



TRANSFORM

October 2021
Volume 4 Issue 10

Magazine



2+5...



The Harvest Is
Plentiful But...



Are You Ready To Serve?

The background is a complex, layered image. At the top left, a semi-transparent globe shows the Americas. Below it, a large crowd of people is visible, many with their hands raised in the air, suggesting a religious or public gathering. In the foreground, two large fish are shown, one above the other, as if they are part of the scene. The overall color palette is dark with vibrant, glowing light effects in shades of purple, blue, and red, creating a dramatic and spiritual atmosphere.

Ministry is never really a thing of convenience it requires an act of compassion that is dressed in urgency. Because the one seeking help is in an emergency situation. Apply a bandaid when surgery is needed to stop the bleeding at the root cause? Can we afford to make a mistake in our assessment of their true condition or should we make the sacrifices as Jesus did to meet the needs of those who sought Him out?

Many are called upon but few are chosen. Which are you? Actions speak louder than words.

Are You Ready To Serve?



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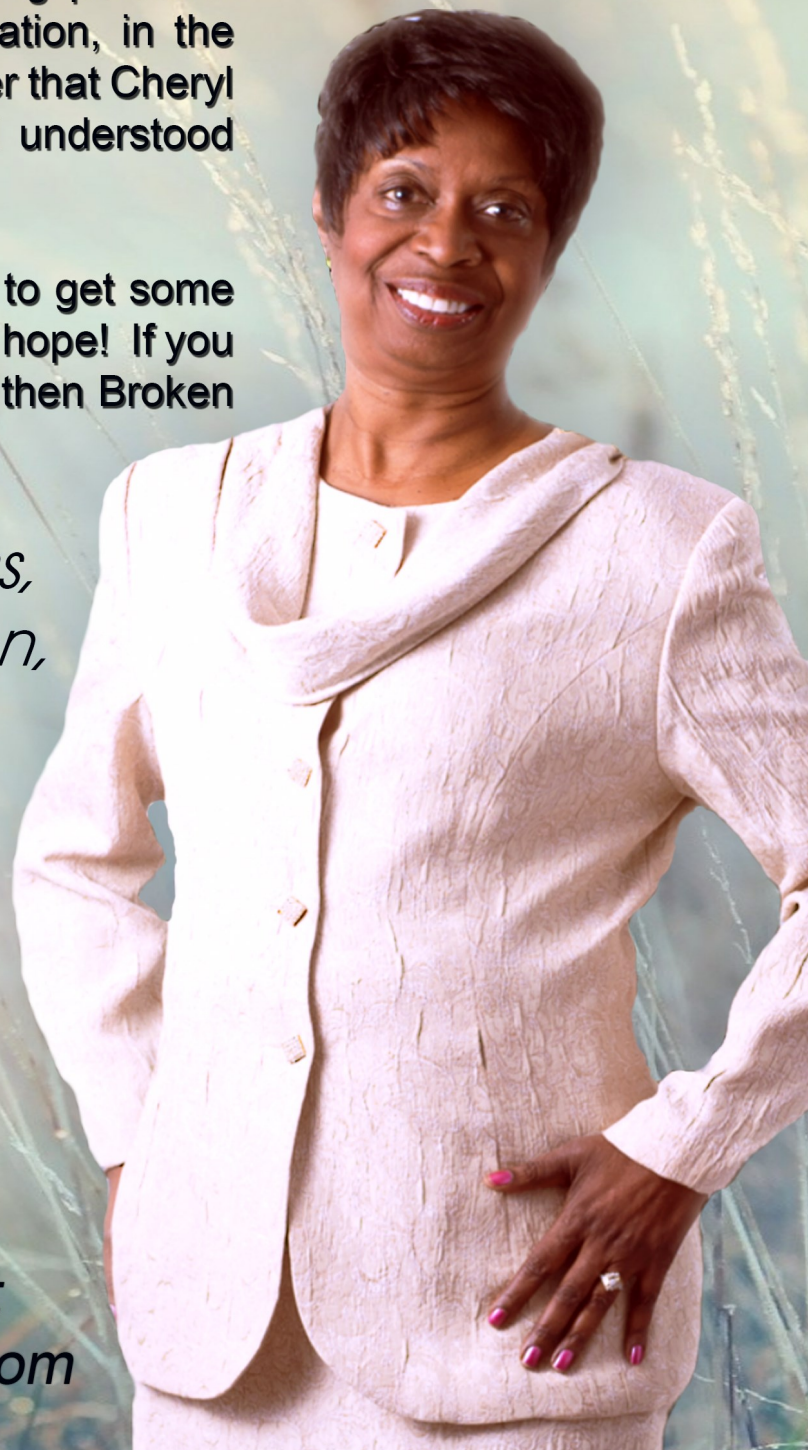
BROKEN TO BE MADE WHOLE

Will You Be Made Whole?

The experiences brought seemingly irreparable childhood scars and hopelessness that predisposed her to a life of self-hatred and self-destructive behaviors often resulting in suicide attempts and poor interpersonal relationships. Sharing personal stories and her testimony of transformation, in the pages of this book, you will soon discover that Cheryl has lived your life, felt your fears, and understood your circumstances.

Now, she is well able to show you how to get some use out of your abuse, and where to find hope! If you have ever felt the depth of brokenness, then Broken to Be Made Whole is a must-read!!

"This is a story of Brokenness, Transformation, Restoration, and Wholeness."



You can email us directly at:
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Inserts from the book **Broken to be Made Whole**

by Cheryl Bass-Foster

FOREWORD

Having known Cheryl Bass-Foster for many years as counselor and friend, and having read the first edition of **Broken to be Made Whole**, my understanding of and appreciation for the wisdom in this book has deepened. I can say, unequivocally, that this book represents the deep, no-holds-barred, painful but inspired, accounts of a life broken, healed and restored to wholeness by the matchless power of the Almighty God.

Bass-Foster kicks the lid off of pretense and pride and details the challenges and pitfalls of trying to cope with the stark realities of family dysfunction, addiction of loved ones, rejection, abuse, self-doubt, self-loathing and lost identity. She gives accounts of some of her most damaging experiences in life, love and suffering while also showing a deepening relationship with God and a greater awareness of her true identity...

Mary Ann Echols, Ph.D. Clinical Psychologist

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever felt like your heart has been broken into a million and one pieces? Have you ever been so devastated and broken that you never thought you'd ever recover from the unexpected, devastating blows of life? A broken heart can occur at any time because of traumatic events in your life which creates pain and suffer

I should have been living on the back ward of the Ypsilanti State Mental Hospital forty years ago, But God who is rich and mercy delivered me.

Mental illness has always been an issue in the Churches and we suffered in silence because of the stigma for decades. Yet, when I came to my breaking points, God was there every step of the way to give me breakthroughs, breaking me free from the wounds of the past.

[The first of eight principles towards wholeness are found in the excerpts from](#)
CHAPTER 1: DON'T LET YOUR BACKGROUND KEEP YOUR BACK ON THE GROUND

As a child I felt like Humpty Dumpty who fell off the wall, broken into a million and one pieces. Life seemed to be filled with broken dreams and shattered visions. An egg like me is very sensitive, delicate and fragile, after all, and its contents are protected only by its outer shell. It's wrapped up so delicately that it requires nurturing and special care, otherwise, it will crack, then break. A crack developed in me very early, and I often wondered why God created me at all.

I was their oldest child. Being born the oldest of five had great advantages and disadvantages. Most of the time I was responsible for finding safety for my siblings during my father's temper tantrums and outbursts. My father could make us all walk on eggshells and quake trembling with fear. One night I remember hearing screaming, yelling, sobbing and arguing. As the four of us ran downstairs into the den, we stopped at the door. Frozen in our tracks, we yelled, "Daddy, stop it!"

We watched Daddy choke and shove Mama into the wall for years, and we decided that the best way to settle arguments is to fight. We fought one another and others until sometimes the kids in the neighborhood had to go to the hospital.

In our neighborhood, on the Northeast side of Detroit, Michigan, we saw the same dysfunctional relationship pattern that we saw at home. Children learned what they saw in their environment, not what parents or adults say. While we were sitting on the front porch, I remember seeing Miss Pauline hit her husband, Mr. John, on the head, and knocking him out on the lawn every day. He'd lay there drunk for hours. But then he'd get up and beat Miss Pauline.

I saw Mr. Ivy chase Mrs. Ivy down the street with a gun. Every day I saw a young teenage mother of two toddlers follow her pimp husband, begging him to come back home.

I watched Mama wait on Daddy hand and foot, and yet, I wanted to be just like her and all the other women in the neighborhood. I thought that when you were married you had to cry a lot, and do everything men wanted you to do. I decided that I was going to be a good wife just like my Mama.

When Daddy left for California, I was afraid and felt unprotected I was bullied as I walked home from elementary school. The turmoil at home and fights in elementary school were minor compared to the endless ridicule, teasing and jeering I experienced at Cleveland Junior High School. The three-and-one-half-mile walk from junior high school, seemed like an endless, dangerous journey, as the boys continued to jeer, "Skinny legs, skinny legs, ha ha ha."

"I remember running home and playing my favorite song, "You'll Never Walk Alone" by Rogers and Hammerstein on the piano daily. The words of the song were combating the storms of life, comforting and encouraging me not to be afraid.

God was with me through the bullying and bad times. He Will Never Leave You Nor Forsake You. Can you think of a song that can walk you through your storms in life? The right songs with the right sound that have meaning and purpose.

Experiencing domestic violence, colorism, bullying and other negative experiences created a distorted self-perception. When perception is stronger than truth it leads to deception, victimization and intimidation.

My perception of life was distorted. When children live in any abusive environment (abnormal misuse of God's creation), Adverse Childhood Experiences interferes with their normal development, and it alters who they were created to be.

I continued my relentless search, desperately looking for love in all the wrong places, trying to fulfill unmet emotional needs in unhealthy ways. Soul wounds influence our choices. I encountered my first experience with cocaine, hash and angel dust. My head started to spin, I asked, "What in the world is this?" As the group laughed, it felt like my mind left my head, moved to the left, returned, and moved to the right and kept on going. They yelled, "Angel dust!"

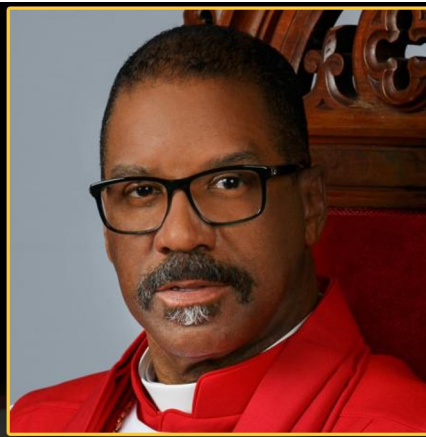
A broken- hearted person, when wallowing in the pain can become chronically and clinically depressed, and dangerously desperate and relentless in their search which can lead to frustration, anger anxiety and a myriad of mental and physical health problems.

Today, mental health problems that affects a person's thinking, emotional state, and behavior are diagnosable illnesses often rooted in soul wounds. **Mental illness is defined as a condition affecting thinking, perceptions, moods, emotions, and behaviors which diminish the quality and longevity of life.**

After I was literally broken, I learned how to become responsible for my own happiness and began learning how to make better choices in alignment with my purpose and destiny. I stopped allowing my background to keep my back on the ground and began a journey learning how to walk in the steps that were ordered for me by God.



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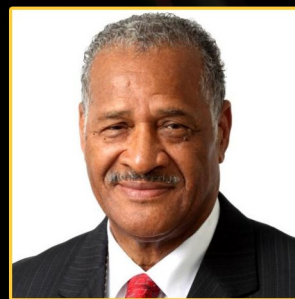
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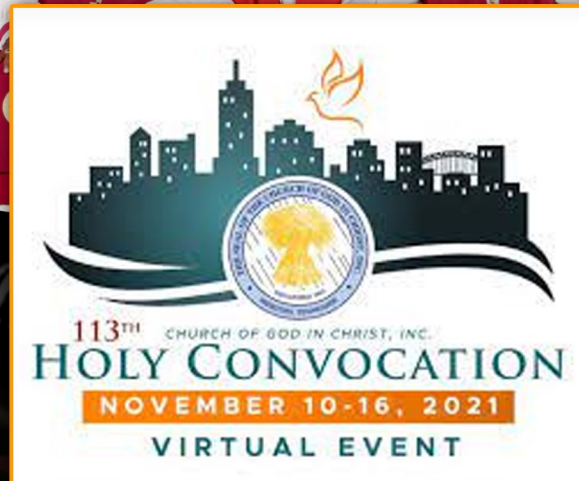
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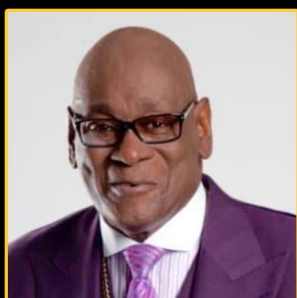
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The Harvest Is Truly Plentiful, But The Laborers Are Few *Are You Ready To Serve?*

by

Eunice A. Christian

October 25, 2021

Matthew 9:37-38 ~ ³⁷ Then He [Jesus] said to His disciples, *The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.*
³⁸ *Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.*

Matthew 20:28 ~ ²⁸ ...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

Revelation 14:15 ~ ¹⁵ And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud,
Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

* * *

This month's theme is ***The Harvest Is Plenty, But The Laborers Are Few: Are you ready to serve?***

My Perspective - Key Words

Harvest (noun) is: a parcel of land that has been cultivated with seeds that: (1) have reached maturity, (2) that have reached its peak in fruition, or (3) that have completed the final phase of its plant product (a crop). If all or most of the desired or satisfactory conditions of the crop have been met, the harvest is ready to be gathered or sheaved for its final destination. See, *Matthew 9:37-38* and *Revelation 14:15* above.

Matthew 20:1-5 ~ ¹ *For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.* ² *Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.* ³ *And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,* ⁴ *and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.'* ⁵ *So they went.* ⁵ *Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise.*

The Parable Of The Sower Speaks For Itself

It is not uncommon to experience or learn about a situation when someone has made a comparison to another that generated sentiments of dissatisfaction, or feelings of being undervalued. However, in Jesus' parable above about the sowers, the landowner made agreements with various laborers during different periods of the day. To add, each laborer were offered the same compensation for their efforts, and the landowner honored his agreement to all of them.

Each laborer willingly agreed upon the set amount of compensation for their efforts. So, *why do you believe Jesus expressed in His parable discontentment and complaints from some of the laborers? How did the earlier set of laborers know that they received the same amount of wages as the latest laborers who worked in the field?* They saw what the landowner of the vineyard was paying out. *What is the message that Christ Jesus wanted all to receive? Could it be that God's chosen do not believe that Gentiles should receive the same blessings for being laborers in His field as they? Could it be that those with prestigious titles and those who worked years in the 'harvest'—whether Jew or Gentile—believe that those who come to Christ Jesus late in their lives should not attain the same mercy, grace, and favor as they?* Perhaps, it could simply mean that our Lord and Savior Jesus is informing all of humanity that regardless to the level one is at when sincerely accepting Him as Savior, that the gift of eternal life is at hand—the gift of salvation—and all that comes with it according to the Will of God His Father.

Matthew 20:8-16 ~⁸ So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.'⁹ And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius.¹⁰ But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius.¹¹ And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner,¹² saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.'¹³ But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?'¹⁴ Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you.¹⁵ Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?'¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.

Today You Shall Be With Me In Paradise

Needless to share, the crucifixion of Jesus is paramount for the salvation of humanity. In addition to Jesus' tremendous demonstration of love, which was His willingness to give His life so that all who receive Him may have right to the gift of everlasting life, another significant event occurred during that same period of time.

Luke 23:39-43 ~³⁹ Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, *If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.*⁴⁰ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, *Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?*⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.⁴² Then he said to Jesus, *Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.*⁴³ And Jesus said to him, ***Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.***

During this very brief communication, this man asked something of Jesus; that He remember Him when He enters into His kingdom. *Is that what our Lord wants us to do? To not only acknowledge Him for who He Is, but most importantly, to accept Him for who He Is to us and ask Him to remember us before God His Father—to not forget us? So powerful!* (The adversary knows that Jesus Is Lord, but will not accept Him. See, Matthew 4:1-11.) This sinner, who was hanging on his cross, acknowledged Jesus as having committed no sin. While hanging on His Cross for humanity, Jesus accepted this sinner who acknowledged his sin before Him. This man received the very same reward that we Believers of Christ Jesus will attain one day. To emphasize, ***when he—the sinner—accepted Jesus while hanging upon his cross, before the end of that day, had received the same gift of salvation that those who believe in Christ Jesus and labored in His harvest can look forward to attaining one glad day. All because Jesus was willing to die upon His Cross for all of humanity, regardless as to whether one was an early laborer for His kingdom, or someone who had recently accepted Him as their personal Lord and Savior! How great is that! How great is our God!***

Our gift of salvation is not contingent upon how many years of servitude; yet, truly of great importance so as to fight a good fight of faith throughout one's lifetime, nor upon our level of skill in a particular area (but do not be ignorant of the Word of God, for our God knows the heart), nor based upon spiritual gifts attained, but upon our belief and acceptance of who Jesus Is and what He Is to us up to and through the end of our journey in the flesh. So the question is: *Are you ready to serve? What is your excuse?*

Revelation 22:14 ~¹⁴ Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

Do Not Wait Any Longer

As it is written, there were three men who hung on a wooden cross the day that Christ Jesus was crucified (Luke 23:32-33); however, two were heaven-bound, but the greatest difference was that only one could be called *Savior*. The man who asked to be remembered came so very close to not only losing his natural life, but his spiritual life as well. To point out, The Holy Scriptures does not make reference as to whether this man had actually accepted Jesus as his Savior ***before*** he

was hung on his cross, but there is a strong probability that he knew of Jesus, lest he would not have been able to chastise the other criminal who spoke against Jesus. What The Holy Scriptures attests to is that this man had a special encounter with Jesus like no other—they *both died and were united in His kingdom*. Had it not been for the timing of his crucifixion, and his willingness and sincere heart to acknowledge his respect for Jesus, he could have died that day, **but not have been accepted into the kingdom of God that day**. The criminal who spoke kindly and humbly before Jesus did not jeopardize his soul as the other criminal who also was hung and died that very same day. Both sinners had the same opportunity, but only one acknowledged The Risen King respectfully. So, the question is: *If you have not as yet acknowledged that you are a sinner in need of salvation, what are you waiting for?*

NOTE: The following content of this paragraph may be considered a sensitive topic for some relating to the transition of individuals who died from COVID-19. If this matter is too sensitive for you, please skip this paragraph. As of this day, in the United States of America, there have been over 756,564 deaths—**over Seven Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Four** deaths due to the pandemic COVID-19 ([Worldometer](#), Oct. 15, 2020). There were those who were given the opportunity to say goodbye to their close relations due to the lengthy period of time suffering from this dreadful virus. Some transitioned rapidly without warning; startling and crushing the hearts of those left behind who loved and cared for them. *What I am getting to is that if this pandemic has not confirmed that tomorrow is not promised to even those who were strong in health, sound mind and body, then what will?*

John 12:42 ~ ⁴² Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue.

Believe, Confess, and Serve

Do not be as the laborers in the parable (Matthew 20:1-16), or as the rulers who were afraid and more concerned about their relationship with men (John 12:42). They were too busy thinking about receiving or maintaining their own prestige or attaining compensation based upon terms that had nothing to do with kingdom building.

Jesus said if you confess Him before men, He will confess you before His Father who is in heaven (Matthew 10:32). If we confess that we are sinners; that Jesus is The Son of The Living God and He is our Redeemer, we are saved from eternal death (John 3:16). So, if you are reading this and have not yet received Christ Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, the question again is: *What are you waiting for? Are you ready to serve? Don't look to the left, nor to the right. Look straight ahead and make that change to received Christ Jesus while the blood is still running warm in your veins.*

Matthew 1:23 ~ ²³ Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name *Immanuel*, which is translated, *God with us*.

John 12:27 ~ ²⁷ *Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour.*

Soul Insurance

It is so interesting how many of us believe in all types of insurance—medical insurance, vehicle insurance, home insurance, **but not soul insurance—the type of insurance that has already been paid in full.**

Revelation 1:18 ~ ¹⁸ *I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.*

For those blessed with the presence of The Holy Spirit, we know that God The Father and His Son Christ Jesus Are Real. Just read The Holy Scriptures for yourself if you have any doubts that

you should believe in The Holy Trinity. Over two thousand years ago, writings were passed down that revealed the coming of Immanuel, that is, *Christ with us* (Matthew 1:23). So, *what are you waiting for? Many are called; few are chosen* (Matthew 20:16). *Why take a chance on being among the many who are not chosen to serve after being offered so great a gift? Is there anything greater than working for one's own soul salvation and on behalf of the salvation of others?*

Joshua 24:15 ~ ¹⁵ And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 ~ ¹ Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, ² and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith. ³ But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one. ⁴ And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you. ⁵ Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

Matthew 20:6-7 ~ ⁶ *And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?'* ⁷ *They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.'* He said to them, *'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.'*



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 ¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that 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, ¹⁶ holding 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've have not done so already, give your heart to Jesus while you still have time.

Have a transformed mind, look to Jesus.

Be blessed and be a blessing.♥

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

Words in **bold are words spoken by God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ; exceptions are when emphasis has been applied.

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November 14 @ 3pm

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RW

SENIOR TRAINING
WORKOUT

Selecting A Qualified Fitness Instructor Pt II

Sgt. Nate Griffin

In my last article, I covered some of the issues you may encounter when looking for a qualified fitness instructor. This time, I'd like to cover some important questions to ask when screening possible candidates for coaching you in the area of fitness.

1. What are their qualifications/education? It is not wise to pick someone because they are someone you know who lifts weights or works out, as qualification. You also want to beware of those who collect all of their material from social media. Would you select a doctor, lawyer, accountant or other specialized skilled professional, who gathered all their material from Google, Facebook, and The Gram?
2. What is their experience in working with someone of your need set? How many people who were in the same starting position as you are now, have they worked with and successfully helped?
3. As for proof of their certifications, education and references. Remember, your life is on the line. You will be giving this person full permission to manipulate your cardiovascular system in a way that is extremely dangerous.
4. What is their philosophy when it comes to fitness training? That will give you some insight into what their main focus will be on during your sessions.
5. In reference to experience, ask if they can provide references of other people in your age, gender, and current health condition category who would be able to vouch for their them.
6. What kind of post training follow up do they provide? When you have completed your time with them, be it a few months or several years, what additional support do they provide? Some trainers cut all ties once all sessions have been honored. Other trainers will give their clients addition information to help keep them on track in the event, they wish to return for more training on another goal.
7. Do they have a degree as a registered dietician? This is really only necessary if you have a major eating disorder. Anorexia, bulimia-nervosa and so on, are examples of situations where you would need more counselling when it comes to nutrition other than, eat 3 small meals and 2 snacks, or drink this shake and pop these pills.

There you have it, my friend. One last note. This is my own opinion on the matter. That is, if your trainer looks like they need a trainer, you need to find another trainer. Why? Because, if they can't follow their own advice, it will be really tough to motivate someone else to do the same. You want your trainer to be transparent. Now, they don't have to reveal personal information that may prove inappropriate. But, sharing enough information that would help the client see that everyone is fighting a battle and that we all must gather the strength and assistance to press on to perfection.

In my next article, I will cover eating in the church community. The title, **Eating ourselves to death, in Jesus's name. Soldier On!**

The advertisement features a background of autumn trees and a stone bridge. At the top left is the logo for 'NURTURING OPPRESSED WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD MINISTRIES'. The central text reads 'Wear Designed by Transform U Wear' in a script font, followed by 'X-cuse Me "I'M SPEAKING"' in a large, stylized font. Below this, three hoodies are displayed: a light pink one on the left, a medium pink one in the center, and a dark pink one on the right. Each hoodie has the 'X-cuse Me I'M SPEAKING' logo printed on the chest. At the bottom, the text 'Visit the Nurturing Shop for these and other styles @ www.nowatw.org' is written in a bold, black font.

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Meet Our Newest Contributing Writer

J Robertson

Director of Media/Sound, & Youth Pastor
New Grace Church, Newport News, VA

There's an old African proverb that says the 2 most important days of your life is the day you were born and the day you found out why. This speaks to the common question that we all have asked ourselves at 1 point in time... why am I here? and, what is my purpose?

The answers to these questions embody two critical things; a source of fulfillment when you find your purpose and secondly a solution to someone else's problem. Essentially when you're walking in your purpose, we find out we are here to actually serve others in some capacity. The gifts and talents God has placed in you are being groomed and cultivated to ultimately give away!

Intentional Love

Linda Guest

We often hear about God's unconditional love. There is Nothing we can ever do or not do to keep God from loving us.

Healthline defines unconditional love as simply put, is love without strings attached. It's love you offer freely.

You don't base it on what someone does for you in return. You simply love them and want nothing more than their happiness.

John 3:16

King James Version

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting.

But have you ever thought about God's intentional Love?

Sustainablewellness.com views Intentional Love as choosing to be brave and vulnerable and yet communicative about boundaries simultaneously. This is intimacy. Intentional love paves the way for the natural progression to Real Love.

God is intentional with His love towards you. God's plan is for you to fully know him.

God's desire is for intimacy with you. Open to those places that you have secretly tucked away. To fully open up to God as he simultaneously opens and reveals himself to you.

It's so much more than God's unconditional love, it's his intentional love for me.

Jeremiah 29:11-14

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.

12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

14 And I will be found of you, saith the Lord: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the Lord; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.

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Insert from the book "Praising my Pond" by Elder Diane Harvell

"As I stood and watched all of this play out, my heart began to race. I couldn't believe what I'd just seen and heard. Why was Joe dead? Why would Richard ask Mommy such a thing? Richard left and Mommy walked out of the kitchen. I quietly sat on the metal step chair in the kitchen and wondered WHY????"



Visit her website www.nowatw.org and order your copy today.

Harvest Is Plentiful

Dr. C. A. Dangerfield II

We are in a very crucial and critical time in society young men are dying and being incarcerated at alarming and overwhelming rates. Mothers are begging and pleading for men to step up and rehabilitate and motivate the minds and self-worth of the boys that are growing up today. The Bible speaks of training up a child. But with generations of deterioration within the family structure. Children having babies too soon thrust into learning the full brunt of the responsibility required when raising a child from a place of inexperience behind a few moments of so-called pleasure, high divorce rates and volatile and excessive resentment between parents of so many children.

The absence of one or both parents has been a contributing factor to the misfit behavior we are witnessing night after night on television all across this country. The nation tries to apply band aids to gushing wounds as the cycle continues to repeat itself as fast as a hamster on the wheel running and getting no place. Mothers are burdened and weighed down with fear and worry as they brace themselves every time a negative report is issued within the community because of senseless violence. We have to be accountable whether we desire to or not. It's going to take the whole village to get back on track. We must do our first works all over again.

We must acknowledge as a society that we are aboard a plane nose diving towards destruction unless we grab hold of the yoke and pull the nose up so we can level off into a smooth journey. Get ourselves aligned back up with the principles of God. Men we can't keep walking around like we are visually impaired. These bad acts that occur everyday impact so many and wound so deep. This is not the time for insanity, but it is the time for repentance and transformation. We have to teach and show with every ounce of blood, sweat and tears of every single person

living the value, they have already contained within. Not through just mere words but through teaching and illuminating the God given potential and purpose they have always had.

There is no need to be envious of another when we have all been created uniquely to therefore, if we understand things correctly, we have the ability to work in concert

long as God delays Jesus' return, we have opportunity let's not sleep, we have a window of time to trim our lamps. Apply a sense of urgency and let's get our hands on the plow the harvest is plentiful do not let it rot and become waste. When we do what we are supposed to do then God can heal the land. If you don't know start at Genesis and take the journey forward, the history found within will keep you from the miss steps if you study and apply. Then you will be victorious when you reach the other side. You will learn how to avoid chaos and confusion when you walk the path illuminated by God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit the greatest relationship we will ever encounter. I cannot play with these instructions when I was a child I thought as child but when I became a man, I put away childish things. If you are in your man mode reach out to me and let's work this harvest together for in unity there is strength.

Do you envy others?

Why, what's your gift?

Something to think about!

Do you find yourself being envious of others who are operating within their gifting? Then it's obvious that you have too much time on your hands and are unaware of your own gifts. God created us all with a purpose, gifts, and talents. Search within so they can bless others without. Your gift will make room for you!

Do you envy others?



Why, what's your gift?

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Stop Pause And Consider

Dr. C. A. Dangerfield II

Our society has been programmed to operate in a particular way through traditions and fears. We tend to push forward the same agendas from one generation to another repeating the same outcomes. Overall, a small percentage of the population puts in an assertive effort for change but because of the selfish and disconcerting majority, we spiral into outcomes that could have been avoided had we been more observant of the truth.

When reality comes calling it always seems to present what some would consider a rude awaking. Unfortunately, in some cases, there is no opportunity for repentance. This scenario unfortunately plays out within every facet of our lives. But when do we consult the owner's manual on life (the Word of God) it does point out so many times the expectations for our chosen responses to everyday life? So, we find ourselves being reactive to life rather than being proactive because we feel the right way of doing something that doesn't fit in with the popular agenda desiring to be with the so-called popular movement.

Furthermore, not knowing or understanding the historical data on various decisions because they have all been tried before. Think about this for a moment there has been what has been considered great societies that had existed before, this time in which we are living now. But the greatness deteriorated to ruins and a small mention because mankind failed to consult and apply that which was written within the Word of God life's manual. Which serves as an instrument to help ensure with a smooth operation and journey. It provides the necessary guidance to help avoid inconvenient situations, breakdowns, and total destruction.

Pause and consider these very prominent facts. Reviewing the history validate the truth of the matter to any given decisions we have chosen to make. It speaks directly to the outcomes manifested. When we take the necessary time to completely stop and pause all forward motion and re-access our current situations and consider what the outcomes could be. Go back and begin again by realigning our behavior to the way it should have been. Also, to be conscious of the fact that we were created for marvelous works that will glorify God and our purpose in Him.

This rebirth will bring out the expectations that God had in His thoughts concerning us. Allowing us to fulfill our purpose, understanding we all have a reason for being here at this given time, consult the Word of God to learn and understand your hidden treasure. There is an old saying "If you really want to hide something from someone put it in a book". Because when you take the time to consult God's book

for mankind, life comes full circle and you get off the hamster wheel to no where and you recognize you are now here at the doorway of opportunity to complete and fulfill your true purpose. Therefore, you can begin again.

We do have these treasures in earthen vessel and as this is found in the Word of God it explains our condition but it provides a better way to our intended outcome.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 2 Corinthians 4:7-9 KJV

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The Harvest Is Plentiful But...

By Elder Diane Harvell

Ref: TBN

Priscilla Shirer: God Is Preparing You For More

Ref: Gotquestions.org

The scripture 'many are called but few are chosen' in Matthew 22:14 continued to come to my mind concerning this month's topic which allowed me to look at that scripture a little differently than we normally do. Many times, we have looked at this scripture as being a call into the ministry or being called into some form of works. Interpreting those who are not working as those who are not called or chosen. Au contraire mon amie!

(On the contrary my friend).

For instance, as in this scripture, there are many that are called to the wedding feast and sit at the Lord's table, but they are only a few that will actually attend the feast with the Lord. Rather than a call to *show* our works this is a call to salvation to the kingdom of God. Many of us, like the Jews and Gentiles have been called to salvation but only a few have accepted the invitation and did not properly answer the call. Within this parable in Mathew, many were called to attend a feast with the Lord and were invited but they made excuses and did not regard such a blessed occasion. Then the Lord sent his *servants* to go out and invite anyone that received Him, for they are the *chosen*. Yet there was one man that attended who was not properly dressed and when he was asked who sent you? He could not answer because he had not received Jesus, he did not know him. He was sent away and thrown out for those who try to come without the blood covering of Jesus Christ for their sins are inadequately dressed and will pay the ultimate price for it.

Nation after nation have been called but only a few have answered the call to Christianity. God's hand of mercy has been rejected throughout all ages, yet he still stretches out his hand to a 'disobedient and gainsaying people.' **Romans 10:21.**

This also reminds me In Luke chapter 9 when Jesus told a man to follow him, but the man answered, "**suffer me first to go and bury my father.**" And Jesus answered him and said, "**Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.**" This may sound like a strong condescending rebuke from

our loving Savior, but essentially, he was saying those who had not accepted him, (Jesus), were already dead in their sin. So, those who were already 'dead' in sin, let them go bury their dead loved ones who undoubtedly died spiritually as well as naturally. But Jesus concluded and commanded, '**but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.**' He spoke directly to whom he had chosen.

As these certain people were chosen to follow Jesus, and each one gave an excuse, and they didn't realize they passed up a perfect opportunity of living a totally satisfied and purposeful life with the Master himself! More importantly, He had called them into everlasting life with him, but they rejected him, and they **CHOSE** to remain dead in a life of sin! Those who are truly called and chosen by God are those who have truly accepted him and will not only answer the call but will also spread the glorious gospel of Christ, and they are thus **Romans 10:15- "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things!"**

Sometimes when the chosen of God rejects him, he will raise up other nations, people, generations and eras to accomplish his will. He will use the foolish things of the world to confound the wise and the weak things of the world to confound things which are mighty. And by his divine sovereignty, He can use less to accomplish more.

Mark 6:41 is a popular story about Jesus feeding five thousand hungry people with only two fish and five loaves of bread and who had followed him. We always look at the miracle of this story as how only two fish and five loaves of bread fed over five thousand souls. But the beautiful subliminal message is that Jesus *sent* the disciples to the people with what they had, two(fish) and five (loaves of bread).

They used what they had to feed a great multitude that was hungry, yet the people did not make an excuse or occasion to leave Jesus. Jesus blessed what the disciples had, and everyone was blessed, they all ate, all were satisfied, and all were full. Another message that sticks out to me is that the people had to know there wasn't enough food to feed all of them, but they did not murmur or complain, nor did they turn back. This lets us know, not only will the Lord prepare us for the people, but he will also prepare the people for us. They will receive us during God's perfect will and plan that he has designed for our lives and theirs. You see the multitude was the blessing they were the harvest that Jesus had called the disciples to. All they had to do was trust Jesus with what they had because He is Lord of the harvest and only need laborers, *servants* to fulfill the task not the titled or the entitled!

Jesus has given us a call to action. Not a call to *do works* or to *do ministry*, but He has given us a call to SERVE! We are God's servants, and in order to serve, we must know who it is that has sent us. Have you properly accepted the Lord's invitation to sit at his table? Are you properly dressed? What have you done with God's numbers of completion ($2 + 5 = 7$) in your life? What have you done with your gifts, your talents no matter how great or small they may seem to you? 'The harvest is plentiful but'...

Are you ready to *serve* or are you waiting to *be served*?

May God Bless You All!



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Death

Pastor Linda Guest

It doesn't matter what you believe, we have all been impacted by death in some shape or form. Even as a believer, unless the rapture happens, you're going to die.

Hebrews 9:27

King James Version

27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment;

Sometimes it can even seem unfair when death hits a child or someone we deem should have lived.

Even if a person is sick and death seems inevitable, it doesn't lessen the sting of a love one when they die.

For the Believer we have the assurance of

1 Thessalonians 4:13

New International Version

Believers Who Have Died

13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

It's a great comfort to know our hope is in the Lord. A Believer in death is only sleeping waiting for our Lord Jesus to return.

That comfort does NOT eliminate the grieving process. There is still the loss of that loved one. The emptiness, the void and or sadness is real. Don't allow people to dictate your process. How you grieve as well as how long is individualized.

I have a cousin who always says " feel what you feel, but know what you know.

Cry, scream, shout but allow yourself to grieve. If grief has overtaken you to where you can't function, you can't get out of bed, you can't think, then get some help to deal with your feelings and emotions so you can continue to live. It doesn't mean you forget about your loved ones or you go on as if they never lived. It simply means that you learn how to live with the emptiness and void.

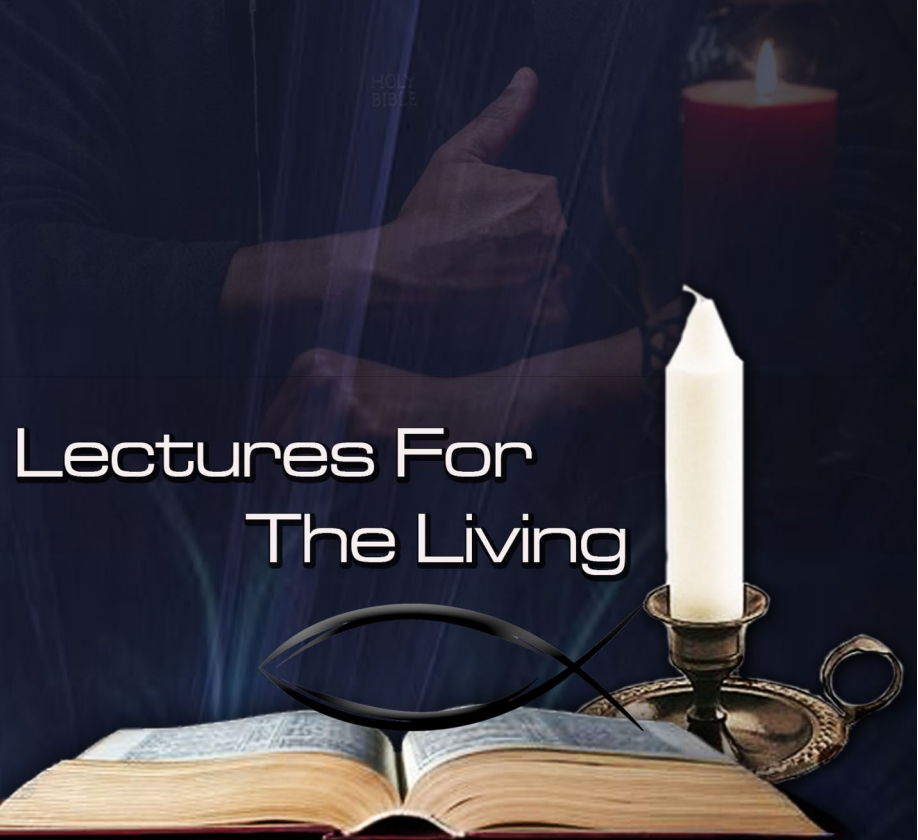

I'm so grateful to God that He promises to send us the Comforter.

John 14:26

King James Version

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Have you taken the time to ponder on the last part of that verse? "And bring all things to your remembrance," One of the greatest comforts we have are our memories. When those moments come and wash over you, think of a funny moment or story, something that brings a smile to your face.



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“The Workers Are Few”

Matthew 9:37 “Then he said to his disciples, ‘the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.’ NIV

Neva Brooks



Two years ago, I retired from corporate America, as a Registered Nurse Executive. For more than 30 years I worked in an environment where I served others, put in “salaried” hours

to make sure another person or persons’ mission and vision came to reality. As a nurse leader, there were times when the nursing shortages were critical. This was urgent because ultimately we were not able to provide the care our patients deserved. We always made it work, and I always felt responsible for delivering a better solution which would bring a more permanent resolve. Our nurses experienced compassion fatigue and burn out on a daily basis. After countless hiring fairs and recruitment efforts, on behalf of my organizations and our nurses, I turned to the tried and true recruitment strategy. In Matthew 9:37-38. Jesus said in verse 38 “ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Over the years God has developed this scripture, this prayer, into part of my frequent petition to him. I’d like to share this prayer with you.

“Father I honor you with my voice. You are awesome in all your ways, Where would I be without you? What would I do without you? I honor you because you are worthy. I adore you Abba Father because you are worthy. I humble myself before you in adoration. I worship you God, because you are worthy. Worthy are you, our Lord and our God to receive honor and power! You are great and greatly to be praised! I see the stars, the moon and hear the gentle rain and the rolling thunder, your power is unmatched and unlimited. How Great you are!

I pray for your forgiveness as I forgive those who have done me wrong. I know if I hold iniquity in my heart, you will not hear me. Lord, I am sorry. I know, and you know my transgressions and my sins. They have been against you—against you have I done evil things in your sight. I repent and turn away from the traps that seem to easily catch me up. My soul rejoices that you love me so much you forgive me and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. Thank you Lord! Teach me to love and forgive in a way that brings glory to you.

Thank you, your grace is sufficient, period. Your grace is truly more than enough today! Thank you because in every weak place of my life, your strength is made perfect. I bless your Name that your mercy has blocked the harsh punishments I deserved. Thank you that your mercy endures forever. I rest in the comfort of your words in Psalm 136...your mercy endures forever! God of Gods and Lord of Lords, your mercy endures forever! You do great wonders, you redeemed us from our enemies and your mercy endures forever!!! Hallelujah!

Lord I lift our very lives to you, thanking you for watching over us. I plead the blood of Jesus over our children and grandchildren. They are plentiful! The foster care and orphanage systems are overwhelmed throughout the land. We pray to YOU Lord of plentiful children to send more workers. Father, send parents who love you and will love and nurture your children. I pray for the mothers and the fathers who are contemplating giving their child to someone else. Point their hearts and minds toward you. The workers, the parents are few!

We pray as disease, disorders and plagues linger all over the world. Father God, the workers are suffering at their posts, walking away and leaving the fields abandoned, and dying while serving the ill and less fortunate. The workers are few!! We are your people Lord, we are called by your name! We lift our hands in total submission and humility to you as we pray and seek your face. God we repent and turn from all unrighteousness. We are listening and believing as you are healing! As your healing permeates every land, we pray to YOU Lord, send more workers. Those who have a heart to serve, those whose hearts are turned toward you. Give wisdom and compassion in the Name of Jesus. Send workers: doctors, nurses, teachers, law makers and enforcers, health care providers, therapists and every post and position who will participate in the healing process. The workers are few!!

Father, you have compassion for people, often like sheep without a shepherd. There are people who are looking for you, ready to believe. People who haven't heard of you but seek your light in dark places. The workers are few! I pray now according to your word, for you to send more workers into the harvest field. Plentiful are those who need and desire to know you, to understand the liberation of your peace. Plentiful are those who still need to know the plan and power of salvation through Jesus Christ. I pray to YOU, the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the vineyard of the lost. The workers are few.

In your darling Son Jesus's Name. Amen"

I encourage you today, and everyday to be aware that the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Are you a viable applicant? Have you signed up for the job fair. Do you stand to be recruited? Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling YOU!



Coming soon the first of a five
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Self

Defining Our Essence From The
Inside Out

Uncovering deeper truths hidden
within ourselves!

Our Provider

Dr. C.A. Dangerfield II

God keeps amazing me through this season because He has challenged me to go deeper in my understanding and seek out the details of exactly what He is demonstrating and teaching me. One key lesson is when all around me are panicking He has taught me to rest and observe Him at work as He changes the trajectory of mankind's misdirection because we have fallen out of alignment with the principles of God which have been in effect since creation.

Because we tend to haphazardly consult, read and study the Word of God to completely comprehend and understanding His principles our misalignment is met with a response whether it be good or bad. This is cause and effect built in because we have become too busy to manage and maintain what He has provided for us. So, our lifestyle within our own ignorance will eventually have us retreat to the owner's manual the Word of God. Or as we do cry out "Oh Lord, Jesus help me, OMG," we all know this to be a true fact when we assess our history?

We have to learn to look at life deeper than just at the surface. What is the root cause of dysfunction that is what extent up to the surface where we witness the effects? Chaos and confusion are a byproduct of bypassing the principles or laws of God. A lot of things mankind fight and argue over comes down to self-wills that are contrary to principles and laws of God. So rather than responding to the Will of God, mankind decides to react in order to have His way and that is met with head on consequences because one has chosen to try and side step the principles of God which are already in place. Holding mankind accountable for their decisions and responding in kind? These safe guards are in place to deter us from self-destruction. We must in fact heed to the warnings when they present themselves. The scriptures reference that warning comes before destruction. But if we never consult the manual we may never know and outcome will reflect this truth.

Everything man needs God has already provided. It is up to us to find and apply. The question then becomes where have you been looking. God has provided us with five very unique senses to also help on our journey. But as one of my mentors so eloquently stated "Common sense is the six sense that keep the five senses from looking foolish." Now you might have to think on that one for a minute and display an Edith Bunker moment with an "Oh and a giggle".

That reminded me of a statement made by one of the Bishops I was taught by. He said "I was asked if God had a sense of humor one answer was look at your neighbor and also look at ourselves." As those who are parents, aunts and uncles we laugh behind some of the thing's children do as they are learning as they're growing up.

God looks on us as little children and applies patience to our calamities. But even as we do the same with our children there is a period of expectation when they should have matured enough not to repeat certain behaviors. This is the importance of learning God's word. This is where transition and transformation take a hold of us. Placing us within the vein of God's intended journey and purpose for our life. We must remain conscious, attentive observing all that He is sharing with us as He executes His Will through us by the leading of His Spirit.

Our relationship with God will always be important and prevail when we yield to His calling and recognize His voice. We have to comprehend deeper than a surface understanding. Here are two ways to see this. From a child's perspective when they are fearful and need to feel secure, they cry out or seek out guidance, comfort and security from the parent or the person of authority. Likewise, the parents always have a watchful eye and a listening ear for their child no matter what age and will respond at a moment's notice to provide that guidance, comfort and secure whatever circumstances present themselves. Cause and effect built in because we have the nature of God. Our relationship with God will always be important and prevail when we yield to His calling and recognize His voice. We have to comprehend deeper than a surface understanding. Here are two ways to see this. From a child's perspective when they are fearful and need to feel secure, they cry out or seek out guidance, comfort and security from the parent or the person of authority. Likewise, the parents always have a watchful eye and a listening ear for their child no matter what age and will respond at a moment's notice to provide that guidance, comfort and secure whatever circumstances present themselves. Cause and effect built in because we have the nature of God.

Yes, sometimes the child, like ourself demonstrate that streak of defiance and/or independence but not so much with the appropriate amount of wisdom and knowledge to go along with the desire and we face consequences because our age doesn't match up with our knowledge. We failed in obtaining all the information before we strike out on a destination now to nowhere because our ignorance aborted our journey. God's word and His principles brings us out of darkness into His marvelous light. There is a reason you use a hammer to drive a nail and not a screwdriver. God provides the why behind any given situation and prepares us for the journey when we let him. Rather than running back crying because we injured ourself. Think about that for a moment.

Mankind continues to repeat missteps already tried and failed as though there will be a different outcome from generation after generation. Not understanding that without the source of our existence we will cease to exist for the purpose in which

we were created. Until we obtain that understanding events of disappointment will continue to intensifying within our lifetime because our way grows dim without the source to power up the light to guide our way. So, we in turn go into utter darkness due to loss and lack of power. The manual for life the Word of God stated within "I am the way the truth and the light..." It is up to us individually to make up our independent mind this is personal first because you can only give an account for yourself. Seek out the source of light in the person of Jesus and establish that much need connection to get back to your intended path to your destination. Escaping the possibility of being stranded on the side of the road for a time because you failed to apply the proper maintenance or consult the manual checklist before the journey. Making sure you fill up and bring some cables for a jump start if need it and a spare tire in case of flat. Be prepared for the journey ahead our ability to reach the destination is a blessing all by itself.

We can assume all day long but we will come to understand that a journey based on that could wind up being a tragedy rather than an enjoyable adventure. Hopefully this article will provide some insight, stir up some curiosity, rekindling and direct you to or back to a relationship with God who first loved us as He created and formed us before we enter our mother's womb. Reconnecting us with our true identity with our first father.

C.V.M.G.F.A.

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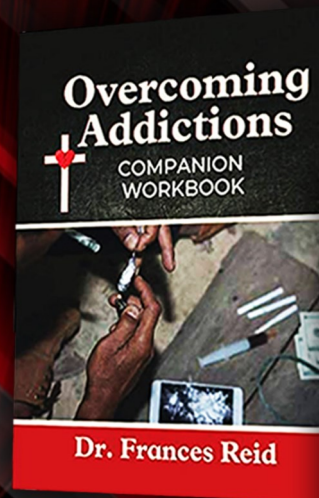
Overcoming Addictions

Available at

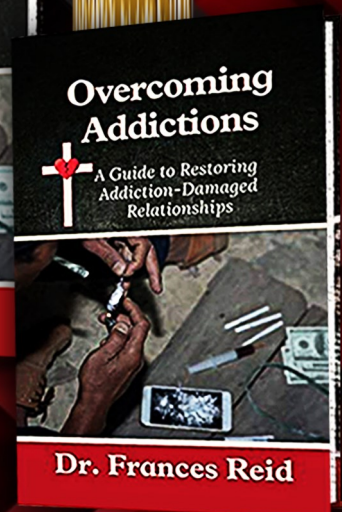
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Overcoming Addictions: Companion Workbook Paperback \$14.99



A Guide to Restoring Addiction-Damaged Relationships Paperback \$14.99



Overcoming Addictions is a powerful new resource to shine light on how addiction destroys relationships, as well as tools to support those who are on the road to recovery. Each day God continues to tap the resources of heaven's loom to weave divine healing to the tattered souls of His people. The resources that are identified in this book have been used with spiritual guidance to bring about renewal and transformation to countless individuals. The purpose of Overcoming Addictions is to combine the study of Scripture with other methods of ministry including the Twelve Step program, to guide addicts through an experience of restoring broken relations via transformation. Through meditation and journaling, participants will be exposed to biblical truths that will transform them, aligning them with the character and ways of God. Through this encounter, they will overcome the poverty, addiction, and destruction associated with their addictive behavior and emotional dependencies. When coupled with the Overcoming Addictions Companion Workbook, this powerful tool becomes a blueprint for substance abuse recovery programs facilitated by faith-based organizations.