

Transform

Magazine

July 2020

Volume 3 Issue 7



When You First Believed?

Your Salvation?

Your Purpose?

Your Calling?

The Fire Being Ignited

DO YOU REMEMBER

It's Time To Get Back To Your Place & Build

Your Strength?

Your Assignment?

Your Place in Him?

Your Truth Revealed?

Remember

DO

DO YOU REMEMBER

YOU

Remember

DO

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July 2020
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NURTURING OPPRESSED WOMEN

AROUND THE WORLD MINISTRIES

N.O.W.A.T. MINISTRIES

(NURTURING OPPRESSED WOMAN AROUND THE WORLD)

Elder Diane Harvell, Founder, est. April 2020

Jeremiah 29:11-13

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. V.12-Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. V.13-And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."


The N.O.W.A.T. MINISTRIES first began as the N.O.W. MINISTRY. However, as the Lord began to broaden my territory, He enlarged it to the N.O.W.A.T. MINISTRIES. After breaking through some very binding and difficult situations in my own life, the Lord introduced me to new people, new avenues and new ventures for life. Through the divine call of The Lord Jesus Christ, my Savior, and after I was finally free of my own "oppressions," the transition from oppression to nurturing became very easy.

That is what N.O.W.A.T. MINISTRIES is about. To help encourage and care for the development of women everywhere, who have been crippled by past or present circumstances of life find their God-given purpose so that they too can help someone else. Thus, multiplying the love of God upon the earth.

Future goals for N.O.W.A.T. MINISTRIES are to offer childcare resources to life coaching, counseling, and temporary housing for those in need.

This is my passion, this is my purpose. Therefore, let us bring glory to the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Nurturing Oppressed Women Around the World! (N.O.W.A.T. MINISTRIES).

Because of His Love,
Elder Diane Harvell

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DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE COLOR OF MY BLACK SKIN

By Elder Diane Harvell

July 26, 2019

This poem was written in 2019, but I thought it appropriate considering the events of the world today.

**Don't be afraid of the color of my black skin
I'm just as you deep within**

**Although our chromosomes may not be alike
God has made each person unique in his sight**

**Why is my skin defined so negatively?
When god has given all equality**

**Why are you afraid of the color of my black skin
My beauty & my style comes in many different
shades**

**So, who are you to hold me back?
By putting your knees upon my neck
Or to think I am worthless because I am black?**

**Are you afraid of the color of my black skin
Because its symbolic of my power and my strength**

**Light mocha or caramel, and deep chocolate
Dark skin and brown skin, and skin of lightness**

**The world is a great canvas be who you are
We were all made to shine like stars**

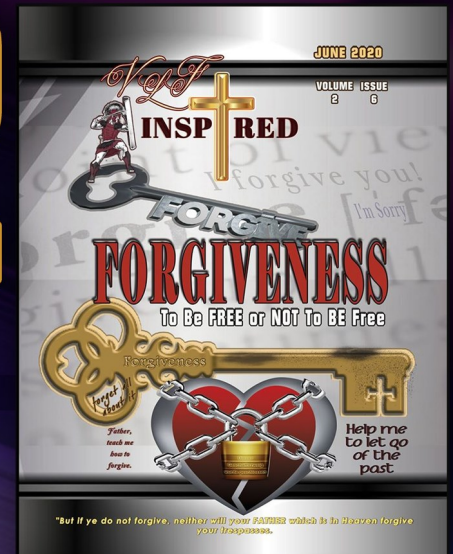
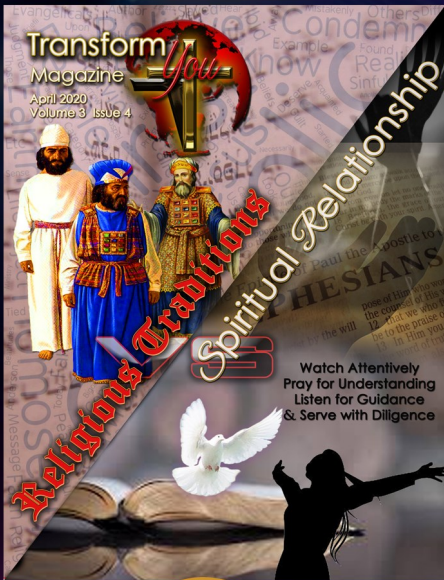
**So, don't be afraid of my black skin
Let me shine too again and again!**

**THANK YOU JESUS!
YOUR DAUGHTER, DIANE!**



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Volume 3 Issue 6



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Believe In God

Remembering to First Believe in Him, His Son, His Plan, and His Purpose for Us

By Eunice A. Christian

July 1, 2020

Genesis 9:16 ~ ¹⁶ *The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I [God] will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.*

Ecclesiastes 7:8 ~ ⁸ *The end of a thing is better than its beginning; the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.*

John 14:1~ ¹ *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.*

* * *

Points of reference:

- **Opening Scriptures**
- **Foreword**
- **First Believe**
- **Spiritual Gifts Our Strengths**
- **The Fire Within, Then To The Flood, And Back Again**
- **Jeremiah's Plea**
- **Do Not Stray From The Old Landmark**
- **So Glad He Did**
- **Keep The Faith**
- **Stay Encouraged**

FOREWORD

This article is focused upon this month's theme that addresses, in part, the following questions: ***When did you first believe? Do you remember your calling; your purpose; your place in God? Do you know or remember your assignment?***

First Believe

From being a child to adulthood, it is important and vital to one's soul to believe in God and to serve Him in Spirit and in Truth. If not applicable to you, perhaps someone you know is in dire need of hearing or receiving an unadulterated message or a Word from God. Perhaps this is *your purpose—to teach*. Just as important, ensure, if you can, that the learner, especially one who is new to the Lord, is being taught by a God-fearing individual whose teaching is in alignment with the Word of God. One should not simply leave it up to someone else to ensure that, for example, a loved one is being spiritually fed according to the Holy Scriptures. It may be good to know for oneself, again, if possible, to ensure that a learner is not receiving tainted ideologies that are contrary to the Living Word.

As a child, I can recall one particular Sunday School session—mainly this one session. After a couple or so sessions, my parents no longer sent me back; maybe it was discontinued—I *do not know*. I believe I may have expressed my displeasure towards being in these sessions. I can recall being around pre-school age. I can recall being told that due to structural damage to the church we attended, I would attend Sunday School in a neighbor's home. Upon attending the Sunday School sessions, I quickly learned that I, and perhaps maybe a few other children as well, were not the apple of this Sunday School teacher's eye. What I remember is that I and the other little children were huddled in a small pantry area, and yet in spite of our closeness, the teacher only gave her attention to one or two of us out of what seemed like a group of at least seven. It is unfortunate that instead of remembering

scriptures and lessons presented in the Holy Bible, I remember the schisms expressed during this particular Sunday School lesson. As an adult, many, many, years later, I realized what was happening; it was unfortunate. This is what I first remembered. This is what I learned the most—that even as a young child—I learned that there are schisms, or more accurately—favoritism in the church. I felt as though there was a strong disconnect, to put it mildly. What a shame. For my early years of attending *church*, that is what I first learned to believe.

To emphasize: One should do their best to learn what is going on around children; whether toddlers, young scholars, or college graduates. Certain actions by superiors can be everlasting—and emotionally harmful. Adult intervention and support is essential; however, and as you know, from adults who possess compassion, empathy, and Godly love, so that you know with good conscience that your loved one, friend, or familiar acquaintance is in good hands.

Fast forwarding: As a young adult in my 20's, I can remember taking the Holy Bible that my Mom bought for me and started reading it. I am grateful that I still have it to this day; although very worn—hardly touched due to the accessibility of the biblical scriptures on the internet. I share this information because although I knew that there is a God; that we should worship Him and His Son, it was with this same Holy Bible that I can recall a specific event in my life that I knew I believed in God and our Lord Jesus, but was not forthright in heart. I can recall going on public transportation and hiding what I was reading; as though it were unpopular to bring the Word out in public. *I don't know why—but I believe there was an eclipse in my heart about openly reading God's Word.* I knew that I was drawn to knowing God, but my heart was convicted—*was I ashamed? God forbid.* I remember sitting down and it was as clear as day that while my intentions were good, my heart was not yet right. What a shame.

Fast forwarding again to later stages of my adulthood: I developed the maturity to learn what it means to trust in Jesus; to trust God; albeit due to very difficult experiences. As I learned to trust in Him, I grew to yearn for His divine intervention in my life. I developed a hunger and thirst to worship Him. I went from ministry to ministry. Back in the day, church fellowship and church networking was grand! There was not a week that I can remember during those years that would go by that there was not an invitation coming my way to attend a church service. Unfortunately, that was also the beginning of problems. As a result of my church-hopping, I exposed myself to situations I was not prepared for. To sum it all up—spiritual wickedness in high places.

What led me to truly know about the power of my Lord and my God took place during various paradigm shifts in my life induced by tragedy; a failed relationship, and more...*but God has a plan...and He has a plan for you, too. If you have not as yet, received His divine plan and purpose for your life; please do so now and receive your calling.* You may not understand it at first, but knowing the power of God, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, He will enable you to understand His plan for your life better as time goes by. To add, love yourself and appreciate more of what you have. Appreciate another day to grow closer to Him and to worship Him. You will find peace and joy if you love the Lord and your God. You will find deliverance, if you desire to be free from the bondage of this world.

John 15:20 ~ ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

Spiritual Gifts Our Strengths

Gifts are just that—*gifts!* They are not earned. Yet, multitudes who possess *spiritual gifts* will not acknowledge the Creator or give Him due respect and honor. Some will even abuse their spiritual gifts—I used to refer to it as a form of spiritual prostitution. I have learned that many will use their gifts in ways that can make one shutter. Also, those with a prophetic mantle on their life may exercise the gift of prophesy, but will use his or her gift to tap into someone's life to manipulate; to covet. Some will use other devices that are not within the Will of God to fulfill their own selfish desires. *Don't be that person!*

To emphasize: Our Lord is truly The Gift-Giver. It is important to respect and understand that. Whether one is Black, White, Jew, Gentile—we all have gifts in various strengths and levels—like and as diverse as the human body that has many members and specialties. To emphasize, it is important to know when and how to use one's gift. Being led by the Holy Spirit is extremely important in order to stir up the gifts from within—whether it is to fight the good fight of faith, to deter and eliminate the temptation to give up or give in, or when the going gets tough for you and for others.

Ephesians 6:11-12 ~ ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that you [we] may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

The Fire Within; Then To The Flood, And Back Again

I remember way back how worship and praise services were in full force and effect in grand style. The circle of Believers I used to be closely in contact with were so involved and so engaged. *What a joy it was to go to church revivals! Some times for straight weeks; almost every day after work...almost with total disregard to inclement weather. Had car, was traveling! When I think about how I used to travel from ministry to ministry—WOW! In similar fashion to how some partied and hung out—the church became my place. What almost put a complete halt to that? I learned the hard way that not every place is meant to go to, even if it is or was considered a Christian place of worship. I learned that my purpose was not to share my gifts, my talents—my presence—with just anyone or anybody. Yet, through what I learned, albeit painful at times, it was for my good because I realized over a series of experiences over the years that God has a plan and purpose for me. Most importantly, no man, woman, or child will be able to take or steal His glory for seeing me through the most arduous periods of my life.*

The fire within me back then was fueled by a desire to learn more and more about my purpose in God. I would travel for miles to attend what I hoped would be Holy Ghost filled and fire baptized services. I can recall that there were services by different messengers morning, noon, and night. I can remember the fire within—I remember the enormous energy and drive I had to worship God—to be more than a person sitting on a pew. Unfortunately, for certain circles of fellowship, I realized that all who are gifted do not use their gifts to God's glory. That some—from the pulpit to the pews—would attempt to lead the Lord's sheep astray. What a shame.

The fire within for serving the Lord was almost being doused out—to be replaced by extreme disappointment and separation from fellow worshippers. I am grateful and humbled

to indicate 'almost'—the adversary is a liar, and I know that because in spite of all that I was exposed to, it was God who is my stay. I know who God is to me, and that He has a plan for me—and I will touch and agree in the Spirit for you the same. Tell the adversary in your life or anything that is contrary to the Will of God, under the power and unction of the Holy Spirit, that it is a defeated foe! Declare the adversary is under your feet! Don't accept defeat or listen to his lies.

Jeremiah's Plea

Jeremiah 20: 7-10 ~ ⁷O Lord, You induced me, and I was persuaded; You are stronger than I, and have prevailed. I am in derision daily; everyone mocks me. ⁸ For when I spoke, I cried out; I shouted, *Violence and plunder!* because the word of the Lord was made to me a reproach and a derision daily. ⁹ Then I said, *I will not make mention of Him, Nor speak anymore in His name.* But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not. ¹⁰ For I heard many mocking: *Fear on every side! 'Report,' they say, and we will report it!* All my acquaintances watched for my stumbling, saying, *'Perhaps he can be induced; Then we will prevail against him, and we will take our revenge on him.'*

Are you able to identify with God's servant, Jeremiah? I remember back in the day, I have not heard this for years, but God's servant, Jeremiah, was called *The Crying Prophet.* *Can you identify with his hurt, his disappointments, or even his fears?* As the Word of God will teach us, because we are God's chosen vessels and are a part of His divine plan, does not equate that at all times our lives will be easy. What our Lord and our God promises is that we will have everlasting life—we will be blessed with His gift of salvation. As Believers and worshippers, we are designed and created to fulfill His plan and purpose; He will be faithful to see us through...one way or another as we stay the course and not go astray. We are the sheep of His pasture; He is the Potter, we are the clay.

Needless to share, but good to remember, not all situations are transparent. *A lesson learned will sometimes evolve without even realizing one is being taught!* Sometimes, looking things over and reflecting can make one realize that much more—*My God! I know you have your hands on me! You got me through this...you got me through that!* Sometimes, I feel as though I do not know certain particulars and specifics of my plan and purpose in God, but this I know for sure...God is real...His Son Jesus lives...and His Holy Spirit guides me, and that He love me; I am His child.

Ephesians 4:11-16 ~ ¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be, prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the body of Christ,¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith of the knowledge of the Son of God, to perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;¹⁴ that we should no longer be tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of plotting,¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the—Christ—¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Do Not Stray From The Old Landmark

It's July 2020. Do you remember when or where you first believed? If you asked me, I would not be able to answer—it would be just impossible for me to remember when I first believed. Too many years past, but I do remember significant events in my life that made a profound impact upon my life that brought me closer to the Lord...*and even knowing this, I would not be able to narrow it down to a particular day, week, month, or year.* I believe it is

best that way; perhaps knowing too many details and all the particulars would be the cause of additional distractions in my walk with God.

Matthew 17:4-6 ~ ⁴ Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, *Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.* ⁵ While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ***This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!*** ⁶ And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid: ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them and said, ***Arise, and do not be afraid.***

Have you ever thought about what it would have been like to know the true birth date of Jesus? Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to know His exact...and I mean exact birth location pertaining to where He was laid in the manger? Image if the world knew. We probably would enshrine the location, thereby taking away the true essence of why Jesus came to this world in the flesh in the first place. Oh, that's right! There's December 25th! My point is that recollecting upon when we first believed may be important for some, if not most Believers, because we may be able to associate when we first believed to a moment in time when our passion for Christ was strong. Reflecting upon when we first placed our sincere trust in God may rekindle our love for our Lord and our God that may enhance the fire from within. Remembering when we first believed might remind us why, in the first place, of the importance of continuously developing a heart and a made up mind to worship God in Spirit and in Truth. Remembering when we first believed may encourage us to stay encouraged and to give up, feel defeated, or worn out by what seems to be so prominent—the rejections, cruelties, and the harshness of this world. However significant our *old landmark* was, it is not as important as where we are today. What matters is that we have a made up mind and are sold out for the cause of Christ—*right?*

What matters most is how we exercise our faith, how we run our race, and how we finish the course. What is important is that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16). What is important is that we share the gospel according to the teachings of Christ Jesus as His Holy Spirit empowers us. What is important is to fulfill God's purpose for our lives while remaining on the right side of Him. Praying, fasting, worshipping Him with a clean and sincere heart and a renewed heart for Him. What is important for us to remember is the significance of fellowshiping with one another for inspiration; spreading the gospel—looking back only because it is humbling to know how far God brought us—and how much farther we may need to go in Him. *To God be the glory forever and forever more.*

So Glad He Did

There's this song that has the lyrics *I'm so glad He did. Actually, there are many gospel songs with these words; however, I could not find the one I wanted as a reference here, but it has been coming to me as I was writing my article. A woman as lead singer—a rapid pace. It's been years since I've heard it, but it pretty much sums up how I feel.* I am so glad He did. *What did He do?* He gave His life so that you and I may have everlasting life. Many are called but few are chosen. When He accepted me, it was not because I chose him first. I am humbled by knowing this. He knows me...He knows you. He knew us before the foundation of the world. He remembered those God placed in His care (His disciples) during His prayer, as well as those who are to come; His remnant (us). He remembered the world as He sweated both blood and water during His prayer as He prepared to set His face

towards His false accusers. Jesus believed in His Father that His plan is True; that is why He allowed the adversary to crucify Him on the wooden cross made from a tree that He and His Heavenly Father created. I am so glad He did. *Are you glad too? So, the question is: Have you received Him? Have you accepted His divine plan and purpose for your life?* I pray for myself and others to have clarity of mind and heart for a closer walk with Jesus. I pray to be on the path of righteousness for His name's sake. I'm so glad He did. I'm so glad He not only remembered me, but that He knows me and claims me as His own. Irrespective as to whether I can remember when I first believe is knowing what's most important...and that is that He remembers me and welcomes me and mine and those we love in Paradise.

Jeremiah 29:11-14 ~ ¹¹ *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.* ¹² *Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.* ¹³ *And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.* ¹⁴ *I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.*

Keep The Faith

While we are facing challenges in pandemic proportions, do not let your heart be troubled. Pray to the One who is able to keep us from falling. Ask our Heavenly Father and Holy Spirit for guidance in the name of Jesus. As was in the days of old, God will continue to bring us to a place where we can find rest in the most weary of places. Worshipping our Lord and God under the power of the Holy Spirit is what we need right now—it's what the world needs right now. We also need Love; for God is Love. In spite of all that is heartbreaking and troubling in our world today, God can and will see us through—it is important to believe this. As in the days of old, through treacherous times, God continues to bring generation after generation through it all. We may face *new norms*, but with God, He can keep us; if we remain faithful and believe in Him.

* * *

I would like to express my deepest and sincerest condolences to those who are experiencing grief and hardship during this COVID-19 pandemic. As I pray for my family, friends, and those I encounter, I pray for you, too.

May God's grace and mercies keep you; and that the joy of the Lord and the love of God which surpasses all understanding strengthen and encourage you always.

May God continue to bless and uplift all those who seek His Face, and may the Spirit of the Living God bless the works of those across the nations who serve to make this world a better place.

Eunice A. Christian

Content Writer; Missionary

Stay Encouraged

We cannot truly fathom how great our Lord and God is, but what we can identify with is our Lord and our God's mercies towards us. Knowing that there are recorded accounts of how Jesus walked this earth—and knowing how He lived and died for us—should cause us to serve Him with an abundance of gratitude and humility. We know that we could never

repay Him for what He has done, and continues to do for us, by the power of the Holy Spirit—we know this—but the way we can honor Him is to love and obey Him.

We should, therefore, be willing to spread the gospel so that the Holy Word may be received by all who will believe—and for those who truly believe, may we rejoice together, and be continually encouraged in knowing that we have a glorious expected end in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:14-16 ¹⁴Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

* * *

There is no greater gift than the power of God's redemption.

So, if you have not done so already, give your heart to Jesus while you still have time.

Have a transformed mind, look to Jesus.

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*Unless otherwise specified, all biblical references are from the New Kings James Version (NKJV) - Public Domain.



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“Remembering When I First Believed, My Salvation, My Purpose, and My Calling; It’s Time to Get Back in Place and Build!”

By Elder Diane Harvell

A very powerful preacher recently said, “the church is in trouble. The church is in trouble not because of sin, but because we do not know how to use the POWER of GOD that we have within us.” He went on to say God wants to bless us with ultimate blessings, but he will not override our decisions to be disobedient. The preacher had my attention at point one ‘the church is in trouble.’ Because I had been ‘in trouble’ for quite some time.

At the beginning of this year, I was asked if I had learned anything last year in 2019 and if so, would I be taking that into the new year 2020? I pray the lessons I have learned not only in 2019 but in my life altogether, will be life changing for me and beneficial to all I will ever encounter now, and for the rest of my life. Years ago, when I first got saved, my approach to demonic attack or demonic trespass I would immediately deal with by fasting and praying. This was done almost effortlessly because at that time, my relationship with God I did not compromise it for no one. I knew of the power of God within me and I knew the enemy had no authority over me because I am God’s child. And so, I stayed close to God through prayer and followed His command for everything. Also, at that time I had no turned around collar, no title, and no aspiration to become a titled individual. I just loved God, and I loved and believed His Word! I believed **Mark 16:17-”And these signs shall follow them that believe, “In my name shall they cast out devils;”** and during any demonic attack, after fasting and praying, and seeking God’s face, I’d cast out devils according to His word and they would flee.

That was the POWER of God working within me, I give Him all the glory. But the TROUBLE with this fact is, most people who knew me “in the church,” did not know this fact concerning me. That’s a problem! Because these “gifts” are needed in the church and wherever God should lead or send me. I say this not to be braggadocios or abased, but in trying to “do good,” and in trying to be obedient to “do ministry,” of what I thought was right, this became contrary to the will of God for many years and during those years, I was miserable.

God wants Relationship with us! When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden and hid themselves, the first thing God asked Adam was, “where art thou?”

Many believe they are in the will of God and have a relationship with Him because they are obedient to their Pastor or to their church or with their busy schedule. But if you have no relationship with the Lord, at some point your will is going to become contrary to His will and you will lose your place in God and your power too just as I did. I became bound.

I tried being “obedient” and committed to so many “other” things and so many people without continuing my relationship with God first, and in so doing, I lost the power that I had so easily known of Him. So, this is what I have learned, it is sinful to override God’s will with your own even when we believe we’re doing a greater good. When we sacrifice disobedience for God’s perfect will, it will not matter what we do thereafter because you will be stuck and “out of order.”

You know that feeling you have when you feel miserable and nothing seems to satisfy that feeling and you don’t know why? And nothing seems to fill that void? Check your RELATIONSHIP with God. It could be “off balance” while you’re still “doing ministry” and God is not going to override our decisions of disobedience, we must be willing to allow Him to lead and guide us.

I see many Christians professing to “know” Jesus but have no attributes of Him at all. But the authenticity of God’s gifts within us are still genuine and undisputed. Whatever your gift is, or whatever your “Ministry” is, no one will be able to execute that gift like you! Because God has specifically designed you, and directed the trials of your life, which in actuality, will strengthen you to excellently execute that gift! Remember, **Romans 8:28-“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.**

Although I was able to cast out devils in the name of Jesus Christ, I still did not know God’s purpose for that gift! And as the issues of life occurred, I prayed less, lost focus of God and lost a lot of time. I thank God that He is not a man that He should lie because all the things that I went through, he did work them together insomuch that today His purpose and my calling are undeniable! Now I know my “place,” my ministry, and what it is for!

The Lord will fortify you for “Ministry”, but you’ve got to “know” Him and know what His purpose is for your life. The Lord has enlarged my territories and my vision is clear about what I am to do. I still have a lot of work to do but God has invigorated me, and it’s now time to get back in place and build up His Kingdom!

Isaiah 43:19-God said, "Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."

May God Bless You All!
Elder Diane Harvell



Baby Dedication Keepsakes

Designs created to express your unique style!



Minister: Do you commit before God and I witness that you will do all that is within your power to maintain your home where Malory will be cared and loved, and do you commit to rearing this child in love and honor God with all her heart?
Parents: We do.

Charge: Bishop Carlton L. Williams

With that, I remind you again that God has graciously

Minister: Do you stand before us and before God today seeking to be Godly examples? Parents: We do.

Baby Dedication for Malory
Scripture: Psalms 127:1-5
1 Samuel 1:27-28
Minister Shermel Epps
Mother Patte Grant
Statement of Intent: Bishop Carlton L. Williams

God established the home as one of the most vital institutions on earth. God said to Adam and Eve, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth." Since that time, God has blessed man and woman with the wonder of birth.

We can take our rule of faith and practice for this service this morning from God's Word, the Bible! We find several accounts in the Bible of children being dedicated to God. Samuel was dedicated to God in 1 Samuel 1:28-28. Jesus was dedicated to God in Luke 2:22.

So we come today, not only to ask God's special blessing on this life, but also to challenge and encourage the Mother and God Parents to love and care for Malory and give her every opportunity to live the kind of life that God wants her to live.

So in this act of dedication, I ask these questions:
Minister: Do you, Tonya Norman and God Parents present Malory to God?
Parents: We do.
Minister: Do you stand before us and before God today seeking to be Godly examples? Parents: We do.

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Abolishing the
Attitude Of Entitlement

Coming To The Table Of Understanding To Heal The Land

Acknowledge our lack of
Knowledge and Accountability

"Now is the time to lift our Nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood."

I have a dream that one day this Nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

When we allow freedom to ring-when we let it ring from every city and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last, Free at last, Great God almighty, We are free at last."

With this faith we will be to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. *Quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's "I have a Dream" speech.*

Eliminating
Hatred

Stereotypes

Equality for All

Removing
Bias

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and unknown Injustice
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to remove Fears

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Creating a Spirit of
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Learning to completely
listen as well as speak

Recognizing The Strength Of This
Nation Is Within Our Diversity

Transform
Magazine



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"In all our getting let's get an Understanding"

Coming to the Table of Understanding

Dr. C. A. Dangerfield II

In light of all the events that have been taking place around the world. God has allowed illumination on key things we must fix. This is a period of purging and in order to get that which is infected within our society to be healed. Honestly, the Band-Aid approach that had been applied we truly know has not and will not work going forward. We have to eradicate the infections, face the diagnosis headed on, and take evasive action for a total cure.

In doing so we have to come together and openly communicate about the things that we know are totally incorrect. Unite for the common cause of understanding the impacts of past actions that have us in the current state of being which is at a stalemate. No advancement and no decline, we have to resent the board where we all begin at a place of equality and move forward from there with the same advantages.

God has allowed Transform You and VLF Inspired Magazine to come together and sponsor one of many conversations around the county and world dealing with race relations. We felt it important to have this dialog to erase so many stereotypes, understand what is the overall misunderstandings due to misinformation, correct the history, speak about a future that will allow this nation to live up to the true strength that could be realized if we understand that it lies within our diversity and unite to bring that truth forward.

We know that honest conversation is what it is going to take to fix over 400 years of change and growth that has been happening as time progresses forward. When we have to stretch our understanding to include others that are not within our immediate circle it becomes difficult especially when one has held the advantage over another and doesn't truly identify with the impact of the harm which has been inflicted. However, when things are brought to our attention we cannot turn a blinded eye or deaf ear to the situation. It has been exposed to be fixed so we can make a better place to live for future generations. Who even now operate through a different lens until they are taught to foster those outdated behaviors. Because they have an understanding from within that these views and values are not acceptable for the future. So they have already rejected them and demand change going forward.

The Table of Understanding will help us to transform minds and come away proving what is that good, acceptable, and perfect will of God. We invite you to visit our respective Facebook pages for announcements for future conversations that you can be a part of so that your input can be heard as we set the path forward for greater unity for future generations. "In all thy getting get an understanding" Pray for and with us as we move forward in this assignment from God.

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**"But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible;
but with God all things are." Matthew 19:26**

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Neva Brooks is founder of Diamonds Sharpens Diamonds™ which is an empowering group for women. Our affirmation statement is: "YOU are a rare Diamond. YOU are precious in God's sight. And...I LOVE the way you shine!" She is highly active in ministry at her local church and in her community

Neva is a retired Nurse Executive. She is unapologetically Christian, a Mother, Godmother and Grandmother. The love of her life is her Daddy, John Brooks who is 95 years young!

Now that you know, don't forget!

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever!

When I think about remembering the time, as a believer in Jesus The Christ, the nostalgic song by Andre Crouch comes to mind Take me Back. In the lyrics, he says "take me back to where I first received you; take be back to where I first believed!" I made a clear decision to accept Jesus Christ as my savior and invited him to live in my heart as a child. I do remember being hungry for the stories of Jesus as they were presented in the "Golden Treasure" Bible my parents read with us in our home. I don't remember the power of conversion, and the realization that I had the right to a personal relationship with Jesus until I was almost an adult. It was at that time the title of this article had meaning in my life, my Christian growth, and an impact on those in my circle of family and friends.

Preceding my yesteryears and even today, Jesus Christ has remained the same. The fact that he was born of a virgin, God's only Son, lived a sinless life, was crucified-buried, and resurrected has not changed. Jesus performed miracle after miracle and healed those from incurable diseases... HE HAS NOT CHANGED!

I recently had the blessed opportunity to walk alongside a woman of great faith who was believing for healing in her son. At a time when the doctors were without hopeful words and preparing her for "if this doesn't work" she began to quote Hebrews 13:8. She recalled a list of times and situations when healing took place for her and her family. What she said next forever changed my perspective on this Bible verse. She said "We get to see that same Jesus, TODAY! He is healing my son TODAY!" We went on to discuss the fact that we were not worried about tomorrow. We KNOW him from yesterday, we're seeing him TODAY and we believe he holds tomorrow! WOW. He is the same today.

I told you she is a woman of strong faith, right? In the Name of Jesus, her son is healed, disease free, alive, and well. Jesus The Christ is the same. Now that you know, don't forget!

He is God's only Son. "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" Hebrews 4:14-16. What need do you have? He is a forgiving high priest. IF we follow his will in 1 John 1:9 to confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness and unrighteousness. It doesn't matter how awful you think you've been or if you are in a destructive cycle of sin. When we come to him with sincere and repentant confessions, he will show mercy and forgive. He is the epitome of love, mercy and grace and will meet every need.

"I must confess, Lord I've been blessed but yet my soul is not satisfied. Renew my faith, restore my joy and dry my weeping eyes" is one of the verses in the song *Take Me Back*.

Let us take a quick look at my sister Sarai. Some of you may only know her as Sarah, but at this time her name was Sarai. In the book of Genesis Sarai had a hard time putting her confidence in God. In the 15th chapter, God told her husband they would have a son. In fact, God said to him, look up at the stars Abram, can you count them? That is how many descendants you will have. In the very next chapter, Sarai told Abram the Lord had kept her from getting pregnant and she had a plan. She asked him to sleep with her maiden Hagar, so SHE could have a child from her. If you follow the story, you know that Hagar became pregnant. Sarai and Hagar ended up despising each other. I wish I could have told Sarai about Philippians 1:6 "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." God was faithful to HIS word and Sarai gave birth to a son with Abram. But here it is, Sarai lacked the ability to understand God's Word would not change, that his promise was good that day and has proven true through all generations until this day in the year of our Lord and Savior 2020 caused distention between her and Hagar, in her marriage and between the brothers Ishmael and Isaac.

My friends, be certain that the good work God began in you, it is empowered by the Holy Spirit and drenched in the blood of Jesus The Christ. He will complete it in you for his Glory. Now that you know that, don't forget it

In 2 Timothy 1:6 Paul said, "for this reason I remind you to stir up the gift (fan the flame) of God in you!" Paul was encouraging Timothy at a time when he really needed it. I believe God is encouraging us today through his presence and his Word. Timothy's faith was growing dim and Paul reminded him He was a man of faith, that his mother and grandmother were women of faith. Essentially he was telling him that the power of the same faith of his ancestors has the same power today. I believe I'm right about this because he goes on to tell Timothy that God has not given him the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. That seems like permanency to me

I shall close by reminding you that Jesus The Christ will never change. When you think back over the difficult times in your life, and recognize it was his love, grace and mercy that covered you. Remember He is the same today and forever more. Don't forget to remember he is coming back for us! Be Ready!

John 14:2-3 "In my father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself, that where I am there you may be also."

Crouch, Andre *Take Me Back*, Light Records, 1975

Holy Bible, NLT *You Version*, Tyndal House Publishers 1996,2004,2015

Life Application Study Bible NIV, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI 49530, 1973, 1978, 1984

Bishop Carlton L Williams



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The Thought

Chaplain Ella J. Alexander

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” – Philippians 4:8 (King James Version)

What is thought? It is an idea or an opinion that is produced by thinking; an action of something processed in the mind. When we look at the above scripture we could see one or two things: 1) The Apostle Paul was teaching how to think positive or have positive thoughts or 2) the Apostle Paul was teaching on how to develop their thinking ability that would help produce a better outcome in life.

I don't find it strange that the Apostle gave a specific foundation of list of things for us to consider or to ponder on. I believe that he had to do this because the problem with thoughts **are** that one single wrong thought can cause a person's life to spiral completely out of control. He understood why it was important to think on certain things. The enemy would come and bring up old deadly past events of life to get us to think on them. The longer we think on them, they can draw us into an area of depression down to the point where we become emotionally, physically, mentally and even spiritually paralyzed. As long as we think on things that are unproductive and can bring us into the yoke of bondage, we can't operate in the spirit of righteousness and power. We were warned not to become entangled with the yoke of bondage. What is your yoke of bondage that you must be aware and careful of?

Have you ever noticed how you could be having a wonderful and peaceful day, and then all of a sudden a thought from the past will pop up? When that thought pops up, do we do what the scripture says in 2 Corinthians 10:5 *“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ”*? The word of God never tells us to dwell on the past. The word of God does not tell us to live in past failures or problems. No, it does not. The word tells us to Cast down and bring into captivity (everything) that exalteth itself against the *knowledge* of **GOD**. What is the knowledge of God to you? What has God done in your life? Who is God to you?

The Apostle Paul admonishes us to direct our thoughts towards things that are *true, honest, just, pure, lovely*, and are of a *good report*. If we do that, then those thoughts will produce virtue and bring God praise.

First, we must recognize when we are being drawn into dwelling on the past and not thinking on things that are pleasing and acceptable to God. We must learn to recognize, grab hold, cast down and bring into captivity those deadly and poisonous thoughts. Once we get into that habit, our thoughts, as well as our speech can line up together, and we will begin to see the blessing of having good seed in the heart and mind.

Let me share this other thing with you from scripture. Let us turn our attention to Philippians 2:5 – *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus”* In order for us to have the mind of Christ who was always mindful of Father’s Will, we must comply with Romans 12:1-2 – *“...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And **be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, acceptable, and perfect, will of God (the FATHER)***. How do we renew our minds so that we could think on the things that the Apostle Paul told us to? Ephesians 5:26 says, “That He (Jesus Christ) might sanctify and cleanse it (us, the church) with the washing of water by the word”. We must not only read and not only study the Word of God, but we must bring ourselves to a place that we apply and do what the Word of God tells us to do. Being obedient to the Word of God allows the Holy Spirit to lead us into the paths of righteousness. He will help us keep our minds stayed on God. He, the Holy Spirit, and not “IT” will help us seek the kingdom of God and HIS righteousness. This all has to do with thought. Do we think about serving God in the spirit of godliness? Do we think about praying for those that have mistreated us? Do we think of where God brought us from? Do we think about how God kept us and someone else witnessed the change and came to God? Do we think of things that are pure, lovely, holy, glorious, and wonderful; things that bring God glory and praise? What is your thought today?

If your thoughts are not lining up with the word of God, it’s time for your heart and mind to be purged. It’s time for a cleansing. It’s time for the heart of man to take a bath in the WORD and SPIRIT of the God.

Pay attention to the thought that draws you away from God and not to God. Pay attention to what shifts your thought process throughout your day. Sometimes it is not other people, it is I in you that should not be speaking at all; only the Holy Spirit.

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Do You Remember?

Dr. C. A. Dangerfield II

Wow, where has the time gone and it really doesn't seem that as much time has elapsed as it has. You look in the mirror one day you're getting out of high school. You look again and you are in your mid-twenties thinking about settling down because that seems like the normal thing to do. What does that really mean the normal thing to do? Oh my goodness now I'm thirty-five have I even begun to fulfill my aspirations in life or am I on the endless treadmill just going with the motion. Forty-five, Oh my word where on earth did you come from? When your response is met with that reaction have you become aware of something within yourself? Has it caused you to evaluate your effectiveness and whether or not you have been impactful within your life? Are you feeling a sense of urgency to do more or do you feel you haven't accomplished enough? Are you questioning your motivation? Are you looking at your inner circle, those who influence you, are you lending them much of your time just hanging out?

All of these questions are very relevant because they speak to character, intent, and motives. Furthermore, when we are honest within ourselves with self-reflection it helps us to grow as we evaluate our personal cause and effect. How is your spiritual growth, your relationship with God? Do you find yourself reflecting back on the very first moment of this most valuable relationship? That initial feeling of heaviness lifted off your being and the feeling of serenity that overwhelmed you. Then there was that zeal that engulfs you much like the Samaritan woman who had an encounter with Jesus at the well that completely change her life to the point that she runs out to tell everyone to come and see a man.

Do you remember the time when you really first felt alive within your being? Do you remember when you first understood your true purpose in life and started to operate therein? Now that your passion for life has been exposed, are you retaining the same level of intensity and urgency? Causing you to mentor and teach those who have the same passion and works ensuring that the work will continue well into the generations to come? There are serious life-impacting questions that must not be considered lightly.

Do you remember everyone that God had directed into your path to plant seeds that would grow through the work that has been assigned to your hand? You now recognize the ones that you are responsible for seeding into them that they might grow to realize who they were intended to become. As you watch them come into the knowledge and understanding it truly does something for you. Hope has now made an appearance for future generations because you have been able to fulfill a very important task.

I can truly recall various stages of growth throughout my walk with Christ from the inception of my personal relationship with Him. I can say that when I reflect back on what I would call trying times I can see where Christ has intervened on my behalf and the outcome when I was fearful of change. Showing and proving that His Word will not come back void. That is why I have confidence in God no matter what it looks like. He has never left me nor forsaken me in any way. He is a loving Father who cares for His child.

Even in my quiet times, I can say that I truly hear Him as He speaks to me. I benefit from my obedience when He places something within my spirit to do and I trust Him and walk it out. The outcomes are notable to me to the point of extending my faith and trust in God. It comes down to the relationship that affords me a greater opportunity to grow in areas that I may have once felt that were far from me. It even goes further than that it illuminates the fact that God's Word is true. "Trust in the Lord with all thy heart and lean not to thy own understanding, in all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your path." In my life this is a proven FACT.

My perception of God has truly matured from the onset of my relationship when I was naive to what life had to offer. With so many things calling to me from every direction and had I answered many of them I may not be here today to encourage you. Having the ability to read the Word of God and be able to understand and actually seeing the outcomes within my daily life has been paramount to my existence. I really understand the nature of Grace and Mercy and how it has been applied by God towards me. I remember each time I recognize its inception with circumstances that could have had many different outcomes. A lot that would have not been favorable at all for me had His presence not been there.

I encourage you today because there is no better time than the present to truly reflect on the times when you know without a shadow of a doubt that you were in the presence of God. Here is also something to consider, if God is omnipresent then why do we choose to turn away from Him. He stated "I will never leave you nor will he forsake us" so what does that say about us in the scheme of things. Keep your eyes open and your ears in tune to His presence and voice. Fortify your relationship and understand it's important to you and your future. God has great things in front of you, especially if you don't allow yourself to be distracted. Remain conscious during these times for God has truly flipped the coin and you need to be on the right side. Heading towards God rather than walking away! Think about that; it will come to you; just concentrate. Be blessed in Jesus' name!

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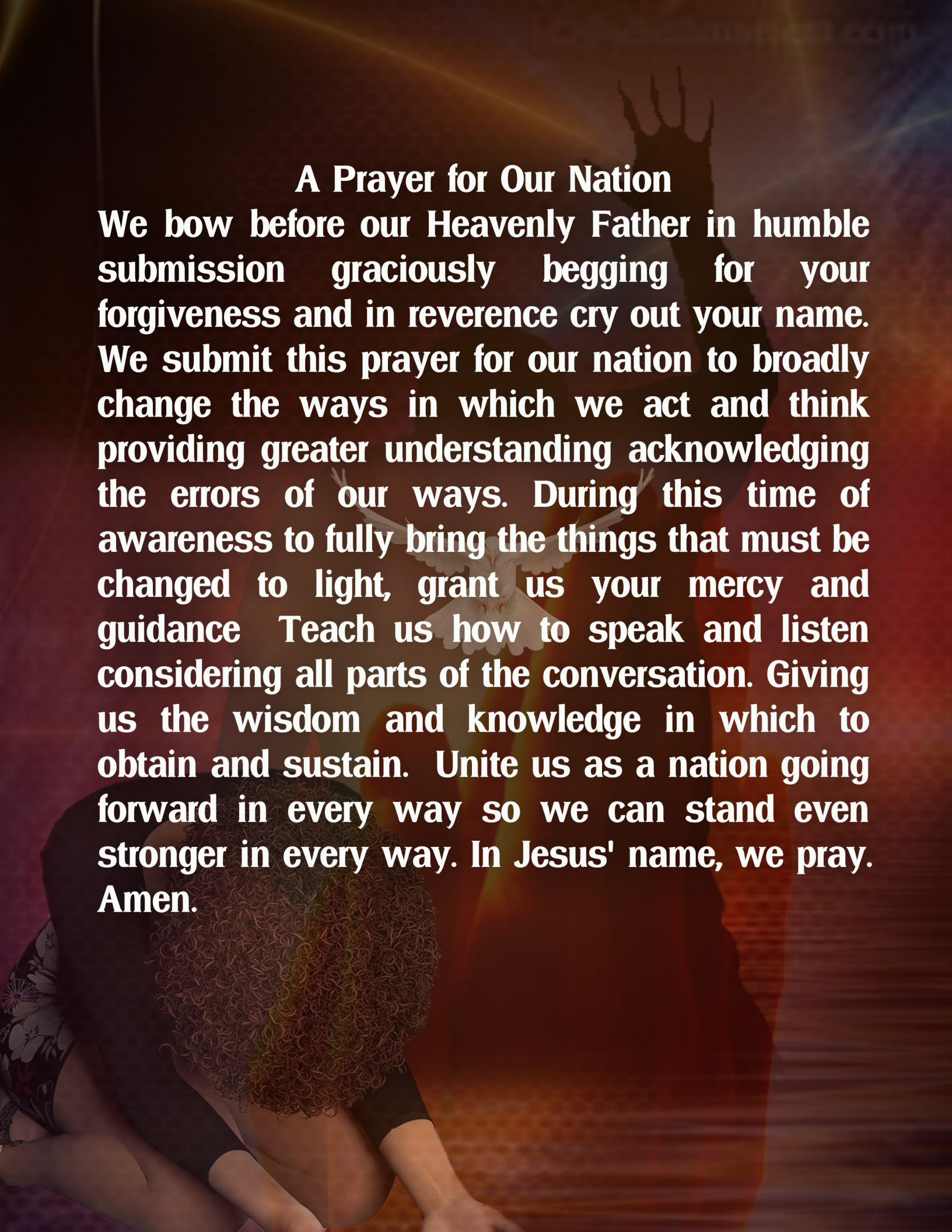
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A Prayer for Our Nation

We bow before our Heavenly Father in humble submission graciously begging for your forgiveness and in reverence cry out your name. We submit this prayer for our nation to broadly change the ways in which we act and think providing greater understanding acknowledging the errors of our ways. During this time of awareness to fully bring the things that must be changed to light, grant us your mercy and guidance Teach us how to speak and listen considering all parts of the conversation. Giving us the wisdom and knowledge in which to obtain and sustain. Unite us as a nation going forward in every way so we can stand even stronger in every way. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

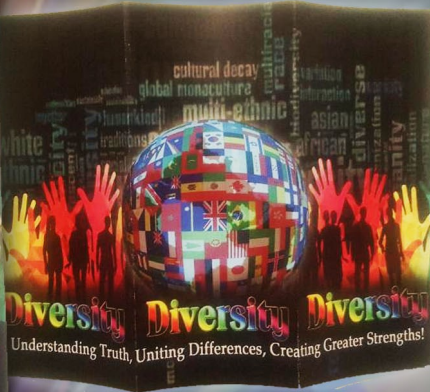
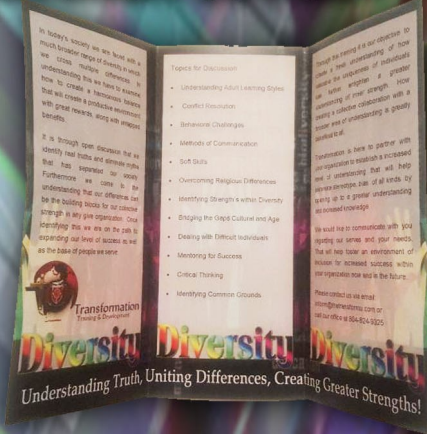
A person with curly hair is shown from behind, bowing in prayer. The background is a warm, golden-brown gradient. A white dove is visible in the center, and a crown is visible in the upper right. The text is overlaid on the image.

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"Teaching Life Skills One Day At A Time"

MISSION STATEMENT
"Teaching Life Skills One Day At A Time"
The Mission of Life Day Treatment Center is "teaching, mentoring, and equipping at a time."
We optimize our treatment with people who are not ready for traditional health care but who are dedicated to changing lives.
Life Day Treatment embraces the philosophy that all individuals deserve the opportunity to maximize their role in the community.
Life Day Treatment centers provide clients will be treated with the utmost respect and dignity, you have our guaranteed professional security.
Day Treatment Center
"Teaching Life Skills One Day At A Time"
The Life Day Treatment Center provides quality professional services for individuals with mental health concerns.
The Life Day Treatment Center provides a safe, secure, and supportive environment for individuals seeking the therapeutic techniques to improve, recover, or prevent relapse. Relating to development and learning and developing skills for development of daily living skills.

Eligibility Criteria for Adults 18+ and Psychosocial Day Treatment:
Two of the following MUST be documented for the individual on a continuing or treatment level:
The individual must demonstrate a clinical need arising from a condition due to mental, behavioral, or emotional issues that results in significant functional impairments to meet the services.
Individual involvement must continue on a continuing basis.

LIFE SERVICES
Mental Health Support
The goal is for clients to develop an increased understanding of their mental, emotional, or behavioral issues and access of assistance from the professional staff.

Skills, Training, and Assistance include:
• Social Skills Training
• Communication Skills
• Anger Management Groups
• Diagnostic Assessment
• Behavior Modification
• Comprehensive Discharge Planning
• Individual Service Plan
• Individual Transportation
• Community Involvement
• Referrals for additional services when needed.

Life Day Treatment Center
310-G Old Light Ln.
Newport News, VA 23606
Phone: 757-233-2824 Fax: 757-233-4288
Email: info@lifecycle.com
Mon - Fri 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
(Saturday Opening Hours)

Life Day Treatment
"Teaching Life Skills One Day At A Time"
Phone: 757-233-2824 Fax: 757-233-4288
Email: info@lifecycle.com

www.thetransformu.com

Call for consultation 804-824-9355

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GP
"The place where chains are broken and minds are renewed"

Welcome to Greater Praise Outreach Ministries!
Our Leader Overseer JD Williams, Lead Pastor
Minister Doris Williams, Assistant Minister

We want to be among the first to welcome you to the Greater Praise family. We believe that God is doing something new and that doing something lives here.

We want to personally thank you for taking the time to worship with us, today and hope that you will continue to worship through the worship and the word. If you don't currently have a church home, we invite you and your family to be a part of our growing church family as we journey here and equip for the kingdom of God.

Greater Praise Outreach Ministries
112 Killdeer Ave SW
Wilson, NC 27159
252-121-2089
greater.praise1@gmail.com

and the Lead Pastor Chris...

has, He graduated from Northern as an education in Christian Bible and ministry. He has been writing for 17 years in a loving father of a whole heart, (a son, brother, and a friend).

Recently saw the Lead Pastor of the church, because of the spiritual gifts, understood and apply the...

I am, He has through the years, shared of his journey. He is...

Why do we pray? Psa 139:1-4
Why do we praise? Psa 148:1-3
Let them praise the name with the trumpet and the harp.

Why do we pray? Psa 139:1-4
Why do we praise? Psa 148:1-3
Let them praise the name with the trumpet and the harp.

S&J School of Nail Technology
About Us
We are an independent privately owned school with over 20 years of experience. Our main focus is to provide you their knowledge and skills to be a professional licensed nail technician, who is able to take the lead while in a fast growing, highly profitable and extremely exciting career. We are always looking for not only the basic application of nail, but also the business side.

S&J School of Nail Technology
Sherita Jenkins
Owner/Instructor
757.898.5555

What does S&J School of Nail Technology have to offer?
We're here to work with you...
Nail Technician Program special tuition rates are as follows:
Tuition
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• \$500.00 Down Payment with \$175.00 bi-weekly payment
• \$1,500.00 Paid in Full

Just the basics that we will discuss during the adventurous journey at S&J School
• Bookkeeping
• Professional Ethics & Visual Poise
• Infection Control
• Sanitation & Disinfection
• Safety in the Salon
• Blood Spill

Hard Work Pays Off
We work with you to help you find the ideal location that would meet your needs, ranging up to as low as \$12,000.

As well as book work, videos and practical applications
• First Aid and First Aid Exam
We could go on for hours explaining how great we are as a business, however, we would like to give you an opportunity to look over the brochure and follow meeting materials. We believe you will make the best decision for your future.

TRANSFORMATION GRAPHICS & *Designs* 804.824.9355

For questions please call or email us at:
inform@thetransformu.com

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**THE
QUESTION
IS**

Do you recognize and understand the signs of the times?

**In all thy getting, get an understanding.
Study the Word of God!**

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Are We Changing Any Atmospheres? If so HOW?

1st Samuel 16:23

Donna Jones

As you will remember, God had chosen Saul to be King after the children of Israel insisted upon a King. King Saul loved God but walked in disobedience, jealousy, and a spirit of hate that led to the attempted murder of David. But before all this God had anointed David. David was a true worshiper from the heart. As a result, King Saul was tormented by evil spirits and his servants suggested David become a minstrel of worship to free Saul of the evilness. As David played the harp the whole atmosphere was electrified by the Presence and peace of God.

CAN YOU IMAGINE?!?! David carried such an Anointing that the evil spirits had to flee. In James 4:7 it says, 'Resist the devil and he will flee' and in Psalm 22:3(paraphrase) God inhabits the praises of His people. We find further confirmation in Psalm 16:11. In His presence is fullness of joy. When Paul and Silas begin to sing the prison doors opened, Acts 16. PRAISE WILL CHANGE THE ATMOSPHERE. Are you changing your atmosphere and that of others? If your church is dry- change the atmosphere with praise. If your family will not join you in praise at home- praise alone until the atmosphere changes them.

LORD GRACE US TO WORSHIP YOUR HOLINESS UNTIL THE ATMOSPHERE CHANGES! WE DECREE WE ARE ATMOSPHERE CHANGERS FOR YOUR GLORY.

Donna Jones

Healing Chats Ministries

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SADNESS +SADNESS= JOY

Donna Jones

Now how can that be?


How can I be sad and take on someone else's sadness and not end up with double sadness?

Well let's ask two people who have experienced such results. In the book of Ruth, we see a young woman and an older one that was facing very sad situations. Ruth being very young and not knowing God had lost a husband that she loved so deeply and was without support as well except for the older lady I just referred to who is called Naomi. They loved each other dearly but was both hurting with sadness, Naomi actually referred to herself as "bitter."

You see Naomi was the mother to the husband Ruth lost and not only that Naomi had lost her own husband and another son. This was truly a sad case for both. Naomi was in a foreign land and felt she had to go back home to her people. But as far as support she had none, well at least not until she thought of Ruth, while at the same time Ruth thought of Naomi. And they both found themselves taking on the others hurt.

Well because Jesus teaches us that it is better to give than receive, they both ended up happy. And more blessed than ever. Ruth told Naomi I want your people to be my people and most of all your God to be my God. So today I believe Naomi would say to us, deny yourself a pity party, think of others, and most of all keep living for Jesus and trust HIM and He will restore your life n joy.

Ruth would declare don't be so sad for yourself but see other' s needs and reach out but most of all receive God in your heart and He will bring you all the joy instead of sadness. So, you see sad + sad can = joy if you put it in God's Hands and help others.



What would you do if Jesus
came and you were **NOT** ready?

WARNING

A statement or event that indicates a possible or impending danger, problem or order of unpleasant situation.

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Acts 1:11

Marry  Me

The
COMEBACK!

Tuesdays
@ 1PM EST



LIVE

Michael D. Green

Your Choice

Dr. C.A. Dangerfield II

In this season in which we are blessed to be living God has provided us with the opportunity to impact our world in one way or another. In saying that one must also consider a few things first before we become an active participant because we are driven by our passions. Or do we sit passively as a spectator complaining about what is or is not being done although we have no direct part in the solution? We have to also make the personal choice as to how we will conduct ourselves in life. Making a conscious definitive decision to live within the principles of God or Man. Understanding that they are not equal in any capacity and straddling between two opinions will not work in life. Our definite choice needs to be our decision. Not to say one can't change their mind repent and come over to the correct side in Him.

Throughout life's journey, we come to a series of intersections that are providing crossroads and even forks where we must make a choice. In our decision making, we consider our principles along with our experiences to determine in which direction will I turn. It will come down to which direction offers me the ultimate outcome to which I desire. Sometimes it's not a quick microwavable fix, we may really have to completely slow down or stop. Simply because I have come to the assessment that this is a weighted decision, not a haphazardly one to render without any real care.

The longer I live I'm reminded that my choices have an impact on others who are watching my life play out before them. I teach others by my actions and responses and that, therefore, makes me accountable not just to myself but to a society that knows of me and even to those who don't know of me. Each action has some sort of contributing reaction somewhere down the line. This statement has been found to be true based on the current events within our world. The trickle-down effect is real whether it be good or bad it can reach out far and wide being extremely impactful..

My ability to understand that future generations within my circle of influence, my choices are vital to their growth and even their character. Simply because I represent a seed of their understanding and another brick towards their existence and a guarantee of a strong foundation for what they will eventually add to our heritage. Families have been labeled by the attributes left here by their ancestors and it lingers sometimes good or bad until different circumstances change the narrative associated with that family. This is another reason why it is important to make wise choices.

Proverbs 8:10 Receive my instruction, and not silver: and knowledge rather than choice gold *KJ Version* We have been given the choice to serve God and stand on His Word. Walk-in His grace understanding the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. The key phrase is a good man and he is defined by God. When we choose to establish a relationship with our creator and recognize Him as our ultimate Father. He will instill the attributes that will illustrate His character within His children who seek to please Him. Just as we recognize and understand the relationship we have with our earthly parents, being the provider, protector, and initial director and contributor to our understanding of the matrix of life.

Even in our natural life, we all have had periods where we became distracted by certain events in life. Some to which can have us take several twists and turns that can get us way off our intended path. The causes can be due to the fact that we all are curious and curiosity gets the best of us due to our naive mindset. This sometimes puts us in various compromising situations that if God didn't bring us out by applying grace and mercy we would have been utterly consumed. Even when He makes a way of escape when we get caught up in self-pride takes over and we wind up going away kicking and screaming simply because we would not yield our will to His way. The signs and warnings are always there. Right relationship will always allow you to hear His voice and a stranger you will not follow. Right relationship will give you the understanding that he is not yelling at you, but he speaks with a soft yet clear recognizable voice when we are in right relationship. Think about it you know a parents voice no matter how far away you are it will cause you to respond. Two reasons are great factors as to why.

One is out of respect and the other to avoid any consequences that could arise through disobedience. Our level of understanding demonstrates our maturity as while removing the tired phrase used so many times "I didn't know". When we apply ourselves to gaining knowledge it brings forth that understanding. But, it comes down to one simple choice. Whose will, mine or His? In one we obtain life and the other eventually after grace and mercy runs out, death. Death then becomes the final answer summed up by your choice.

When making what are considered life altering decisions we must learn to be independent minded thinkers when dealing with groups and people rather than being part of the lost sheep going to slaughter because we didn't think. We must also understand that when our final fate has come we don't appear before God collective with others we chose to follow to be accepted in this life. We stand before God our Creator independently and give an account for our own decisions and are rewarded accordingly to our choice in this world.

If one is reading this now and have been battling within your mind about your current conditions and path forward. This my friend must be noted in your mind as an opportunity for change. The time is here and now to make a conscious choice.

Your choice to choose to live out your true intended path. Show yourself that you can make right decisions and turn from your wicked and harsh ways of life. Choosing to walk into the light of salvation learn and walk into your true inheritance as you hear the voice of God your Father welcoming you with open arms and all you have to say is Father forgive me for I have sinned. Come into my life , I repent please save me. Life can and will change as quickly as that sincere prayer is spoken. Then you must build upon that relationship, communicate openly and honestly, learn His voice intimately. This will become your best choice.

ASKING QUESTIONS TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE PROVIDES UNDERSTANDING

In all thy getting, get an understanding. The dumbest question in life is the one in which you do not have an answer. Answers come through talking and listening, so have a conversation and obtain some knowledge.

We Need A

Taking
Responsibility
Applying the
Necessary
Steps
Focused
On Overcoming
Resistant
Moving in
Authority
Towards
Intended
Outcome
Newness



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