who Christ was  
But that is not faith, the reason is 'cuz  
Faith in the Lord is not mental ascent-  
Trusting and knowing are much different!  
The faith that is more precious than gold,  
Proves unto God, that to Him you are sold!

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<sup>17</sup> James 2:19



THERE'S A WAR GOING ON

There's a war going on and we have to act fast!  
There's another one down, did you see that blast?  
Call in the sergeants, colonels and troops!  
Call the armed forces, and all the recruits!

For Satan is having too often his way,  
With lies and deceptions on people today!  
There is a famine of truth in the land,  
The knowledge of God, that we all need at hand!

Oh, where are those experienced to wield  
The sword of the Spirit, and faith's powerful shield?  
Where are those who are given to pray,  
Then follow God's word, and trust and obey?

God tells the older to train up the younger,  
But many today, for God's Word do hunger!  
Many don't know that they have the right  
To call out to God to help with their fight!

Rise up oh Daniels, and Esthers and Ruths!  
Rise up oh brave ones who stand for the truth!  
Calling all saints to stand 'gainst the tide,  
Of a culture so lost and doomed by its pride!

Oh, who will come and help others to know  
Just where to find hope, so that they can grow  
In this old world that's getting so dark  
Will any more rise to leave their life's mark?

There's a war going on, and we have to act fast!  
There's another one down, did you see that blast?  
Call in the sergeants colonels and troops,  
Call the armed forces, and all the recruits!

(Oh look at the children! There's Sally and Sam...  
Will they turn out like Hitler, or the next Billy Graham?)

## Chapter 3 Round One, Total Knockout!

My first round with severe depression was the scariest for me as I felt like I was losing my mind. It felt just like my whole world was destroyed. Being rejected by a person I loved, just devastated me, Today I can say that I'm glad it was just another person and not God rejecting me, but at the time I was devastated, crushed, depressed and just in a dark fog.

I believe the only thing that helped me recover was being around other believers who would assure me I would be alright, and that they were praying for me... and in fact, did. It was an amazing comfort as they surrounded me, put their hands on my shoulders and prayed out loud for me, prayers for God to comfort me with His unfailing love. They reassured me with verses like these:

“I would have lost heart unless I had believed I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!”, Psalm 27:13,14

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”, 2 Corinthians 1:3,4

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.”, Isaiah 43:2

Being prayed for like that was a new experience for me, but I loved it! Especially when I found others as vulnerable and honest when they were having a hard time as well, hearing wisdom from those who had been through their tough times, and compassionately supporting one another.

Maybe you don't have the opportunity to be around believers like that, but I have been praying for you, and God knows who you are, no matter how hurt, lost or broken. In the past, I've felt like if people really knew what was going on in my mind, that they wouldn't even know what to do with me. I know there are many who cannot understand. But that's not who I'm writing to. I'm writing to people like me!

### TO BE OKAY AGAIN

To be okay again,

To be okay again!

Oh God, please help me, help me God!

To be okay again!

### How Very Gentle God can be

I think you'd be amazed at how gentle God can be,  
If you've never felt His touch, come along with me!  
I think you'd be amazed at how caring our God is,  
The perfect loving Father who wants you to be His!

As a companionship of sorts, you can hear what the Lord did for over 400 people, to deliver them out of suicide, depression, drugs, witchcraft, despair, etc. on YT, under, The 700 Club: Healing Testimonies. Each is roughly 6 or 7 minutes long. Are you spending time waiting in lines these days? This is an awesome way to spend your time!

It was at this time in my life, when one of these Christian friends happened to notice the music I liked. Very kindly, she approached me, stating that if growing closer to the Lord was something that I was interested in doing in my life, I might want to take the 3-week music challenge and then see what happens. Since I saw in her the kind of love for God that I wanted to have, I did it. That was about the best piece of advice as I'd ever received! If you want to do your own little experiment with it yourself and see what happens, for me, instead of hearing all the songs of love of human beings, my mind was being filled with words telling me about the kind of compassionate, merciful unconditional love that God has for His creation, and His willingness to forgive and restore. Listening to truthful music about God and His kind of love is a habit that I've never changed.

Because there's a lot of junk Christian music out there, just like junk food, and junk teaching, I'd like to list you some of my recommends if you want. First up, is group from Australia who only sings the words directly from the Bible's book of Psalms, in a very soothing and relaxing way. You can find them on YT.

By the way, do you know who Korah was in the Bible?<sup>18</sup> He led a rebellion against Moses and got eaten alive by a sudden earthquake. But his sons chose a different path, that of obeying the Lord. And that's okay too, For as it is written, to love the Lord your God above all else, and we're told every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess Jesus Christ as Lord. And that each of us shall give an account of himself Romans 14:11,12. Even for every idle word that we've said! Mt 12:36

### Again and Again

And if you'll allow me, here's an insight  
That makes you think if that is alright...  
Just why do the most unrepentant of men  
Daily swear who God is, again and again?

I sure like every now and then to sit down and listen to Don Francisco's 11 minute song, Too Small a Price. Also, **The Imperials, Praise the Lord**, Rich Mullins, If I Stand, Keith Green I can't wait to get

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<sup>18</sup> Numbers 26:9,10

to heaven, The Cathedrals, Can He Could he would he, Fernando Ortega, Bill and Gloria Gaither, Dallas Holm, Petra (and an awesome YT, Mine Field), Twila Paris, Sandy Patty, Chris Tomlin, Tobey Mack and Adam's Road, just to name a few.

There is much to say about the power of praise in Scripture. I remember the advice of one mother, when her children would call with a problem. She'd ask them if they'd listened to praise music yet. If the answer was no, she'd tell them to hang up, listen for a half hour, and then to call her back. Merlin Carothers has incredible things to say about what he learned about that power of praise in his book series starting with "From Prison to Praise." I think you'd be amazed with the 14 minute amazing YT of Louie Gilglio, Mashup of Stars and Whales, as well as his amazing discovery and teaching on Laminin.

Now I have a question for you to think about before I tell you the answer later. What do you think the term, to 'hope against hope' means? Just think about that for a little while. Are you familiar with the man in the Bible God allowed the devil to test? <sup>19</sup> Now, we get to see behind the scenes, what was going on, but Job didn't know what was really going on, that he had enough character to be the one God chose! He also didn't know his trials and hardships would be recorded for the whole world to read! When Job was having a very bad day already, all of his children suddenly died! A roof caved in on all 12! But do you know what Job's first response was? To render his clothing in grief, and then turn and worship the Lord!<sup>20</sup>

Put on Your Wings

How do you carry your weakness, your wounds –  
with a song of sorrow, self pity?  
How do you carry your weakness, your wounds?  
Their weight seems to lift, with rejoicing tunes!

Even if you have to wait on the Lord,  
and wait .....  
and wait.....  
and wait!!!

Even if you have to wait on the Lord,  
and wait.....  
and wait.....  
and wait!

God's Word calls you to trust more in Him  
then the lies of the captor who'd lead you to sin.  
God's Word would call you to praise through all things –  
How willing are you to put on your wings?

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<sup>19</sup> Job 1:8

<sup>20</sup> Job 1:20

## Chapter 4: What happened when I searched for God the first time.

### Honor Due a King

Seeking out just what is true is an honor due a king,  
Especially when what we find affects our everything!

### Ultimate Makeover

For when we're at our lowest, that's the time indeed  
For an ultimate make over, for God knows what we need!  
So when He's tearing walls down, don't fear but trust in Him-  
Cuz He's the best one that there is, to build us up again!

When I first searched for God my motive was not one out of despair, but more out of a desire to just want to know truth about if there was a God that I was going to have to give an account of my life to when I died... and especially if there really was an eternal place called hell, because I really didn't want to go there. I knew if I didn't find a God, or my Creator, I was going to bag the whole religion scene and live however I pleased till I died. But if I was sure I did, I wanted to live 100% committed to Him, especially if He was good!!

In my search for God, the first place I looked was evolution.

What would you think of a jury, who would only hear one side of a case? Were you aware that even college professors have lost their jobs for even mentioning there could be any other way? Check out the DVD, Expelled: No Intelligence allowed, by Ben Stein, who's not even a Jesus Freak.

I started there because I figured if I ruled that out, then I would keep looking. As I reached my hand up to open the curtain so I could look at the stars and the trees, the thought hit me that I'd just made a decision in my spirit which my body was obeying, and even that act alone gave me a sense of accountability, which I knew just couldn't evolve. I think it helped me realize the freedom I had to decide what I was going to believe, which is sort of a frightening thing when it comes to decisions that will affect where I was going to spend eternity, because if hell **was** a real and forever place for getting this decision wrong, I sure didn't want to make a mistake. At the time I wasn't even aware of the verse in Romans 1:20 that tells us, " See also Ps. 14:1 where God says only a fool says there is no God. I know it's hard when all you hear is one particular teaching, to even think there could be another way, but maybe you'd be willing to at least check out what Answers in Genesis has to say, or Creation Research as well. But at least due to the amazingness of creation, we know we don't have to worry about people who've never had the chance to read the Bible, but have the law written on their hearts

like we do, according to Romans 2:15. You know, that is your conscience, at least if you haven't let it be hardened and seared.<sup>21</sup> But if you're still concerned, there's hope for you.

And I knew I needed help, but wasn't sure who I could trust because I knew I'd get a different answer, depending on what person I'd ask, even if that was family, that didn't make it the right one automatically, just due to the fact that there are so very many choices these from which to pick and choose!! (Poor old Adam and Eve really had only one!)

So that's when I prayed, asking God Himself to reveal Himself to me because I knew if He really did create me, He would be able to know what even my simple mind understood.

If you have not, for any reason, heard scientific reasoning for creation, here are just 2 sources you might want to check out: Answers in Genesis and Creation Research Institute.

### The order of Creation

The order of creation's not just an accident...  
No, the order in creation is to give us all a hint  
That there are unseen powers, from which we get to choose,  
Exactly what we will believe, be it win or lose.

So, having ruled that out, this is when I spent time approaching different religions by myself as an absolutely pure skeptic, because I wanted to be more than sure of what I was getting myself into. This is when I found the Bible is the only book that told me the ugly truth that there was nothing I could do to make myself good enough for God, because I knew He'd know when I was just trying to pretend I was good. I'd heard of Christ's death on the cross. But what I hadn't realized, is what I was supposed to do about it.

I knew I liked to do things that were wrong, even though I still knew they were wrong. It reminds me of the very strict pharisee, or Jewish religious ruler... the apostle Paul, born and raised seeking to follow every bit of the law to the letter, but yet the very one who called himself the chief of sinners when he found Christ<sup>22</sup>... at one point wrestled with doing what he hated but wasn't able to quit! I so echo with his words, "Oh, wretched man that I am! Who can deliver me?"<sup>23</sup> It seems like Paul finally figured out he couldn't do it himself. Maybe that's why he was the same man who wrote much of the New Testament when he found Christ! He more than anyone could understand now that salvation is truly by faith, and not works!<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> 1 Timothy 4:2

<sup>22</sup> 1 Timothy 1:15

<sup>23</sup> Roman 7:24

<sup>24</sup> Ephesians 2:8-10

## Golden Globe

If I had a nickel when I acted like I cared,  
When I really didn't... well, I'd be a millionaire!

When I felt I had to pretend my heart was good and kind,  
And tried to hide the thoughts that I had within my mind...

I think I'd win a Golden Globe faking I was good,  
At least on my exterior, the only place I could!

Who can change this heart of mine, or is it possible-  
To no longer have to hide the things within my soul?

Oh, Jesus, YOU can change me? Right here, my deep inside?  
Where with this person that I am, I always must abide?

I remember realizing I'd found truth. As I got in my knees in my bedroom at home, just me and the Lord... I told Him that I was sorry, but I had to admit that I liked my sin, just to be totally honest. I had no idea why He'd love me that much, and be willing to forgive me, but because His Word said He would, I'd take Him up on His offer, and I asked Him to be Lord of the whole rest of my life. That I'd give Him my life, and repent, or turn from my sinful ways, to instead follow Him, and His way.

When I prayed, I tell you the truth! I was instantly changed, filled with a joy and a peace that words can't describe. I was changed and I knew it. I'd been born again, what the Bible calls being made a new creation.<sup>25</sup> I've never felt so clean inside! Just like my insides had a bath! I remember not being able to get enough of reading the Word of God. I remember now wanting right things that I'd never desired before. THAT is where the power comes from! From the Lord's Spirit taking up residence, once you open the door!<sup>26</sup>

I've been amazed at how many things I thought were in the Bible but weren't, and how many things that are, of which I didn't know! Now I know things like when Christ died on the cross, the extremely thick curtain in the temple was torn from top to bottom.<sup>27</sup> As well as learning what that means, practically in my life... "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus."<sup>28</sup> Wow, we have our own direct access to God! In this body that God calls a temple!<sup>29</sup> So because of the indwelling of the Spirit of the Lord, the Bible won't be foolishness to us anymore!<sup>30</sup>  
(22) And we're even told that as born again believers in the New Testament age, that we are now a

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<sup>25</sup> John 3:3 and 2 Corinthians 5:7

<sup>26</sup> Revelation 3:20

<sup>27</sup> Matthew 27:61

<sup>28</sup> 1 Timothy 2:5 and Acts 4:12

<sup>29</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

<sup>30</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:18

royal priesthood, ourselves!!<sup>31</sup> But just as in the Old Testament, mostly in Leviticus, that alone didn't qualify you to serve.

This is when God gave me a vision of my future being like a series of hills and valleys, where it would sometimes be easy to believe on the hill tops where it would be easy to understand what He's been doing in my life, and see how good He was... but there would also be valleys, not so. Valleys, where my faith would be tested as to if I was going to continue to trust Him and follow. At that time, I remember being **so excited** to get to those valleys and prove to my God, that I would still believe. But when they came, I had no idea at that point in time how hard those valleys would be. And looking back at it now, I still had in my head that God was still more about what happened with me when I died. I really had NO idea how very intimately He wanted to be involved with my life while I'm still here... and be so helpfully involved in absolutely every single arena of my existence!

Proverbs 14:12 tells us "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man but the end thereof, are the ways of death." What do you think that might mean?

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#### Hard to get

Playing hard to get with God, might not be very wise.  
Playing hard to get with God might cost you your own life.  
But He likes it when it's the truth upon which we insist  
To hear and see and understand, and know why we exist.

For He's the lover of our soul, we bear His own image  
His heart's purest deep desire is that we each are His!  
But it's up to you, my friend to choose what you believe,  
If our God is bad or good... if Jesus you'll receive.

#### Our Unseen Enemy

Our unseen enemy, the one that we ought fear  
Is one who'd rob us of our life, that we hold so dear!

Not only of life here and now, but beyond the grave  
Unless we find to the only one, who our lives can save.

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<sup>31</sup> 1 Peter 2:9, Revelation 20:6, and Revelation 1:5,6



Ephesians 2:8-10 states, in the way I understand it, that the only reason we can have any hope at all, is because our God just happens to be gracious, especially when you see what it says in Lamentations 3:22 and Genesis 6:5,6! But here is that Ephesians verse, for you to see.... "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of ourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

We're also told, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.", Romans 3:23.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.", Romans 6:23

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.", Romans 5:8.

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.", John 14:6.

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.", 1 John 1:8,9.

"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.", 1 John 5:13

"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.", 2 Corinthians 5:17.

We are even told about Abraham, the father of the Jews, "For what does the Scripture say? Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.", Romans 4:3.

If you just took your very first faith step, congratulations! Welcome to the family of God!!

But if not, I hope you keep reading.

### Jury of One

For when it's all finished ...  
When it's all done ...  
It all boils down to a jury of one!

For when it's all finished ...  
When it's all done ...  
One thing will matter, your faith in God's Son.

"He who has the Son has life, he who does not have the Son does not have life."<sup>32</sup> In Revelation 20:15, God warns, "And if anyone's name was not written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.", "Where the worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.", as in Mark 9:44, 46 and 48.

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<sup>32</sup> 1 John 5:12

## FREE

It is the very truth of God that sets the captive free.  
It is the very truth of God that makes the blind to see.  
It is the very truth of God that breathes life unto the dead,  
It is the very truth of God, who loved us as He bled.

He bled upon that cross of old o heal our lives today  
Though the power of God's spoken word has seen no such decay  
As has man's thoughts and stubborn will which struggles to survive  
Resisting our God from above, who came to give us life.

Ruthless is the foe of God and evil is his goal,  
Tormenting hearts while bodies live, to try to get their soul.  
God's truth is but so near to us, it is the only key!  
Call to Christ by prayer, in faith, and He will rescue thee!

I heard about a man about to be hung for murder, who was told that even then, the Lord would be willing to forgive him. Forgive him take him to heaven instead of to what he knew was a well-deserved appointment to hell, much like the thief on the cross right next to Jesus.<sup>33</sup> The man's reply was that if he believed that, he'd crawl over broken glass for miles, just to tell others about it.

James 2:10 states, "For whoever keeps the whole Law but stumbles in one point (one point, one single point, I 'point' out)... he has become guilty of all of it."

It's like we have to be **totally** 'virus' free to enter the pure gates of glory! In Luke 7:47, Christ taught that those who have been forgiven much will appreciate the erasing of their debt, the very, very most!

It was Mary Magdalene, a former prostitute and demon possessed woman, who anointed Christ's feet with exceedingly expensive oil. The thief on the cross, being hung next to Jesus, who in his last moments, reached out to the Savior. As crucifixion was saved for the very worst. Even in more recent times, YT's Ted Bundy Final Interview. And then there's a YT, titled James Dobson- Pornography: Addictive, Progressive and Deadly. (James Dobson of Family Talk, formerly of Focus on the Family.) Then how about John Newton, the former slave trader, who ended up penning the famous words and hymn, Amazing Grace, as in the movie by that title made in 2006. I've even got a friend who used to think of white witchcraft as being good! Keep reading to learn about the salvation of a satanic high priest!

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<sup>33</sup> Luke 23:40-43

## YOU CAN'T BE OVERQUALIFIED

You can't be overqualified  
When it comes to sin and sickness –  
You can't be overqualified  
In your need for God's forgiveness!

if you need God's "medication"  
It is free for application  
Just take as you're directed –  
And apply where you're affected!

Beware – it brings the dead to life,  
Eases pain and calms your strife,  
Heals your hurts and sets you free –  
Make sure to use quite generously!

Each of our results may vary –  
We must give up the guilt we carry!  
Guaranteed when used by faith,  
Due to God's amazing grace!

Beware – it brings the dead to life,  
Eases pain and calms your strife,  
Heals your hurts and sets you free –  
Make sure to use quite generously!

### A Bit of Pride

A bit of pride can puff you up,  
Ask me how I know...  
A little bit is quite enough  
Just like yeast in dough!

A little pride can blind me  
To every sin I have,  
Though obvious to everyone  
Boy, that makes me mad!

I guess I need a mirror Lord  
To show me my inside,  
Though part of me would rather  
Pretend I'm dignified!

## Chapter 5 Really, Really, Really Helpful Lessons from the Good Book.

### Medium Rare

For what do you seek from the Lord, a “Well done!”?

Or are you living “Medium rare” for God’s Son?

The Lord said He’d rather we were cold or hot,

So chose you this day to believe Him or not!

Maybe you are familiar with the New Testament verses, John 3:16 and 17? “For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.”. How about John 3:14, “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so much the Son of Man be lifted up.” What’s all that about??

As we see in the movie, The Ten Commandments, starring Charelton Heston, God is quite able to send plagues for a reason. It might not be a bad idea to read the account of the miraculous plagues God sent to free the Hebrew people yourself, in the Bible’s book of Exodus 9:14. The point I’d really like to make is about the last of those 10 plagues regarding the death of the first born and the command the Lord gave them to place the blood of the lamb on their door posts, which would be a sign to the Angel of Death to pass over that home. Thus, the name of the event, celebrated to this day, is what they call The Passover.

The Angel wasn’t looking for who had been the nicest to their neighbor... who wasn’t cussing... who thought they were the most moral. No, the Angel of Death was looking for one thing, and one thing only. The blood of the lamb, the blood placed by people who believed and obeyed, whether Hebrew or not.<sup>34</sup>

Fast forward to the prophet Christ said was the greatest, John the Baptizer, (aka John the Baptist) who in John 1:29 introduced Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God. Just before Jesus’s baptism, as a consenting adult, I might add. Can you even imagine something thinking they were saved because they were baptized as an infant?! Before they reached the age where they then become accountable?<sup>35</sup> Or if someone believed they were saved because they just say they are a Christian? Or became a member of a church?

John, the greatest prophet, according to Jesus, introduced Him saying, “Behold, he Lamb of God. The Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world.”<sup>36</sup> The Lamb who later shed His own blood that whosoever believeth in Him and by faith, appropriated His blood to the door posts of their own heart,

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<sup>34</sup> Exodus 12:22,23

<sup>35</sup> Isaiah 7:6

<sup>36</sup> John 1:29

just like on that very first Passover... might be saved. Romans 10:9 says, "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." I've known people who have served years in church before they realized they prayed to receive Christ with their lips, not their heart.

Did you know that it was on the Jew's celebration of being set free... on their celebration of Passover, when Jesus was hung on the cross? The pharisees were trying to avoid that particular timing because it was one of their high holy days when many Jews had come to town<sup>37</sup>, but Jesus was calling the shots, when he told Judas to do what he was going to do quickly!<sup>38</sup>

It only adds to the account that while Christ was dying, that at that same hour, so was the yearly sacrificed lamb. There are just tons and tons of 'coincidences' like this! You can YT Mark Biltz: Jesus, the Passover Lamb of God, and his series on Feasts of The Lord are great ones to explain many, many more of these incredible 'coincidences'! He also has an interesting lesson about 100 ways that Joseph, Jacob's son, was a type of Christ. Not Christ, but ways the Lord used him to picture the coming Messiah! Sold by his brothers for silver, falsely accused, but maybe most importantly, so disguised that his own brothers couldn't recognize him, just as has happened with our pagan traditions, that have crept in the church like Easter and so many things about Christmas.

For those who are familiar with the Feasts, which Passover is just one, Jesus not only died on Passover, he was buried on Unleavened Bread, rose on the Feast of First Fruits and the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost. Now there are some who are expecting the Christ to return as King on the fall feast of Rosh Hashanah, or what some call Trumpets. Mark Biltz's YT, The Feast of Trumpets explains why he believes it is so, including the fact that this feast used to have a nickname... the feast where no one knew the day or hour!

Not to belabor the point, but if you're interested in hearing how the development of a human fetus correlates exactly with the Feasts, check out what Zola Levitt discovered, at Zola Levitt Ministries, in his booklet, The Feasts of the Lord. (The 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month, the egg appears... this might ring a bell, especially for obstetricians.) It has to be fertilized within 24 hours... think of unleavened bread, and implant within 3 days or so... the resurrection. Fifty days later, it starts looking human (Pentecost when the law was given, clearly defining right from wrong), and on the feast of the trumpet blasts, the baby can hear! (Rosh Hashana). I forget them all like when the lungs are fully developed, but the blood is purified on Yom Kippur and then birthed, or delivered on Hanukkah, the dedication of the temple of Christ... of whose house we are if we hold fast firm unto the end.<sup>39</sup>

Bob Cornuke's Temple Discovery Presentation on Site in Jerusalem, on YT shares a fascinating reason that he believes the temple grounds are not on in the place that most currently believe. As a former

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<sup>37</sup> Matthew 26:5

<sup>38</sup> John 13:27

<sup>39</sup> Hebrews 3:5,6

crime investigator, he started noticing some things that didn't line up, like how Jesus said, The days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down."<sup>40</sup>

There is one more account in the book of Numbers that teach a powerful lesson. The Hebrew people, who'd just been freed from slavery, sinned against God, and so He sent fire serpents to kill them. As always, they cried to Moses, who interceded and went to the Lord who gave him very unusual directions. Moses was told to make a brass serpent and hang it up on a post, instructing the people that if they were to look to it, they would live.<sup>41</sup> As at the first Passover, it didn't matter how 'good' or religious or moral they'd been... it only mattered if they would by faith, obey. We're told that it's the righteous who shall live, who shall live by their faith.<sup>42</sup>

It adds a lot to the story if we understand that brass was a metal signifying judgment, so in essence, the people, by the very act of looking up, were admitting their guilt, like we need to do too. That's why we are told, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man (Christ) be lifted up.", John 3:14.

These days we don't hear a lot about the day of vengeance of the Lord. Have you read, "The wine of the wrath of God will be poured out, the smoke of their torment with fire and brimstone will ascend forever and ever. They will have no rest day or night."<sup>43</sup> Do you think it's gracious of God to give us fair warning?? As well as a way of escape?

John Wesley has an interesting testimony from years past. This man was a preacher for years never feeling like he was good enough for God, before he learned himself, how salvation truly is as Scripture says, by faith, alone, for that's when his burden lifted. This was when he went on to write 6,000 beautiful hymns, including Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, which obviously reflected his gratitude for the gift of salvation he found! You can see a movie about his life on YT.

I believe most people know that John Newton, the former slave trader, was the one who wrote Amazing Grace, (that saved a wretch like me!) Oh, the power there is in the singing of the rich truths found in those dear old hymns, like, What a Friend We Have in Jesus, Because He Lives, and Holy, Holy, Holy.

#### As Is Condition

To seek the Lord, there's a condition to meet,  
And that's to be honest regarding our need.  
If we try to dress up, and thus our sins hide,  
He'll know that we're not being honest inside.  
You see, "As is" condition is the only real way  
To be honest to God in the things that we say!

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<sup>40</sup> Luke 21:5,6

<sup>41</sup> Numbers 21:8

<sup>42</sup> Galations 3:11

<sup>43</sup> Revelation 14:10,11

## Chapter 6 You can't give what you don't have. My lesson about forgiveness.

I remember one time in particular, when I was really, really hurt by someone. I knew I was supposed to forgive them, but it seemed that when I tried to, all the pain that they caused just kept coming up in my mind. But I kept trying, and trying and trying. Finally, I collapsed on my bed, and told the Lord, "I'm sorry, I just can't forgive!"

That's when a something very unexpected happened. I felt the Lord's presence in a powerful way, just like a light had been turned on and I felt His pleasure, as He told me, "I am SO glad you finally figured that out! No, on your own, you sure can't!" I had to think for a while about all the forgiveness I'd already received from the Lord.

Jesus tells about a man who owed a great debt,<sup>44</sup> comparable in our day as into the millions, who had just been forgiven his whole entire debt by a very generous man, only to turn right around himself, after being forgiven so much, and refuse to forgive about a 5 dollar debt, that another man owed to him. When the generous man who'd forgiven the huge debt heard about it, he was upset and changed his mind, sending the unmerciful man to the torturers until he'd repaid every last bit of his own big huge debt.

When I think of this now, I can't help thinking about how it is to be a born-again Christian, whose life times of sins, large and small... are all covered by the blood of Christ. And how it is to know for sure you are going to heaven. I can't help but think of that as being the man who was forgiven the millions. And it made me ask this question... What pain can anyone here on earth cause me, compared to eternally burning time in hell?

I don't know about you, but I've been greatly motivated to forgive, because of my own time with the torturers! Being bitter gets real old fast, especially when it made me no fun to be around. And self pity is really a very lonely place. When it finally dawned on me how much time I was going to spend there with those torturers Jesus warned us about... when I really realized the duration was really up to me, and my own willingness to forgive, well that sure had a way of changing my perspective. It was then I realized my confinement was voluntary, as opposed to the solitary kind in our prisons today.

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<sup>44</sup> Matthew 18:22,23

## VOLUNTARY CONFINEMENT

Voluntary confinement, I don't recommend it  
Voluntary confinement, it's rather quite dull!  
Voluntary confinement, I've spent too much time there,  
Bound up in prisons that tortured my soul!

But when I forgave, that's when I find freedom,  
But when I forgave, my spirit did soar!  
But when I forgave, the doors flew right open –  
That is the freedom my Jesus came for!

If anyone had a right to be bitter... Have you ever read the account of Joseph starting in Genesis 37, about Joseph, the son of Jacob? Talk about a family who was really messed up! But who are also the family who are now each a head of the 12 tribes of Israel!

Joseph grew up with all his brothers hating him, not even able to speak a peaceable word, just because of his father's favoritism. His brothers hated him so much, they were going to kill him, but decided instead to make a little money, and sold him into slavery for silver into a foreign land, telling their father, he'd died. But here was poor Joseph, who suffered another great injustice as after many years of faithful service as a slave, refused sexual, out of wedlock seduction by his 'owner's' wife, only to be thrown into an Egyptian, dirty, dusty prison for 13 years for doing what was right, although falsely accused.

This is one of the greatest lessons of how God can use evil for good, as later this same Joseph was the one God used to save the entire known world at that time from starvation. It's a fascinating read, especially the part where his brothers came to Egypt, and the man they had to ask for help was their very own brother! As by this time the Lord had caused Joseph to go in one day, from slave to 2<sup>nd</sup> to Pharaoh! But his brothers couldn't recognize him in his Egyptian dress and tongue. What would you have done in if you had been in Joseph's place? Seeing your family for the first time in over 22 years, seeing your brothers who sold you?

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Joseph devised several tests to find out if they really were sorry. Do you remember we were going to cover what repent means? It is literally to change one's mind for the better, to turn away from one's sinful ways, and heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins.



The other point about his story is the value of the smallest act. You see, when Joseph's father sent him to go find his brothers to report how they were doing, Joseph was having a hard time finding them. It just so happened that there was a stranger he ran across in his search, who just so happened to know where these hateful brothers were, and who just so happened to point Joseph their way!<sup>45</sup> (36). This is a fantastic example of how pointing someone the right direction can change the whole world!

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<sup>45</sup> Genesis 37:15

## Chapter 7 Round 2, My Next Field Trip to the Place Called Depression

Being rejected used to be really, really, really, really, really, really hard for me. It was like pulling a rug out from under me. I think I was searching for God but looking to people. No wonder I was so very messed up! I like what Chuck Missler joked about regarding the value of unanswered prayer, especially when you go back to your high school's 20<sup>th</sup> class reunion!! Jesus Christ Himself has faced a lot of rejection we're told that it's without a cause or reason.<sup>46</sup> Jesus, more than anyone can understand what that's like! I'm so glad He we have Him as our High Priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses, because in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."<sup>47</sup>

So, do you remember how I told you how hungry I was to learn the Bible after I was first saved? Now, that is a sure sign you can know you were born again, but unfortunately it hasn't always been that way for me. The honeymoon period wore off, or the Bible calls it losing your first love<sup>48</sup>, but I found things in the world were distracting. Or really, honestly, I should say were very attracting. I found myself trying to get what I needed (or maybe just wanted?) in ways not of God, although I thought it alright because I was only comprising a little. Or at least less than other people, so that made it okay... or so I thought. I didn't want to go too far astray, so I could still think myself a good and moral, but I did spend time trying to have it both ways. But I sure found out for myself, you can't walk the narrow and wide road,<sup>49</sup> both at the same time! It's sort of like doing the splits!

### Affairs of the heart

Life is a paradox of sordid affairs, sordid affairs of the heart.  
Our soul's passion, its tug-of-war – that threatens to tear us apart!  
Our courtiers hold back no measure to have us, both seeking moments to win  
'Tis a great war of both life and love, this battle we find ourselves in.

First we love one, then choose the other; oh, what's a poor soul to do?  
For we cannot continue to live in the middle, with our hearts so torn in two!  
Tho' we're unfaithful, they're willing to have us, for our courtiers are evil and good!  
So come search your heart – choose you this day, come choose just whom you would.

Back at this point in my life, I still went to church every week, but came under the delusion of some misguided sense of feeling like I knew what the Bible had to say and that was enough. I knew the stories, like about Moses and the really cool deliverance they had at the Red Sea. I knew about Noah, and the ark. I was even going to church every week. What more was there to it? Besides, I was too busy trying to balance both worlds, trying to be 'moral enough' to be able to feel good about myself, while flirting

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<sup>46</sup> John 15:25

<sup>47</sup> Hebrews 4:15

<sup>48</sup> Revelation 2:4

<sup>49</sup> Matthew 7:13,14

with fire, but then I got burned! That's when I would REALLY devote my full and undivided attention to God, when I felt like I happened to need Him. Or at least those rare moments in time that I at least I realized I did! (When I realized I did need Him so!). Our breaking points actually do have their own advantages!

Now I've learned striving to be good doesn't take any faith whatsoever, at all. It just takes self-delusion that we can be. But Jeremiah 17:9 assures us, "The heart is more deceitful than all else, and is desperately wicked. Who can understand it?" But I thank God He can!!! And also knows what we need! Just check out Psalm chapter 139... "You understand my thought far off, you are acquainted with all my ways..."

Did you realize it was the religious leaders in Jesus's day, who hated Him most? Jesus said of them, "Let them alone, they are blind leaders of the blind."<sup>50</sup> "But when He saw many of the pharisees and Sadducees coming to His baptism, He said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" "Woe to you, scribes and pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves."<sup>51</sup>

Now those are fighting words! I was privileged to be able to hear actor Bruce Marchiano speak about how it was to play the role of Christ in *The Visual Bible: Matthew*, which stayed strictly with the Script, and exceedingly prayerfully did not deviate, as much as was humanly possible. Bruce, knowing that everything Jesus did was in love, was challenged with what tone of voice to say those fighting words. He begged God for help and was surprised how He answered. As soon as the cameras got rolling, Bruce said he had absolutely no recollection of anything going on, until he heard, "Cut! That was a take!" It's fun to watch it, knowing this, as the Holy Spirit just used him in a powerful way!

The Bible teaches that "But we all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousness's are like filthy rags (36). Is 64:6 Literally translated, is a bit graphic but it's talking about used menstrual clothes, which to me symbolize efforts that didn't go anywhere, at least regarding anything that truly mattered.

I think one way I could sum up all of my growth is a whole lot of baby steps experiencing the difference of becoming a doer, not a hearer only.<sup>52</sup> Especially when it came to yield, or not to yield my life truly and honestly, to God by faith. But for now, I hadn't really realized that was what was happening. At this point in my life, I was reading the Word on a regular basis. And not just read it, but study it deeper. That's when I started to notice seemingly small things, such as happening to notice the very tense of a verb, Like John 6:35 and John 11:25 which both speak about believing and so being saved by using the world believe in current tense, not past tense. As in he who believes right now... not he who once did. As in all those years before, when I chose to trust God in the first place. I guess

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<sup>50</sup> Matthew 15:14

<sup>51</sup> Matthew 3:7 and Matthew 23:15

<sup>52</sup> James 1:22

I'd forgotten my vision of hills and valleys the Lord had given me. I was fully confident God would take me to heaven, but how was I doing trusting Him now?!

Just like the Hebrew people, when they were set free from slavery in Egypt had to take further steps to get to their promised land, so do we! Maybe that's why the apostle Paul tells us to be "be zealous and exert ourselves and strive diligently to enter that rest (to know and experience it for ourselves) that no one may fall or perish by the same kind of unbelief and disobedience (into which those in the wilderness fell)." <sup>53</sup>

Were you aware that only 2 out of about 2 million people made it all the way to Canaan? That was Joshua and Caleb! The only 2 spies into the Promised Land to bring a good report <sup>54</sup>. The only 2 who counted God faithful over seemingly impossible odds! Oh how very many hard lessons they learned in their wilderness wanderings that are "written for our learning so we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." <sup>55</sup>

### Promised Land

When you walk with Christ, you get somewhere,  
The Promised Land of peace is there!  
Well, in the desert of unbelief,  
Keep pressing on – you'll find relief!

I've always found it's easier to start tackling the sins I was aware of, and then ask the Lord to reveal those that I was doing which were purely out of ignorance. We can always ask God to search us and see if there be any wicked way in us, like King David did <sup>56</sup>. And especially if you're struggling with having victory like I have, here's a new revelation... to just be honest with God about it. You can always ask a fellow believer to hold you accountable, and especially pray! There's also an a very helpful verse teaching us to confess our sins to one another, NOT so that we'd be forgiven. We have to go straight to our high priest, Jesus Christ for that! <sup>57</sup> But confess them to others that we might be healed! <sup>58</sup>

One of their wilderness wandering lessons (in the Wilderness of Sin, that was it's name...), one of the lessons that really impacted me was what happened when they came across bitter water in the wilderness, and complained. God was not okay with that. He wanted them to be a people of faith and when they had a problem, ask God for what they need, but do not complain. I need to clarify that that

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<sup>53</sup> Hebrews 4:11

<sup>54</sup> Numbers 13:30

<sup>55</sup> Romans 15:4

<sup>56</sup> Psalm 139:24

<sup>57</sup> Hebrews 4:14 and 6:20

<sup>58</sup> James 5:16

is strictly my opinion of the lesson they were learning... Well that seemed easy to read and then tuck my Bible away, at least until it was a lesson that I realized was supposed to apply to me too!

I can still remember when our teacher asked what we do when we come across bitter waters in our own life, and I couldn't think of any other answer besides complain! Oh wow! THAT was what their lesson was recorded for, so I could learn from it too!

Walking in our flesh sure comes naturally, I'll tell ya! But these are times, when we are tempted to complain, or sin in any other way, that Romans 6:6 sure makes a lot more sense..."We know that our old man was crucified with Him so that the body of sin would no longer dominate us, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin." Even the sin of complaining!!<sup>59</sup> Because according to Psalm 19:13 we don't have to let any sin rule over us! A least with Jesus, we can overcome!

"And everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and floods came, the winds blew, yet it did not fall..." Mat. 7:26.

"But if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will be clearly shown for what it is, for the day of judgment will disclose it, because it is revealed with fire" 1 Corinthians. 12:13.

### The Big Bad Wolf (You know the tune!)

Who's afraid of the big bad wolf, the big bad wolf, the big bad wolf?

Who's afraid of the big bad wolf? Tra-la-la-la-la!

You should be, if you build on sand, build on sand, build on sand!

You should be if you build on sand, because your house will fall!

For he'll huff and he'll puff, and he'll blow and he'll blow,

He'll huff and he'll puff – it's not fun, I know!

He'll huff and he'll puff and attempt to destroy –

He'll huff and he'll puff and just serve to annoy!

Have you been building with wood, hay and stubble?

That God does warn, will turn into rubble?

Or do you use gold and sapphires?

Diamonds and jewels that can withstand that fire?

For all that wind pressure that can grind to the floor,

Is the same turbulence that makes eagles to soar!

So, how're things with Jesus, when with Him you talk?

He says you won't sink, when you build on the ROCK!

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<sup>59</sup> Philippians 2:14

### Change Inside

The change from slave to warrior doesn't happen overnight.  
But my escape to freedom proved to me God's might!  
The change inside that taught me that I am bound no more  
Is the reason for my hope, that Jesus Christ came for!

It's amazing how the simplest comment can change your world. During this battle with depression is when another one of my Christian friends said something to me that saved me, when she pointed out the obvious, suggesting I spend more reading the Bible. I was absolutely amazed when something immediately roared up inside me and seemed to scream "NO!!!!". That's when I knew this was exactly what I needed. Oh how we need Christian friends! As well as to be that for others! "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly." Psalm 1:1.

And Oh how much that was exactly what I needed! I tell you the truth, I've been on a lot of psych meds, but this just lifted my spirits in a way that nothing else ever has or ever could. It was the ultimate 'medication' to my soul. I think back to the Psalms and how King David also struggled with despair. It's amazing if you notice once he decides to trust God, he was feeling better. And he didn't even have Prozac!!

### Buried Treasure

Buried treasure, buried treasure –  
Words that comfort, words that heal  
Buried treasure, beyond measure,  
For which we must dig and kneel.

Words of warning to protect us,  
That can save our very life!  
Words of love and truth to bless us  
Tho' they may cut like a knife.

Cutting chains of sinful bondage –  
Cutting cords of discontent.  
Bringing Truth, should we accept it  
Each one richly heaven sent!

Buried treasure, buried treasure –  
Words that comfort, words that heal.  
Buried treasure, beyond measure,  
For which we must dig and kneel.

## Chapter 8 Round 3: Practice What I Preach?

This is the time in my life when someone else, yes another one of those Christians friends (hint, hint)... gave me wise advice. It was a challenge that if I'd like to grow in Jesus more, and have more zeal for God, to know that this is something I can't just pretend and muster faith up from within. It helps a lot when we remember we are supposed to ask for what we don't have. Bbb 51 James 4:2 The only thing I wish this friend had added to her advice was to remind me to fasten my seatbelt. Because when you pray a prayer like that, to help you renew God as your first love, you can be sure you're praying according to His will. And boy, how my life changed!!

I guess I figured somehow my amazing feelings about God would just come. Instead, it was as if the good Lord responded with circumstances in my life, indeed asking me how serious I really wanted to be about Him. Either that, or a straight on attack from the enemy, who hates it when he's losing ground! Either way, the answers the same. To turn for God for help!

Several things I loved were tragically removed from my life. Well, in other words, we moved. I wasn't going to explain the loss, because I know to lots of you, that's not a hard test at all. But for me, it was devastating. Apparently I hadn't noticed how very much I'd been depending on my friends,, for example going to them first, when I had a problem, instead of straight unto God, because I knew which ones would tell me exactly what I wanted to hear. God doesn't do that. He speaks the truth in love, which sometimes feels like learning a foreign language, to strive to do that! And besides, He already understands my whole situation anyway. But I just couldn't see what I was doing the time... but my good God could. And as always, He knew what I needed, time spent alone with just Him! As well as the motivation I needed to do so!

Besides the difficulty of moving, or several years, my husband and I struggled with infertility and half a dozen miscarriages later, a lesson I was learning was slowly dawning on me. I started to be able to discern when I was, and when I wasn't trusting God, because inside my heart I discovered I have a barometer of sorts. I started noticing what I call my 'inner peace' barometer... helping me realize when I was and was not living by faith. God leaves that choice up to us. To trust, or not to trust, now THAT is the question!!

At least that was the question the Lord asked me, after my 4<sup>th</sup> loss of a child. After my time of just getting it out of my system and weeping and weeping and weeping on my bed, that's when the Lord gently asked me if I trusted Him. My eyes widened, and I was taken aback at how everything always boils down to the basics in life, if we believe or not God is good. So even though I didn't understand, or even like my circumstance, yes, I told Him, I was willing to trust.

I got out of bed, washed my face, and started to prepare for that evening's events, which 'just so happened' to be our weekly Bible study at someone's home. Dave and I were quiet that evening, and when they asked why and found out, they surrounded us with that precious hands on prayer, we so needed!

### Mourning with Hope

Mourning with hope,  
Lord show me how ...  
As unto your Lordship,  
Broken I bow.

Mourning with hope,  
Teach me, I pray –  
To surrender this loss  
And trust You today!

It was then that I finally realized real life decisions to trust God, are really not that easy to make, as I'd thought they were when it was **someone else** that was supposed to be making that decision, with their whole eternity too, not just the problems in life on the way. But my focus on y'all and what I thought it was that YOU were supposed to be doing, had derailed me, and I had no idea how much fun I was missing out on, myself. And I really mean, that I do. I just didn't see it like that at the time.

The Lord used this time to humble me so, and realize it was MY prideful old self that needed to change. It was MY prideful old self that needed a lesson on trusting. So here I had more growing to do, as my despairing of life, wanting to die, in a cloud, deep, deep depression caused me to seek Him, more for myself this time, than for anyone else. Or shall I say, to renew Him as being the first love of my heart!

### Never Looked Fairer

There once was a man convinced he was dressed  
As he listened to spinners who said, "You're So blessed!"  
There once was a man convinced he was clothed,  
But he was buck naked from his head to his toes!

He'd received Christ, and yes, he was saved –  
But in his own battle, he sure was not brave!  
He paraded himself in the suit he was wearing,  
Though it was mere flesh that he was bearing!

As he preached to others, he just couldn't see  
That he'd overlooked his OWN need to believe!  
The deception of sin and neglect of his fight,  
Robbed his first love and distorted his sight!

But there once was a man, who realized his error,-  
Trusted God for himself and never looked fairer!  
For when he did learn to apply what he heard,  
He humbled himself then could share the Lord's word!



### Get a Clue

Knowing what God said used to make me feel so cool,  
I could quote chapter and verse, and every single rule.  
When you did this or did that, I was good at telling you  
What was right and wrong, and exactly what to do.

But that's when God got ahold of me, though stubborn like a mule,  
Broke me down and trained me, and changed me through and through...  
Now life is like a field trip that I used to have in school,  
So I'd apply just what God said, and finally get a clue!

Now I understand justification, or being saved from hell is the gift of salvation referred to in Romans 6:23, where it says that the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life. Just trying to earn this, I can see as being quite insulting to God, because it cost Him His Son. And if you think about it, it's interesting when you're reading Scripture to make note of when it's referring to a gift or to a reward. Here are several verses about the gift of justification... Acts 13:39, Romans 3:20-28 and Romans 4:1 and Romans 5:1.

Justification is a gift, but what is called sanctification is another thing. It's fancy word for maturing in the Lord, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."<sup>60</sup> But also see the warning, in Titus 1:16 "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, an disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate."

As I told you, I've had the experience of falling into the trap of trying to do things, so that I was good enough for God. It seems to me to be more discerning of why I am doing what I am doing, when I consider if I'm walking in the flesh or in the Spirit, and thus bearing fruit either way.

"This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh... Now the works of the flesh are clearly evident; they are sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, riotous behavior... those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."<sup>61</sup>

"But the fruit of the Spirit (the result of His presence within us) is love (unselfish concern for others), joy, inner peace, patience (not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, self control... and those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature together with its passions and appetite."<sup>62</sup> Now the fruit is what we can think of as good works, because only God can get the glory, it being a result of His working through us!

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<sup>60</sup> Ephesians 2:10, see also 2 Timothy 3:17,

<sup>61</sup> Galatians 5:17-21

Do you happen to like rewards like I do? There are several verses comparing this life we are living as a race to be won, even with prizes!! See these Scriptures about sanctification, John 17:17,19, Acts 20:32, 26:18, 1 Cor. 1:2., Eph 5:6.

### The Race

Let me run the race with endurance,  
Let me run the race as to win!  
Let me run the race with Christ Jesus,  
And overcome my sin!

Let me know when You I'm not pleasing,  
Let me unload both burden and weight  
That You don't want me to carry,  
Until I enter Your gate!

James 1:12 states, "Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial, for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."

### A Good Temptation

There's nothing like a good temptation  
To reveal our degradation,  
To test our faith so we can see  
If on Christ we do believe!

I remember one time in particular, when I was being tempted to give in to sin, I just happened to notice a magazine article posing the question, "Why trade the thrills of today for the joys of tomorrow?" Think, think, think, think, think! "Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.", James 1:15

I'd heard the narrow road is tough,<sup>63</sup> but I really had NO IDEA how hard it would be! Even Christ, when He was here physically, lost a lot of His followers when His lessons got harder to follow.<sup>64</sup> Now I was getting into the nitty gritty of if I was going to be willing to count the cost, pay the price, and reap the reward! John 12:24, tells us, "...unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it and he who hates his life will keep it to life eternal."

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<sup>62</sup> Galations 5:22,23

<sup>63</sup> Matthew 7:13,14

<sup>64</sup> John 12:24-26

### The Straight and Narrow Sure Ain't for Sissies

Oh the straight and narrow, it sure aint for sissies!

No, the straight and narrow, uphill it does go.

Why in the world would I choose the hard path?

I know I will reap the things I will sew!

Even Jesus lost most of his followers when his teachings got harder, as we see in John 6:67, “Do you want to leave Me too? It was Peter who so wisely responded, “But Lord, who else has the words of eternal life? Where else is there to go?” But as always, actions speak louder than words. “Jesus answered and said to Him, if anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love Me, does not keep My words and the Words which you hear are not Mine, but the Fathers who sent me.”<sup>65</sup>

Deitrick Bonhoffer has an incredible book on the topic, called the cost of discipleship. And Speaking of hardship, the book and movie, *The Insanity of God: A True Story of Faith Resurrected*, and part 2, *The Insanity of Obedience: Walking with Jesus in Tough Places*, highlights how many people in the world even today, are really ‘counting the cost’ of following Christ, experiencing all sorts of persecution. For our cushy society here in America, *Stephen’s Test of Faith* is a good movie to help us stand up when about the worst thing happens, like being teased!

#### Chapter 9 Learning to Shut up and Listen

I was embarrassed at what I learned next, because I’d been a Christian for so many years. I remember asking God if He ever wanted to speak to me, personally. I had expected only people like Billy Graham had that kind of connection of hearing God’s voice. And although I remember at the time of not being sure if it was even okay, I thought I’d like to try it. To try to do something new... to actually get quiet and listen for once! By now I’d found real Bible teaching churches and had lots of friends to whom this was a normal occurrence. Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice. I know them and they follow Me.”<sup>66</sup> Also, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”<sup>67</sup> Besides, how do you think Noah knew to build a big boat, if he couldn’t hear the Lord too?

So here I was. I remember I got all quiet, giving Him my ear, all excited, thinking I was discovering something new, (well it was for me anyway, to finally shut up and listen!) but that’s when I got all quiet, only to hear a simple “I love you.” Now I knew enough to know that we are to test the spirits and be discerning, so I thought about it for a while, and well, yes. “I love you”, was a message that lined up with Scripture.

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<sup>65</sup> John 14:23,24

<sup>66</sup> John 10:27

<sup>67</sup> Revelation 3:20

I was so excited that God actually spoke to me! Even to me!!! But years later I was tempted to do it again. So during try number 2, do you know what I heard? The very same thing. I guess I was encouraged, though inside, disappointed it wasn't anything I thought I didn't already know. Finally, later, on try number 3, when He said the same thing, I couldn't contain myself, as I thought very disappointedly, "When are you ever going to tell me anything else?" To my astonished surprise, I heard Him say, "When you believe me, I will!"

Boy, that truth hit me right between the eyes, and was a conviction right where I needed it! God knew the difference between my head and my heart more than I did... and my heart is where I needed to know it. As I humbly agreed He was right, I was once again overcome with His love. I thought I had sinned way too much during my time with the world, but this was a truth that helped me be free! And WANT anew to follow this God!

### Not

It's not how well I'd been serving... nor how much Bible I knew.

His first concern was if I believed His words, of I love you!

Now well, now anyway, I'm so glad I went through that difficult, difficult, difficult trial. I learned for myself that He hears all who call upon Him in truth.<sup>68</sup> He knows when we are serious, and when we are just playing games, as He tells us in Deut. 4:29, "**From there**, you will seek the Lord your God and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in distress... when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice for the LORD your God is a merciful God".

### God's Treasure Chest

If God had a treasure chest, what would it hold?

Would it be full of silver and gold?

What are the things that bring joy to His heart?

His children, who walk by faith as an art!

It's those whose trials and temptations don't sway

Them into placing their faith other ways.

Since God searches the world for those wholly His

His favorite treasure must simply be this!

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<sup>68</sup> Psalm 135:18

## Chapter 10 Learning to Strengthen Myself in the Lord

### Get it While it Lasts

Come and save, come and save, get it while it lasts!!

This amazing product! It helps with ALL your tasks!!

Come and save, right where you're at, while it is still today...

Save yourself a lot of grief, allow God to guide your ways!

“Seek the Lord while He may be found.”, Isaiah 55:6.

So now that God had put me in my place, and my focus was finally on my own need to grow, one of the verses I somehow stumbled upon during this time of being down was a tiny little treasure tucked away in 1 Samuel 30, verse 6 which was during the time that David, before he was king of Israel, was being hunted down by Saul, the current king at the time. He'd been on the run and was weary, but Scripture also tells us 'He strengthened himself in the Lord.' I had to ask myself, how able was I to strengthen MYSELF in the Lord? And open the Bible and find what I needed? Apparently, not very good.

So I thought about how David would have done that in his day, without Christian radio, cell phones, or even TV. Even without the New Testament!! But did you know that this same David ended up writing so many Psalms during this time. Psalms that expressed his pure desperation, like 119:82-84a, “My eyes fail, watching for the fulfilment of Your promise. I say, when will You Comfort me? For I have become like a bottle, a wineskin blackened and shriveled, in the smoke in which it hangs, yet do not forget Your statutes. How many are the days of Your servant, which he must endure?”

### Lost the Battle

When you've lost the battle and you feel so low,  
The road feels weary and there's far to go,  
Just remember, Jesus loves you so!

He'll pick you up and hold you tight,  
Just walk by faith and not by sight!  
Let His Word be your guiding light!

You lost your battle but there's still a war,  
That's what we have weapons for!  
Sometimes you win and your spirit soars!

But when you lose, your faith doth show,  
Is it strong or weak, do you even know?  
To God's Word is where to go!

The Author of Faith is whom to ask,  
If you find that faith is what you lack,  
And as a better soldier, you'll be back!

It was also at this time that I joined a Bible study of 4 of us ladies. Each one of us was going through our own test of faith, and we grew very close as we each had our own test of faith going on. It's always nice to know you're not alone in the battle! Thank God for 2<sup>nd</sup> chances, and third and fourth, and fifth multiplied by a million or so!

There was something in a church bulletin that I cut out and posted on my bathroom wall that encouraged me. It was a just a simple drawing of a person indulging in a huge ice cream sundae, with the caption, "Feed on God's faithfulness".<sup>69</sup> I think of all the people in the Bible who also went through very hard things. I wondered if they ever felt like I did too. But then to focus on how faithful to them God had been, when things hadn't gone THEIR own way! But it's nice to have the advantage point, at least in their lives cases, to be able to realize Father knows best!

#### Father Knows Best

The longer I've walked with Him, the more that I know  
(For my own life, and my very own soul)  
That Father knows best: Yes **He** can sure see  
Which helps me obey, yes, even me!

#### The Plans I Have for Me

I know my plans, oh yes the plans, the plans I have for me,  
I know my plans, I do Lord, I adore them to a T!  
I spend a lot of time thinking how great my life will be!  
  
I love my plans, just so you know do not get in my way,  
I think of them quite fondly, every single day!  
No, I will not let anything let them go astray!  
  
OH NO! OH NO! What happened?! God, did you say no?  
I hadn't planned for this event, and I hate it so!  
I'm crushed and bruised and broken, more than you can know!  
  
I feel so very flustered as my life You redirect,  
How is it that You're good, Lord? This I can't detect!  
Such lies have taken over, as my faith they do infect!  
  
Is it up to me, Lord? To let You take control?  
I'm sure you know my own plans and how I loved them so!  
Help me now be willing, to trust You in my soul!

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<sup>69</sup> Psalm 37:3

Have you been told lately that you were made for a purpose and God has a wonderful plan for your life? “For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for your welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.”<sup>70</sup>

“Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy,” Ps 33:18.

Chapter 11 Round 4, Spiritual Self Defense

### The stronger the struggle

The stronger the struggle, the stronger the blessing,  
When you learn to endure, and succeed through the testing!

### Testing Ground

Each day seems like a testing ground, to help me to believe,  
Although my circumstances seem so tailored to deceive!  
Each time that I decided I would trust God and obey  
No matter how I felt, I was strengthened on that day!

“Consider it nothing but joy, whenever you fall into various trials. Be assured that the testing of your faith (through experience) produces endurance (leading to spiritual maturity and inner peace). And let endurance have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”, James 1:2-4. That reminds me sort of like a butterfly emerging from its cocoon. Did you know that if you help the brand new butterfly, it doesn’t develop the strength needed to fly? And so it dies.

Answers in Genesis has an amazing DVD about the miraculous changes going on in a cocoon. What really spoke to me was how as part of the body dies, it becomes the nutrition for the new growth going on inside. That makes me think of the words, “Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him.”<sup>71</sup> And the Apostle Paul’s words, “I die daily... and die to self.”<sup>72</sup> And that those who hope in the Lord will mount up like eagles.<sup>73</sup>

### Be Ye transformed

As you overcome obstacles once a blockade,  
That now serve to prove the changes God’s made,  
You’ll be happy in Jesus, who loves your own soul,  
As you begin feeling restored and made whole!

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<sup>70</sup> Jeremiah 29:11

<sup>71</sup> Romans 6:8

<sup>72</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:31

<sup>73</sup> Isaiah 40:31 and see Habakkuk 2:4

### Give Me My Goliaths!

Oh, give me my Goliaths, for You have strengthened me!  
Thank You Oh my God, for the victory!  
The victory in You Lord, over self and sin,  
For this emboldened courage, I find myself within!

I want to prove to You, that I do believe!  
I want my life on Earth to count, before this world I leave!  
Thank You Oh my Savior, for Your sacrifice for me –  
For leading me to death to self, wherein You set me free!

Here's something I accidentally stumbled upon years before, when I wasn't very knowledgeable about what God had to do with these things in my heart... these things I call my desires. And although I saw many of them instantly change when I first got saved, I knew I wasn't totally on the right track deep inside. But then I stumbled upon a verse that says if we delight ourselves in the Lord, He'll grant us the desires of our heart.<sup>74</sup> Wow! Now that is a pretty awesome promise, isn't it? Even if for selfish reasons, I began to try to do this. To seek Him more... to know Him as Lord, and not just as my Savior. Now I know that verse isn't saying God will give you everything you just happen to desire. It means if and when you know Him as Lord, and not just as Savior, you will then have the right ones!

### Satisfied With That

I used to be able to read the Bible and be satisfied with that,  
And just trying to be moral was really where it's at!  
But still within my innards, I never felt fulfilled,  
Until it was that I did learn, by God, to yield!

But alas, I'm getting ahead of myself. This chapter's supposed to be about my 4<sup>th</sup> bout of depression! And I'd also like to take a moment now and thank my husband for his faithful support, of helping me through these tough times. A health crisis, time in a mental institution, panic attacks, a suicide attempt, being so very depressed. I am so thankful to God for him, being so faithful to me!

And I would also share at least in our case, the Lord did decide to give us a son, a wonderful son, who just happened to be born on Christmas as well! But I think most Christians are aware that this wasn't really the date of Messiah's birth and that a lot of pagan practices have crept into the church, like for example, eggs and bunnies you won't find in the Bible, as well as even the problem of the dating of Easter, versus that of Passover. YT Jonathan Cahn, When was Messiah Jesus born for more

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<sup>74</sup> Psalm 37:4



information on that. His own testimony can also be found there, under Jonathan Cahn's Journey to Christ. (His testimony of salvation is also awesome too!)

One more tip for now, the book and DVD, "The Rabbi Who Found Messiah- The True Story of Rabbi Yizhak Kaduri, by Carl Gallops.

But now, back to the subject before hand, if you know someone really down, sometimes just taking them out to lunch can be what the doctor ordered. And as I said before, this paper is free to copy and share! Besides your paper and ink.

### A Joyful Heart

A joyful heart is good medicine,  
even if it is not yours.

A joyful heart is good medicine,  
Touching you deep in your core!

Seeing the world is still spinning  
When your own seems to stop,

Somehow gives you just the right dose  
That sure does help you a lot!

I know there are different reasons for being depressed. Sometimes, its just because you aren't physically getting enough rest. But I don't claim to be an expert on it, although in ways I feel I am because I've spent so much time in the pit of despair that I think I could have rearranged it 40 times! What amazes me is that I've been so delivered, that I can hardly remember those feelings anymore. The more I was assured of His love, and that He made me, had a purpose for my life, and was in control, and was good, well that is what built up my faith. Even through a short-lived postpartum depression, because I was in that Bible study, getting prayer, and finally learning to lean on the Lord and then on His other children, in ways that really made a difference for me.

I've known of people whose depression just lifted with one prayer alone and others who recovered after learning the value of taking time to rest, because we're wired to need it. And who like David in the Bible, whose depression lifted after the faith choice of just deciding to trust God.<sup>75</sup> And it didn't take any longer to get better than his unbelief lasted. The Bible tells us where faith comes from, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> Psalm 6:6-8

<sup>76</sup> Romans 10:17

### Where Does it Come From

Where does it come from, where can I find  
The help I need to be right in my mind?  
Where does it come from, where can I find  
A helping guide, for I feel so blind!

Oh, dear Lord, what's that I just heard?  
The help I need is found in Your Word?  
Please tell me, tell me, tell me what's true  
And let it affect the things that I do!

### Help Me be Honest

I wonder how many prayers that God hears,  
that I've really said out of doubt, out of fears!

Please help me be honest and admit when it's so-  
And when my faith's small, please help me grow!

### Gold and Jewel

The time is quickly dwindling to place our trust in Christ,  
Then learn how to follow Him, all the rest of life.

Someday we'll search our own life, and inspect it through and through  
For the times we trusted God, just like gold and jewel!

So, yet another loss occurred. I'd learned the value of being in the word, going to God first, but also having Christian friendships, learning to do whatever I did, (a job paid or not) as unto the Lord, and getting involved in serving in a church as ways that really helped me to be doing something constructive. But I had a surprise I'd never expected.

Long story short, I had a health crisis. I remember getting on my knees the evening before major surgery, thanking God for this opportunity to trust Him. That was new for me, and I had so much peace. But afterwards, when recovery was slow, and not even guaranteed... and when I realized I might live very handicapped for the rest of my life, and I lost my medical career as an RN as my licensing lapsed. That's when I got so upset and depressed that the Lord just hadn't taken me home.

One thing I found to do that really helped with this round of depression was to choose a chapter in the Bible that really spoke to me where I was at. I chose Psalm 119, because it was the longest one too, and I knew I needed a lot. But my battle plan was to go turn to read it, and even try to memorize it if I had to, every time feelings of depression seemed to be trying to overtake me. I liked how it gave me a specific direction, a specific place to go... And a very constructive one at that.

A fantastic gift for someone down is by Nancy Missler, of The King's Highway ministry, a book entitled Hope Against Hope" The Anchor for our Soul. Did you think about what hoping against hope means? The way Nancy described it made me think of rock climbing between two rock walls, one being our earthly hopes, like love and marriage and children or such. The other, our eternal ones, looking forward to being with Jesus forever! See Romans chapter 4 for more.

I appreciated how she pointed out that at all times, we are either being overcome, or we're overcoming. Boy, did I find that to be true! She also teaches that faith choices are, well just that... faith choices! That almost always oppose how we feel. We don't have to be captive to these feelings of ours! Just like walking where you just put one foot ahead of the other, and keep clinging to God's Word, eventually our feelings will follow. It's freeing to not be captive anymore! To know there is something you can do about how you feel! And not be led astray to bad decisions. No wonder we're told God's Word is life to those who find it!<sup>77</sup> This is not about stuffing our emotions, which her study Be Ye Transformed uses the Scriptures to explain why that is bad.

That's sort of like of the age-old conundrum of which came first, the chicken or the egg? I've learned that wherever I'm focused, my feelings will follow, but that does not mean not to grieve! "For "God will keep in perfect peace, those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in You."<sup>78</sup> This is so much different than positive thinking, because you can positive think your whole way to hell. Just think... it doesn't take any faith whatsoever to just try to strive to be good! An interesting look at what seems to be a growth chart of sorts, where it tells us "For this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful..."<sup>79</sup> And to think, it all started with faith!!

Another Scripture we can use for a growth chart of sorts is the famous love chapter, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13 about all the characteristics of love. How have you been measuring up? Love endures with patience and serenity, love is kind and thoughtful, and is not jealous or envious. Love does not brag... is not rude, self-seeking or easily angered, it does not take into account a wrong endured. Hmmm... I think I've a long way to go!!! Or shall I say 'grow'!

On YT, Nancy Missler, who I learned about later in my life, teaches The Way of Agape, where she explains the difference between God's unconditional love and the 5 kinds of love of man.

Be Ye Transformed is her study where she studied the specifics of the temple in the Old Testament and what we can learn, being Christians are called temples of the Holy Spirit. I really like what we learn from the priests who would hide things in their hidden cupboards in the temple that were not right in

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<sup>77</sup> Proverbs 4:22

<sup>78</sup> Isaiah 26:3

<sup>79</sup> 2 Peter 1:5-11

the sight of God, thinking that no one would see, and no one would know. Just like we can try to stuff our emotions as well. The results of that are never too good!

In this study, she also explains the 11 (I think) different concepts found in the original language of what our mind is, all which were just translated 'mind' in the Bible. The one I remember most is how our mind is like a horse with 2 bridles. One bridle being the Word of God, the other the Holy Spirit. How surrendered and yielding are we?

In her book, *Private Worship*, she explains the value of spending time in the Lord's presence, entering with worship, and "into His courts with praise"<sup>80</sup> whenever you need some 'soul radiation' in the light of the Son! To just sit and think and ponder His greatness as the God of all creation! It's not a time of requests, it's just a time to be still and know that He is God,<sup>81</sup> And let your soul find rest. A rest that's out of this world!!!

The other lesson was how to bring things to the Lord, and cast your cares on Him by first doing a very thorough inspection. A very very thorough inspection. Tell the Lord all about your concern. How it makes you feel, and having a good cry is often a help. For as someone once said, "If your eyes leak, your head won't swell!". And then by faith, ask God what He'd teach you about it, like if there is any sin on your part... then offer it to the Lord, and if you're like me, ask for the help to remember to leave it there with Him, on that precious alter. Do you remember how Abraham was asked to sacrifice Isaac, his beloved son?<sup>82</sup> And of course we know how the Father God did, give us His very Son!

#### Total Relinquishment

Total relinquishment, total surrender,  
Not holding back, not one little ember!  
Humble and broken, while all needless burns,  
Producing a heart that for God alone yearns!

Finding the purpose that God wants for you,  
Abiding in Jesus and finding He's true!  
Being renewed and transformed in your mind,  
'Tis the richest of treasures mere humans can find!

Total relinquishment, total surrender,  
Not holding back, not one little ember!  
What is it now that would block you from Him?  
Beware, my dear friend, of all of your sin!

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<sup>80</sup> Psalm 104

<sup>81</sup> Psalm 46:10

<sup>82</sup> Genesis 22:9

### Is This a Day?

Is this a day, where the only way  
That you will make it is to trust in your faith?

Is this a day where the only way  
That you will make it, is to rest in God's grace?

Forcing yourself to go through the motion  
of believing on God, though void of emotion?

Finding a verse upon which to hold tight,  
And clinging to it, with all of your might?

Oh, THESE are the most precious of days  
To come to know Christ in the deepest of ways!!

For if we hold fast, and choose to believe  
despite all the darkness, then we shall see  
God's faithful healing, just as the sun  
Break forth in the morning, when darkness is done!

If you want to see a young Liam Neeson, watch him as the evangelist on the age old allegory, The Pilgrim's Progress on YT. There is an amazing allegory many Christians have loved for over 300 years. One scene was when the pilgrim named Christian tried to bend the rules and take what seemed like a short cut, only to get locked in the Dungeon of Despair. And it was called that for a very good reason, as it robbed them of all of their hope. As he and his friend despaired of life, Christian discovered a key he'd been given... a promise of God. As he turned the key in the lock, well, it opened.

Hind's Feet on High Places, by Hannah Hurnard is another powerful allegory, where the main character, Much Afraid, a cripple, was led in very unexpected ways, all of which were a test and a lesson that eventually led her to scale mountains."<sup>83</sup> It's similar to the movie, The Ultimate Gift, with James Garner, where we see someone's tests so help them grow in their character!

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<sup>83</sup> 2 Samuel 22:34

Chapter 12 Round 5, Taking Thoughts Captive Again!

Pop Quiz Time

It's pop quiz time – this is a test,  
so don't get shook if you feel a mess!  
For God know where and when is best  
And works in ways we don't expect!  
But all God does, is done in love,  
with perfect timing, from above!

1403

Ever wonder why you weren't born in 1403?  
Or even in thirty seven hundred BC?  
The answer lies in Acts 17,  
And I'm not doing this just to be mean,  
But if you want to know,  
You'll have to look,  
Because it's a good thing to be in the Book!

So yes, again another trial and bout of depression... another need for digging deeper for truth and faith and help in time of need... And although I know more trials will come, I really believe that's my last time so very down in the dumpsters of life, although I know by the grace of God go I, but I'm a lot more confident in God and shield of faith and sword of the Spirit aren't strangers anymore. I've gotten better at taking my thoughts captive and recognizing those nasty little buggers... (or fears and doubts) that need to go! Or fiery darts, as the Lord calls them. Maybe that's why He also tells us to bring every thought into captivity, so you can decide which ones to keep, and which ones to toss!

Lies, Lies, Lies, Lies

Lies, lies, lies, lies, that darn devil's around...  
Lies, lies, lies, lies, that used to take me straight down,  
Lies, lies, lies, lies, turning my smile to frown!

Lies, lies, lies, lies, that only get in my way,  
Lies, lies, lies, lies, constricting all of my faith,  
But lies, lies, lies, lies, that taught me the difference Christ makes!

I've come to enjoy the protection of God, once I learned to walk in obedience, just like it's to our own children's benefit to stay safe when they don't touch the hot stove, or play in the street! Here's the verse I was referring to..."bringing every thought into captivity, to the obedience of Christ, being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled." 1 Cor. 10:5.

But at this time of depression, I wasn't even sure why I was so down, except to say have you ever gotten something you thought you wanted, and it didn't deliver? And thus it is SO VERY DISAPPOINTING! But even if we don't understand why we're so down, it's okay because God always does, and is always there for the asking... well at least before we die that is. It's always a good idea to "seek the Lord while He may be found!"<sup>84</sup>

This is when a friend introduced me to the teachings of this guy named Dr. Chuck Missler, whom at this point in my life I'd not heard of yet. His ministry is called KHouse, short for Koinonia House. The CD they loaned me honestly got dusty on the shelf for a while, until I thought I'd had it long enough and probably should return it, but just so I could tell my friend I'd tried it, I started to listen.

And, Wowza, wowza, wowza,, am I glad I did!!! I really appreciated how he teaches, and made the Bible become truly interesting, pertinent, practical, applicable, encouraging, and really alive!

It was this time in my life when a very rare thing happened, and I inherited \$1,000. My mind swam with excitement about how I might use it. It was fun to imagine the ways. That's when the verse I'd been hearing this Chuck Missler talk about kept coming to mind... the one that tells us God is a rewarder of those who seek Him.<sup>85</sup> A rewarder, a rewarder. Hmm... I wasn't sure exactly what kind of reward that was talking about... But I do like rewards. Hmm... Hmm... Think, think, think, think...!

#### I Like Rewards

I like rewards, I like rewards,  
What kind of reward would that be?

I like rewards, I like rewards,  
What would my Jesus give me?

I like rewards, I like rewards,  
I think winning is neat!

I like rewards, I like rewards,  
Visa Card, God's got you beat!

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<sup>84</sup> Isaiah 55:6

<sup>85</sup> Hebrews 11:6

It was slowly dawning on me that one way I could seek Him was invest in Dr. Missler's audio commentary on the whole entire Bible, every book, verse by verse, brought detail by detail into the light. You'd think by now, I'd know better, but I really wrestled with this decision. And although I didn't happen to "feel like" doing it at the time, I decided to make a faith choice and take God up on that promise. And so chose to order Chuck's series. Do you remember the poem about Humpty Dumpty, and how it was by every faith choice, he felt better???

Well, I'm so glad that I did, take God up on His Word!! It's funny, because you would think given my history, I would have known this by now. But sometimes we just need reminded! I'm here today to tell you that yet again learning to seek the Lord deeper was again the best choice I ever could make. Listening to Scripture with explanations ministered to me in a way nothing else could. It assured my confidence in the Lord, encouraged my abiding in Him.<sup>86</sup> and gave me hope not only for then but for my future as well. I had a lot of time on the road, at this time and it was the perfect way to "redeem the time"<sup>87</sup>, I'm so glad I used that time wisely, and listened.

He has many lessons on YouTube, as well as audio commentaries on Blue Letter Bible.org which is an incredible tool to dig in the Word, because at a click you can go back to the Hebrew and Greek, to really make sure you know what God said. I like the way Dr. Missler respectfully teaches the different views on a given topic, includes why his is what it is, but challenges you to think for yourself, saying you flunk, if you just adopt his. He used Acts 17:11 a lot, encouraging us to be like the Bereans in the Bible who "were more fair minded... in that they received the Word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."

Also I have never seen anyone handle the Word like Dr. Missler where he gets so frustrated with people saying that you can't prove God. Watch YT's "Knowing God – An Extraterrestrial Message.

The account of creation in Genesis is really heady, and may be hard to understand if you don't have an education, as he includes the information sciences, and statistics, as well as in particular, the science of the study of time. In his study on Joshua, I found it interesting to learn that during the time when Joshua asked the Lord to make the sun stand still, so they could win the battle, there was also found a legend about the long night, on the other side of the world!

One thing that's interesting, as you find yourself growing in the Lord, is being able to look back and see how you've changed. Maybe it's an old movie that you used to love, and when you watch it now, you wonder to yourself how in the world you could have even stood it! "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer."<sup>88</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> John 15:4

<sup>87</sup> Ephesians 5:6

<sup>88</sup> Psalm 19:14



### Blessed is the Man

Blessed is the man to whom God does not impart  
Any of the sin which abided in his heart!

Blessed is the man on Earth who does fully know  
His creator as his God, who dearly loves him so!

Listening to teachers, good ones anyway, is great. But there's no substitute for reading God's Word for yourself which "living and active, sharper than any two edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow, it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."<sup>89</sup> And it is fun when you're reading something in it you've known for years, when something new jumps off the page and pops out to you that you hadn't realized before. That's God talking. And that's why I prefer the Amplified version of the Bible, because it has a way of making truths really stick out. Here's John 3:16 again for example, "For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world, that He even gave His One and only begotten Son, so that whoever believes **and trusts in Him as Savior**, shall not perish, but have eternal life." And I hate to exclude the next verse, "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge and condemn the world that is, to initiate the final judgment of the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

If you're looking for good solid Bible teachers online, here are just a few I'd like to recommend, and I'm sorry to not be able to list them all. God bless our pastors who don't compromise the precious words of life, and so make the freewill choice of salvation clear to us all! They've got the most important work on the planet, and so are also targeted greatly by Satan, I'm sure!

Mark Biltz of El Shaddai Ministries. There you can hear more about the Hebrew roots of our faith... insights that don't come across in English but that have a real way to open your eyes, and make you amazed once again at the Lord and His absolutely incredible precision. His teaching on The Full Armor of God is a good one to get a feel for his teachings.

Steve Cioccolanti of Discover Ministries AU, (from Australia). Steve keeps up with world news and brings out amazing insights of how it pertains to prophecy and teaches in such a practical way. Just check out his recent YT, End Time Financial Hardship During the Coronavirus Lockdown, if YT hasn't censored it yet.

Jonathan Cahn, a Messianic Rabbi, who got saved in the first place by learning of Biblical prophecies being fulfilled for Israel, in the now old book, The Late Great Planet Earth by Hal Lindsey. Now we have Eye to Eye by Koenig. Cahn has written by far best sellers about America's need to repent, starting with The Harbinger which was number 1 on the New York Times top sellers for 78 weeks in a row, followed up with and The Harbinger Decoded, plus by now, many, many more teachings by now.

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<sup>89</sup> Hebrews 4:12

His last book/ DVD teaching, The Oracle, was the best seller in the world... yes, in the world, that is, 2 days before being released! His ministry is called The Hope of the World.

Ravi Zacharias of RZIM (Ravi Zacharias International Ministries), with his programs Let My People Think. He is a great Christian apologist who has a wonderful way of 'reasoning together', and respectfully helping us understand the choices before us.

I'd like to highlight what the Misslers both said was their most important teaching during their 50 years as believers. It's in their study called The Kingdom, The Power and The Glory: The Overcomers Handbook. In this study, they highlight what the Bible says about why it's so important to live like a believer, after you become one.

You might also want to YT one of the funniest programs by Erwin Lutzer, who does a perfect imitation of Billy Graham by the way (which you can YT too), but check under this if you're interested, Your Eternal Reward, Triumph and Tears at the Judgment Seat of Christ. It's interesting to compare what those teach with what a drama on YT, called The Bema which is what is commonly taught in our churches today.

If you've never heard teachers like these, I think you'll be pleasantly surprised. I've spent time in a whole lot of different churches, even ones that act more like family than associates, because they are, "But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the right (The authority, the privilege) to become children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name..<sup>90</sup>

I have the following statements up in my house to remind me, which I often find I need! "Let no doubt or unbelief make you waver but be fully satisfied and assured that God is able to keep His promises." "Rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ, The Messiah", and "The righteousness of God comes by believing with personal trust and confident reliance on Christ Jesus, for without faith, we cannot please God."

#### Know Anyone?

Do you know anyone who is sold out to Jesus?

Do you know anyone who does bear His fruit?

Think hard and think fast- do you know anyone?

Send me their number, they sound like fun!

Do you remember that example of John Wesley? I've known people myself who spent a lot of time serving in church before they realized they prayed with their lips, not their heart, and so came forward for salvation. But who we are really going to do with Jesus Christ in our heart is our choice because

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<sup>90</sup> John 1:12

just like Eve, it's up to our very own self if we will or will not swallow a lie!! (And, thus experience all of its nasty side effects too!)

### The Tears We'll Cry

I wonder if any tears that we'll cry  
(The ones in heaven, God says He will dry)  
Will be for times we just then discover  
The chances we missed to love one another?!

Opportunities past, we had when we lived  
to humble ourselves, extend grace and forgive.  
So if you are able to still make amends,  
Redeem your time well – and prepare for the end!

### There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Lie

There was an old lady who swallowed a lie,  
I don't know why she swallowed a lie,  
Perhaps she'll die!

Something inside her was wrong, it was clear,  
As that lie did its job, and thus produced fear!  
She wrestled with fear when she swallowed the lie,  
I don't know why she swallowed a lie,  
Perhaps she'll die!

After that happened she wasn't the same,  
for the fear that she had, then produced shame!  
Her shame that she felt, from her fear it did come,  
Which came from the lie- Boy was that dumb!  
I don't know why she swallowed a lie,  
Perhaps she'll die!

That's when the lady wised up and saw  
Her problems had been her very own fault!  
Because that old lady had had quite enough  
Turmoil and trials that had been really tough!  
As she told the Lord of her sin and her shame,  
About her mistake which had caused so much pain,  
That's when the lady learned on truth to then feed,  
Instead of those lies – and then she was freed!  
Praise the Lord, she is not going to die!

Have you heard these names of Jesus, and are you on a first name basis?? Or are you forcing Him, because He is righteous to then have to be your judge, versus your own defending attorney? "...Ungodly men who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ."<sup>91</sup>

But here are just a few things Christ wants to be to us, instead! Friend, Servant, Mercy Seat, Gift, Kinsman, Living Bread, My Joy, Rewarder, Weaver of My Life, The True Light, Healer, Counselor, Good, Provider, Breath of Life, My Help, Finisher of My Faith, The Source of All Peace, Pearl of Great Price, Pruner (ouch!), Judge, Physician (who even makes house calls!), Perfecter, Lover of My Soul, Comforter, Sure Foundation, Manna in the Wilderness, A Fountain of Life.

And the Bible versions can seem a confusing thing, that there are so many. Another reason the Amplified is my favorite: "The Lord is my strength and my impenetrable shield; My heart trusts (with unwavering confidence) in Him, and I am helped."<sup>92</sup> My other recommends are the NASB or New American Standard Bible, then even the New King James, which for most intents and purposes is the Old King James, up to date in our language, because we all don't talk like that anymore.

### Chapter 13 And Now, a Word about Suicide

Did you know that the Bible not only makes the audacious sounding claim that Jesus is the only way, but also that it tells us that all of our sufferings of this present time will not even be worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us?<sup>93</sup> Now, when you have suffered a lot, THAT is huge!!! Did you know God calls hope, an anchor for the soul?<sup>94</sup> An anchor both sure and steadfast, which enters within the veil? Fasting from food is a helpful practice too, to help increase your prayer power and stay dedicatedly focused, or at least that is how I like to put it.<sup>95</sup> Jesus said it is not the healthy who need a physician. And even He knew...

#### How Hard Things Can Be

Christ Jesus knows how hard things can be,  
As He sweat His own blood at Gethsemane.  
Not wanting for Him, what God had in store,  
But willing to follow His Father's will more.

Thus He obeyed and didn't fight back,  
As He underwent such awful attack,  
Asking God to forgive when His life was through,  
For He was aware we don't know what we do!

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<sup>91</sup> Jude 1:4 and Luke 9:26

<sup>92</sup> Psalm 28:7

<sup>93</sup> Romans 8:18

<sup>94</sup> Hebrews 6:19

<sup>95</sup> Matthew 6:17

Maybe your pain has caused you to look up, like it did me. I praise God for that. And I'm praying for you! Maybe God is trying to get your attention and prevent you more problems, because without Him in eternity, you haven't seen anything yet. YT's 23 Minutes in Hell by Bill Weise supports everything said in Scripture, and God doesn't want anyone to go there, but He leaves the choice up to each one.

"The Case for Christ" is both a fact filled book, as well as a testimonial by the same title, with Mike Vogel starring as Lee Strobel in the movie format. Lee was a Chicago Tribune investigative reporter whose wife got saved, and believe me, he did everything in his investigative power to prove to her she was wrong!

Another man, Josh McDowell who also tried to disprove Christianity, only to become a famous evangelical, has had an experience similar to me, which feels really strange, when you are about to say something not very nice, but kindness comes out of your mouth. Now THAT is God making changes! A movie about his life, including issues with molestation and alcoholism, is called Undaunted.

I also have a friend who as a child, would be suffering incest while at the same time her father read her Psalms 23. No wonder she hated the Father God! Well, until she got to know Him, and what He says He will do to people like that, especially who abuse children!! In Matthew 18:6, mark 9:42 and Luke 17:2. At least that He will do to those who have not turned from their wicked ways, and been covered by Christ's forgiveness and blood.

I met one man, who shortly after receiving Christ, died and came back, and I only believe him because of how his account so lined up with Scripture, which having been a new believer, he wasn't very familiar with yet. He explained that Jesus asked him if he wanted to come back. When he thought about it, he didn't even remember how he had died. He realized he might come back to a body that was crushed. But he was so changed after time with the Lord, that he decided he did want to come back, to just do one thing. Start treating the people he knew with the love of God that he'd found!

#### Next Best Thing

Passing on the love of Gods the next best thing there is  
To loving Jesus for yourself, and knowing you are His!

Oh how this world would change if we all would do this,  
Loving from our heart of hearts, and not just with our lips!

Maybe you've a physical handicap. Can you even imagine being born both deaf and dumb, like Helen Keller was? In many ways, spiritually, I believe we are, and we only find how to hear the Lord and see His hand in our lives, by faith in the only one who can help us! Our maker, the God of all creation! As I am writing, I am at the home of a friend who due to nerve damage, has had extreme pain for over 25 years, and spends much time in the dark and is isolated in quiet due to nerve damage causing extreme migraine like symptoms. But her love for the Lord, and willingness to carry her cross has always

inspired me so, NOT that it's easy! But when you know the Lord loves you, and has a purpose, and so willingly bear it, it sure helps! Whether our cross is physical or emotional or both.

The Lord said to expect tribulation in this world, and that we will have our very own cross we can either choose to willingly bear, or not... just as Jesus told His Father, after praying to not have to go through death on a cross, He through sweating blood in agony, then agreed and said, Okay... "Your will, not Mine!". Oh, how we get to know Jesus up close and personal, when we too come to the place where we too, or shall I say, that I too am willing to share in His sufferings, and bear my own cross, and thus get a tiny little taste of what He went through not just for us, but for me!

Nic Vujcic, who was born with no arms or legs, yet travels the world sharing the hope he found in the Lord, has a ministry called Life Without Limbs. Joni Eareckson Tada, founder and CEO of Joni and Friends, is a ministry to handicapped people like her, finding hope through the hardship. Maybe the Lord won't always heal us physically, but something amazing happens when we finally say okay to God, completely assured by faith that God's motive is love! He is the potter, we are the clay!

Clancy is the name of a Christian movie where a young lady wanted to stay with her mother, even though she burned her with cigarettes. I was stunned with the girl's response, when asked why she'd stay, as she said something like, "Well, God says everyone will have sufferings to bear, and I guess I just thought this was mine."

Karla Faye Tucker, once an inmate on death row, found God's forgiveness in prison. This once tough and drug ridden and very abused and lost soul had one of the most amazing transformations I've seen! So much so that the families of the 2 people she murdered in cold blood, vied for her release. See her real life interviews on YT, as well as a movie about her life, Forevermore. Plus on Roku, under World Events and Bible Prophecy, you can see several awesome Christian movies, you just have to dig under their many subdivisions, where they actually have a funny typo, "The Rise of the Breast! Instead of the Beast!! Ha!

Oh, and I don't want to forget a 14 minute amazing TY of Louie Giglio, Mashup of Stars and Whales, as well as his teaching on Laminin.

Google Aunties Bible Lessons by Ann Linari for creative lessons for children, or anyone old or young, in fact, to get more familiar with the events in the Bible and what they are there for to teach us as well.

Unveiling Grace: The Film, (Full Presentation) on YT has powerful testimonies from 8 former Mormons, who share what happened when they started reading the Bible.

The Seal of God by Dr. Ivan Panin is a 20 minute video on YT is an excellent resource to learn how the Hebrew and Greek of the original text of the Bible, reveals it is the only so called holy book at maintains such an out of this world numerical structure, that man couldn't invent.

One of my favorites is by a former Satanic high priest and vampire, Bill Schnoebelen, about the dangers of the occult, and why God tells us to have nothing to do with things like wizards, and witches, and the occult. It's a long program, I've had to take in chunks, but at the 2 hour and 8 minute mark, he begins sharing how he got saved. YT The Prophecy club: Vampires and Werewolves. Have you read how King Nebuchadnezzar turned into a beast in the Bible? Until he fully knew there is no God like our God, and to Him, all honor is due!

I'm hoping people will print off and leave the instructions for those left here after the rapture, available to download and copy on "[Forthedayoftrouble.org](http://Forthedayoftrouble.org)", because I can see all electronic communications being down for a while, as well as being censored. I'm suggesting we all leave them inside a kitchen pantry door or cupboard because people will be looking for food, as well as answers. Maybe in a church, they could be uniformly kept on a wall in the church office... with a note where several, like a lot... more copies can be found. Think about if it were to happen today, where would people know to turn to know just what to expect, and do, or not do?

I'd really like to see if any lawyers could figure out a way we can put in our wills, that in case we just disappear, we will our entire estate to Jews for Jesus, or something like that. I'm hoping to soon start a YT series myself, called Sue's Gardening Q and A's. I do have an email address listed on my blog, [sue@forthedayoftrouble.org](mailto:sue@forthedayoftrouble.org) or my snail mail address, PO Box 583, Nampa, Idaho 83653, if you have more ideas or are a lawyer who knows a way to do that.

The Prophecy Club: Ken Peters Dream, is also very interesting as Ken had a 7 hour long vivid and detailed filled dream about the great tribulation which occurs after the rapture, which he hadn't even heard of before, when he was not familiar with the Bible at all. What stuck out to me was when he was in a line of Christians who were to soon be beheaded. Every one of them knew they had the freedom to leave that line, by denying their faith. But he knew that the Lord would then deny him. He was amazed when the blade struck, he didn't even feel it, but was instantly in the presence of Christ. (Who was very proud of him, by the way!) "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for a friend.", John 15:13.

Maybe you're already a believer and the Lord is trying to refine you, and mature you. The harder lessons of Lordship... both its costliness as well as its benefits are listed in Scripture. It helps to realize His call for us, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."<sup>96</sup>. Just like Abraham, Joseph, Daniel and many, many more, our faith and endurance will surely be tested.

### Your Next Step of Faith

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<sup>96</sup> Luke 9:23

Where is God leading your next step of faith?  
To obey what you know, or to rest and wait?

To trust Him through trials, that all works for good,  
Or to focus your mind, like you know you should?

To seek Him each morning, and all through the day-  
To obey and believe in your will and your way?

To take your thoughts captive, put to death lies,  
To deny yourself, though it feels like you'll die?

Oh, where is God leading your next step of faith?  
When you know where He leads, you just cannot wait!

### Do You Think There's any Hope?

I don't know, doc, do you think there's any hope?  
This thing inside me, I think is really broke!  
It used to work I know, as I heard within my ear,  
What was right or wrong, so that God I would fear!

I don't know doc,, do you think it can be fixed?  
I need it back, I know, though my feelings can be mixed  
About my conscience being put right back in charge  
But without it, doc, this thing called life's too hard!

“Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me.”, Psalm 51:10

Or check out Psalm 103, which talks about God redeeming our lives from the pit.

After my own suicide attempt, I noticed something changed inside, where I couldn't have done it. (That's how you know when you're growing, because of those changes inside...) But something I noticed was that certain things didn't bother me anymore. For example, if I had plans and they changed, I found myself saying much more quickly, “Okay, You are Lord of my life. What's behind “Door Number Two” then today?” That makes life SO much easier, I do declare! I believe it's because the more experience I've had



with the Lord, the more often I've gotten to witness and see for myself, how much better His plans are than mine!!! And also somewhere along the way, I began losing something, which I found delightful to lose!!!

### Losing This Race

I used to be able to worry, with the best of them!  
I used to be able to keep right up! That's how I have been!  
Losing sleep, and biting my nails are old habits of mine,  
But as I grow in Jesus, I'm losing this race, I find!

I peaceable fruit of righteousness is what the discipline of the Lord brings, as well as a sign you are truly His!<sup>97</sup> Because He disciplines those He loves. (Do you know the difference between discipline and punishment, by the way? Only one has the goal of restoring... But I know where I'm going when I die, and what can be more important than a person securing that for certain and for sure?? When you do, it makes it hard to understand why people would be more afraid of a virus than of hell, and risking life eternal!

### Let the Gold Rush Start Today

In which market do you invest?  
Eternal proceeds are the best!  
For in God's word, we all are told  
Faith's more precious than our gold-

The kind that we will surely seek  
When we stand at Judgment's seat.  
The kind of faith that helps us know  
Only God's love makes us whole!

So let the gold rush start today  
God please help me, I do pray  
Seek the gold, not that of fools,  
But the type that I can't lose!

I want to invest all I've got  
Into the right kind of stock!  
Til everyone on earth has heard  
The saving power of God's word...

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<sup>97</sup> Hebrews 12:11

And til others lost like I  
Also live before they die!

### We've Already Had Pandemics

We've already had pandemics all throughout the earth  
From the moment Eve gave way, and thus to sin gave birth.  
Bringing us the 'gift of death', of which I know you've heard...

With symptoms of the fear of God, but not in a good way  
That makes us not to want the Lord, or what He has to say-  
His words like medication that could cleanse us here, today.

To heal from every lie and doubt, inside that makes us rot  
And clear our mind's infections, truly that we've got...  
But it is up to each dear soul to accept Him or to not.

### As of Now

God if you think I need this pain,  
Although it makes me feel insane,  
As of now, I put You in charge  
Of my life, which is both of ours.

Just as a plant being pruned, I can't see  
Why You are cutting so deeply in me!  
Please help me trust you 'til You are through  
So I can finally... finally bear fruit!

If you still are not convinced of Christ, here is one more though I'd like to leave you with, about what true suicide actually just might truly be:

### Rejecting Christ, Eternal Suicide

Did you know Jesus died to cleanse you of your sin?  
And if you but receive Him, you can enter in  
Not only to a place of love, when your body dies,  
But to a life of triumph, over Satan's lies?

If you ask me my opinion, what I think true suicide,  
It's refusing God's forgiveness, and clinging to your pride!  
Eternal separation from the One who loves you so,  
Refusing life eternal, that Christ would have you know!

But what if you're a Christian, and still tempted so to do?  
I'll tell you how He helped me, I'm sure He'd help you too!  
For if you're ever tempted to commit this painful sin,  
Dying to your own will is a better way to win.

For when I placed my hope in God, that's when I found His strength,  
Trusting that He loved me, beyond height or width or length!  
For when I gave God every dream – trading mine for His,  
Although so very difficult, I discovered what faith is!

The lockdown just occurred where I live in Idaho, at the moment I just finished, so I wanted to get this out right now. There may be a few different versions floating around out there because I sent out the truly ROUGH drafts! Please excuse it not being reviewed yet. Maybe people will want to correct it for me, use some of their down time to watch some of the resources that helped me so much.

**"MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND WATCH, GUARD, AND KEEP YOU;**

**<sup>25</sup>THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE UPON AND ENLIGHTEN YOU AND BE GRACIOUS  
(KIND, MERCIFUL, AND GIVING FAVOR) TO YOU;**

**<sup>26</sup>THE LORD LIFT UP HIS [APPROVING] COUNTENANCE UPON YOU AND GIVE YOU  
PEACE (TRANQUILITY OF HEART AND LIFE CONTINUALLY).**

**NUMBERS 6:24-26**

Believe and Live,

Sue Mueller, Nampa, Idaho

Have you heard of these movies that I would recommend?

My personal most favorite ever, Second Glance, not Chance, which is a Christian version of It's a Wonderful Life, The Secret of Jonathan Sperry (about the influence one life can make) and Time Changers (about how it was to live in the culture 100 years ago versus now), both with Gavin MacCleod from the Love Boat), The Ultimate Gift (about tests of character that changed a man, written by someone who is blind), Unplanned (about the conviction of an abortion clinic director), All of the Kendrick's brothers movies, like Flywheel (repenting), Courageous, Facing the Giants, Fireproof (about being faithful in marriage), The Overcomer (a great example of accepting the Lord and healing relationships) and War Room (about the power of prayer). Rich Mullins - A Ragamuffins Legacy, or the one just called Ragamuffin, (about Rich Mullin's amazing love for God), The Passion by Mel Gibson (about the crucifixion), I Still Believe, Do You Believe (about learning to love others, and be a help in time of need), Standing in the Gap, I Can Only Imagine, Mom's Night Out, just because it's a hoot! And Unbroken, The Path to Redemption, which is actually the full story of Louie Zamperini, which wasn't told in the movie just titled, Unbroken. Also The Hiding Place. And you might want to check into the 2014 movie, "Where Was God?" Stories of Hope and Faith After the Storm, About the after terrible tornado in Moore, Oklahoma. Plus SO many more! Have you ever heard of Pureflix?

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