



This journey was never meant for us to walk or work alone!
Although we are individuals, we are yet connected by
the Love of Christ!

Thank you for your connections!
~ Sister's In Unity Ministry









### About the cover

Each month, time is spent in prayer for a vision. Some times it's a photo or an object, others it is a painting! Well, this month, while in prayer, the vision of this painting and the design came in the ninth hour! We are sharing this simply as a reminder that God is never to late in giving us an answer when we diligently seek Him! Hebrews 11:6

The roses are from our collection, as they are given, they have been preserved so that their natural beauty is emerged!

The antique soup bowl is from the Rose China Collection

Pastor Angel Ferguson is the founder of Angel Ferguson Ministries and its affiliates The Balance of Life,

Radio & Television Broadcast, W.T.I. Productions, and Hope & Truth Magazine. All the material written

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**FEATURED COVER** 

Angel Ferguson : Chief Editor

W.T.I. Productions: Publisher

James Ferguson III: Logos & Back Cover Designs

Angel Ferguson Ministries : Biblical Words of Encouragement

**Freelance Writers** 



Faith is the substance of hoped for and in this season. I believe that many should prepare to move in the gift of faith towards what God has spoken. For a long time now there has been a misconception concerning the Promises of God, the truth is that there are 2 categories concerning those Promises; the ones that are conditional then those that are unconditional, yet each hold the same foundational Principles which are faith and obedience. The obedience refers to the work of the word.

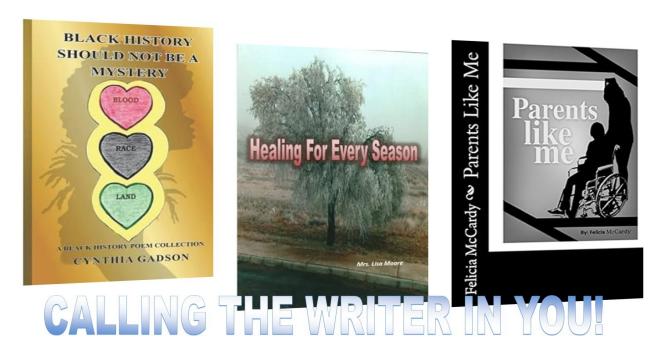
So, what has THE WORD said to you? Even with writing those words, I can recall my father Apostle Wilson Jr., saying "God is not going to come down off the throne to do the work for you, you got to get up off of your seat of do nothing & do something"! Which is that walk of faith, not by what you see but by what you hear, that has declared you are blessed, you are healed, you are delivered, a business owner, establishing/expanding in ministry, etc.

So, I challenge you today to distinguish between those Promises, you can become what God said because you believed and moved towards His WORDS!

As always, words can never express what it means to have each of you go through this journey with us here at Hope & Truth Magazine, we are truly walking in the Conditional Promise! Because ALL of this is based off our faith & obedience.

Be blessed on Purpose. Because Y R  $^{\sim}$ 

Pastor Angel L. Ferguson, Founder



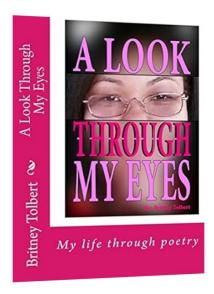
Have you been told that your words of encouragement, testimony should be heard by the mases but have been unsure as to where to start? Here within our Publishing Division of Angel Ferguson's Ministries, we have assisted others such as yourself achieve this very same goal.

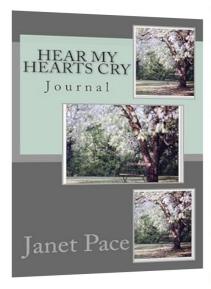
Our publishing range extends to self-help journals to teaching tools to poetry, and more.

Our authors actually have an advantage over others:

- 1. We make sure that you the author maintains creative control over your content at all times,
- 2. We also teach our clients the importance of creating additional products to sell along with their published book.
- 3. An opportunity for a live interview via our weekly radio program The Balance of Life.
- 4. Free advertisement with Hope & Truth Magazine.

We are will you every step of the way, providing guidance throughout the entire process. For more information on obtaining an author's kit, which is our preview of questions and answers of your content as well as an assessment, contact us today at AFERGUSONWRP@YAHOO.COM.







# The Feast of Purim, From The Book of Esther

As we are looking ahead to the miraculous things that God has done for his people, those that would believe that he is God, and through his Son, Jesus Christ we might receive the gift of salvation, we came across the Feast of Purim which occurred during the time of King Esther, her uncle Mordecai, Haman & King Ahasuerus.

After looking at this passage from the Bible, God allowed a SPIRIT OF PRIDE to be revealed in Haman, in an effort to exonerate his chosen people.

We are going to share a few important nuggets surrounding the establishment of The Feast of Purim. According to the current year's calendar, the Feast of Purim is being observed March 21, and 24-25; we also came across this explanation of the days observed: The Jewish calendar date begins at sundown of the night beforehand. Thus, holiday observances begin at sunset of the first secular date listed (with the Purim Night Megillah reading taking place that evening), and the holiday concludes at nightfall the following day.

I believe that this was a part of God's plan for his people, Esther can actually fall in the place of the Judges that were raised up to deliver God's chosen nation during times of hardship. In other words, her appointment of queen was needed in such a time as necessary.

After becoming Queen, the purpose of Esther is established; through her uncle Mordecai, the King's life was saved, therefore this placed both Mordecai & Esther in favor of the King. And as we would dare to do a comparison, Daniel faced a similar situation where he found favor in sight of the King and others around him which had the spirit of

pride set out to have him killed/destroyed because of who he was and whom he worshiped; that plan came to naught as well! Ok, back to Esther.

In fact, it was not Haman that noticed he was not being honored by Mordecai, it was the king's servants. They tried to persuade Mordecai to bow down to Haman, after all it was a written decree from the king. It is at this moment that the spirit of pride is not just against one person but against the chosen people of God!

Now for a whole year, Haman looked for a way to destroy the Jewish people from the provinces of that king Ahasuerus ruled (Esther 3:7-8). Sound familiar? And here we have another spirit to introduce, and it is the spirit of greed! Haman introduced the idea to destroy the Jewish community because he claimed that they did not bring any profits to the kingdom of man! And the king fell for this trap, but to God be the glory in the end he was delivered of this vile spirit. It did not matter that there were other nationalities within this province, this was a personal attack against God, yet we are reminded that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the solid rock, which is Christ Jesus and those that believe in him by faith.

Well, a decree was made. A date was set. The agenda given. And the action of Esther's position is called upon once again. She chose to go to God. She chose to look to hills from when comes her help. The true and living God, creator of Heaven and Earth.

She called for a solemn fast. But before that, the people as whole cried unto God, still sounding familiar. It is important that we as a people come together and cry out to the Lord in the times of trouble! I believe that God wanted to get their attention. That he wanted to remind them that He still loved them and would be there when they needed him to be! That he was a keeper of his promise that He would never leave us nor forsake us, and that he would be there in the day of trouble, well this was indeed a day!

Esther called for a fast for her! To give her the strength and guidance to find favor in the sight of the king, because during this time the king was not seeing anyone unless he called for them. The enemy thought he had a good plan, but our God is greater. She called for a 3-day time of fasting. When is the last time the people called for a fast? That's another topic so we will just move on. Corporate prayer works, when we come together on one accord. Esther found favor in the sight of the king, I believe that as she stood in the court, he saw the presence of God, not just her! He saw a spirit of peace. She used the principle of with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. She did not go in accusing anyone! This took counsel from God.

Now comes the move of God! Because Haman is still angry for not being honored by Mordecai, so he takes the advise of his wife and friends to have Mordecai hanged BUT the presence of the Lord stirred the king the night that he could not sleep, and cause a desire to enter his mind to read the book of records of the chronicles, and there the name of Mordecai is written, magnified before the king for such a time as this! It was the record of how Mordecai had disclosed the plans to kill the king by his servants (2:19-23). It is true that your gifts will make room for you and that yes, he will prepare a table before you in front of your enemies, and this is exactly what God was about to do to Haman.

How is that your enemy is called forth to bring you honor! This is a great example of how the enemy continues to falsely accuse us before God, but God knows the truth because he judges the heart of every man. This is so good! Can you imagine the look of Haman's face within the reading of chapter 6:1-14), now the same people that told him to build a gallows for Mordecai are now telling him that what demise he made for Mordecai will be his own. This is why we should identify what spirit is behind our motives! This thing of evil was turned around for the good of them that love the Lord, for those that are called according to his purpose. Haman was placed on what he had created for Haman.

And now we get to that decree which had been made out of falsehood to be revoked. Mordecai has now been placed in the position that tried to destroy him. Although the decree to destroy the Jews could not be reversed, it was declared in writing that they could defend themselves. Now that's interesting, they had to receive permission to defend their lives. Today, we have been given the right to defend ourselves against the attack of the enemy by using the Putting on the Whole Armour of God!

And here we are at the Feast of Purim! A time of remembrance of how God delivered them from the hand of their enemy. In the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter and the 20<sup>th</sup> verse, the Feast of Purim is established, that from now one they should recall the time that the hand of God moved miraculously for them



The month that this feast is observed in the Hebrew Calendar is known as Adar.

We encourage to read the book of Esther, as there are so many great things that took place, and has been written for the benefit our counsel, knowledge, and wisdom. It is also a testament to each of us to recall the times that we saw the great hand of God working things out on our behalf, when it appeared we were defeated. It does not matter how the enemy comes up against those that believe that God is and that He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him, we shall prevail! With God on our side, and as we abide in Him and He in us, we have the VICTORY!

# Here are some of the interesting things we came across for The Feast of Purim

Though we dress up in holiday finery, Purim doesn't feature holiday work restrictions. Nonetheless, all the better if you can take the day off from work and focus on the holiday and its four special mitzvahs:

- 1. Hear the Megillah: Head to your synagogue to hear the whole Megillah. The Megillah, a.k.a. "The Book of Esther," is the scroll that tells the Purim story. Listen to the public reading twice: once on Purim night, and again on Purim day. This year, that's Saturday night, March 23 and Sunday, March 24. Pay attention—it is crucial to hear every word.
- 2. Give to the Needy: One of Purim's primary themes is Jewish unity. Haman tried to kill us all, we were all in danger together, so we celebrate together too. Hence, on Purim day we place special emphasis on caring for the less fortunate.
- 3. Send Food Gifts to Friends: On Purim we emphasize the importance of friendship and community by sending gifts of food to friend
- 4. Feast!: During the course of Purim day, March 24, gather your family, maybe invite a guest or two, and celebrate with a festive Purim meal. Traditionally, this meal begins before sundown and lasts well into the evening. The table should be festively bedecked with a nice tablecloth and candles. Wash for bread or *challah*, and enjoy a meal featuring meat, wine and plenty of Jewish songs, words of Torah and joyous Purim spirit. Sing, drink, laugh, have fun together.
- 5. Special Prayers: Thanks <u>God</u> for the "miracles, redemptions, mighty deeds, saving acts and wonders" that He wrought for our ancestors on this day many years ago.
- 6. Masquerade!: Dressing Up
- 7. Before Purim: <u>Torah</u> Reading of Zachor; a special reading is held in the synagogue.
- 8. Before Purim: The Fast of Esther: Fasting and Prayer in Unity
- 9. Before Purim: The "Half Coins" (Machatzit HaShekel): It is a tradition to give three coins in "half" denominations—e.g., three half-dollar coins—to charity, to commemorate the half-shekel that each Jew contributed as his share in the communal offerings in the time of the Holy Temple.
- 10. Shushan Purim: In certain ancient walled cities—Jerusalem is the primary example—Purim is observed not on the 14th of Adar (the date of its observance everywhere else), but on the 15th of Adar. This is to commemorate the fact that in the ancient walled city of Shushan, where the battles between the Jews and their enemies extended for an additional day, the original Purim celebration was held on the 15th of Adar.





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# Sisters In Unity

When the way seems unclear &
it is as if you have been stationed in the same place
With no movement!

Just know that there is a Purpose & a Plan.

YOUR TIME IS COMING UP SOON

SO, get prepared spiritually to walk in to IT!

# Morning Inspirations.....

And so, if you are wondering WHY, you have been in THIS PLACE during this time.....

"And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. Deuteronomy 8:2

#### ANOTHER LESSON LEARNED!

On Tuesday, we were led to do some writing and I knew that the documents had been saved. Then on Friday morning, it was time to do some more writing for the next issue of Hope & Truth Magazine, but it appeared that the article was gone! I sat there thinking, that there was no way that all of that work had not been saved. But it was not in the files for my documents. And yes, I looked in the unsaved files, but it just was not there!

Then I remembered that a large portion of the article had been hand - written, so it would not become a big issue in starting over, that's not what I wanted to do, yet never – the - less, it was an option. Just as I retrieved the hand-written original, I went to the master files on the computer and typed in a few words from the article; and guess what, it was in the WordPad files. But how did this happen because this is not where the article had been written! So, glad that it had been located, yet there is a Lesson of Promise hidden within the experience! Well, should we expect anything less! Here's the lesson, if we believe that what we have been ordained to do by God, (although the enemy will try and cause it to appear as nothing, or maybe we have lost focus because of life), God will permit a time to recover!

Many have started out on an assignment, and have placed some things to the side, with the thought process, that we will come back to it, only to find that, that zeal or passion once experienced has been lost, but if we would begin to pray, and seek His face, asking Him to restore what we had started, then I believe that as it is HIS WILL, then Restoration will happen!

Although this started because of a lost article within my computer, I am now spiritually seeking, asking The Holy Spirit to reveal the other things that have been misplaced or lost, or hidden from me. What are the things that I was supposed to do, or have started and laid aside, thinking that I would get back to it, only to find that it was not there; and to be honest, perhaps, I did not look so earnestly, or maybe I abandoned the idea without asking the Holy Spirit to bring it back to me. So, yes this is a great lesson.

With this brings on other questions, such as what have I become blinded too! Am I looking in the wrong places for what I already have, and have just assumed that it has been lost? My God, it was not lost, just misplaced, I still have it, it STILL belongs to me!

Whatever God has given you to do, it is still there! It is not lost, it could have been misplaced by mistake, yet you know that you know, that it was given too you to do. I encourage you to ask The Holy Spirit to reveal those things that were appointed for you to do; those things that were misplaced; those things that were placed in the wrong files of our minds, that those things are retrieved and that you continue in that thing in which you were called into!

# From The Classroom of







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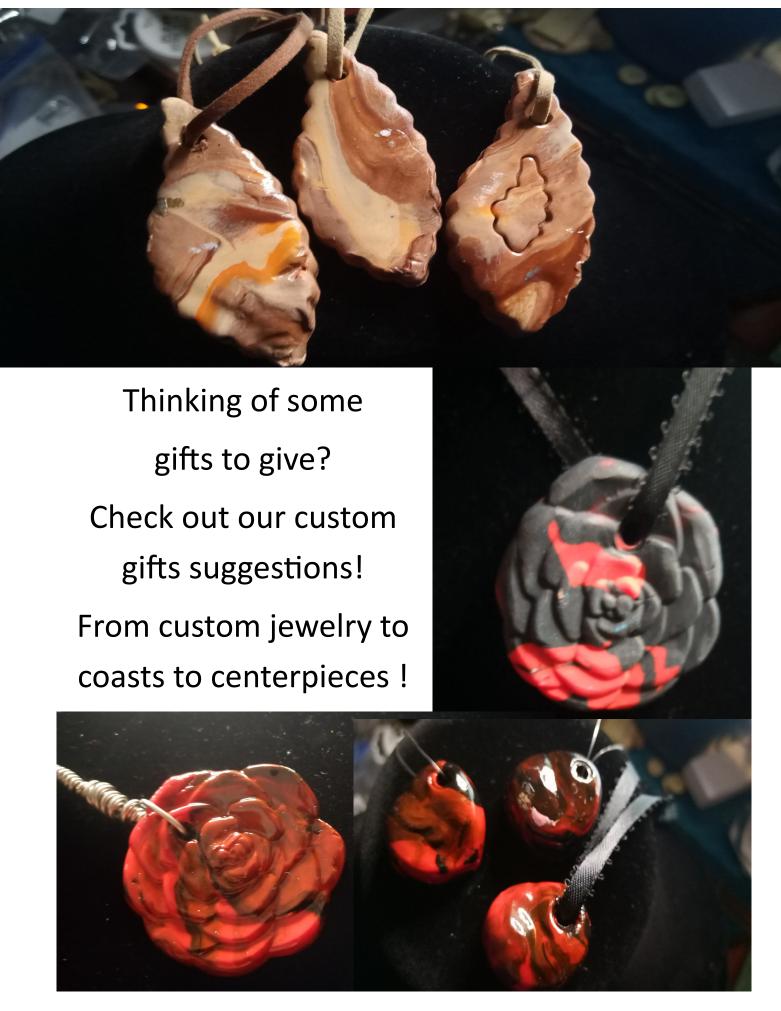
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Give as a special occasion gift!

Gifts are meant to speak of the personality, character along with the proven fact that one has learned the true essence of the other. Whenever deciding to purchase a gift for someone, some greats lessons learned that I do, and 2 of them are to purchase something that best fits the recipient & to make sure that it is of the same or better quality of what I would purchase for myself!

Personally, I love to give as well as to receive 1 of a kind gifts, they just seem to become more cherished.

Everyday is gift giving season for the ones that you cherish as well as for yourself!

#### THE PREPARATION PERIOD

The time to prepare as a leader is essential for every leadership role, especially if one desires to become an effective & positive leader.

The time of preparation comes long before the actual seating of the position; let us look at one of our great examples from the Bible, which is Moses. Moses spent 40 years in Midian and a large amount of that time was taking care of his father n laws sheep. Some might suggest that there is no comparison between people and sheep, yet I beg to differ! In many ways, they have a lot of the same needs as well as characteristics. Both, need to feed, protected, given guidance, live, give birth, and will eventually come to a demise.

It was during this time that Moses learned what it meant to have self-discipline, self-control, having the consideration of the welfare of others rather than just his self, yes, he had a wife and children, but these sheep where not people but he had to consider the care of them. Moses also learned how to have a watchful eye and an ear to hear distinctively for every sheep under his watch, he learned the different movements that would tell the story of pain, birth, hunger, death, or being distracted. With his hearing, he had to discern between the cry of one of the sheep and an imposture, that would try to distract him long enough for an attack. There are other lessons that Moses had to learn during this time, he learned how to feed a multitude, and to make sure that he had enough to go around, he had to know where he was going so that he could lead them to their destination.

Just know that this was no three-day training course, 40 years is a long time, yet many may feel that it happens overnight or that someone can just place them in a position without the preparation process.

Leadership awareness is about understanding the truth behind what it takes to become a leader for the kingdom of heaven. All those things that Moses learned and perhaps more, should become a part of many leadership courses, maybe giving an assignment of governing a large group, developing a strategic plan of getting them from point A to point B, done on paper of course, but we get the picture. The key factor in having a strategic plan is prayer! That's right, time is needed to get our thoughts together, and what better way than to get your plans through prayer, and then waiting to hear the plans of God, and then placing His plans above our own because He knows what is best for us all. This will also bring us in alignment with the Word of God, where we are instructed/encouraged to "study to show ourselves approved". Well, as you can see, we have brought in another component of leadership, and it is the time to study, but in 2 areas, it is a time to study the Word and the ways of God as well as a time to study those that you are sent to lead. Moses knew and understood the movement of the sheep. There are times that a leader should sit quiet and study through the Holy Spirit, the movement of the people.

Conclusion on page 18b

Are you feeling overwhelmed because a few of your goals were not finished at the close of 2023? Don't be too hard on yourself! What we all must come to face is that all things have a time for fulfillment. Somethings that we desired to do are in fact a part of our journey but it was just not the right time. Allowing God to direct our timing has to become an important factor. And the truth is that as long as we work on those things a little at a time, than your goal has not been a total loss. Things will progress and start to come together as you continue to add the pieces to the puzzle. I want you to encourage yourself for the progress that has been made.

Take the time to celebrate that you are not in the place that you once were in, that your outlook has shifted and that each day, you are striving to go a little further in the game of life, it is important to remind ourselves that, yes all things take time. In fact, it is called the birthing process. First comes the conception, then the growing stages before birth, as in the natural so it is in the spirit. So, pace yourself and don't go into a panic because things did not happen overnight, because my dear friend, all things have a process in which it must pass through.

As long as you keep trying, failure is not an option! Tell yourself, that if you made it this far by putting in the work, as you continue, you will go further! And here's another reminder, we all must measure our level of success, only the individual can determine that, some focus on how much money they have made, while others focus on how many lives have been impacted by the good done in the community, what you want legacy to say is up to you. I just don't want you to give up on what you have started, you have come to far to turn back now. As you come to accept the path that God has for you, learning to follow His lead, will allow you eventually arrive that Good work that begun to to was once in you! Stay encouraged my friend, making sure that you encourage others along the way!

# Conclusion of The Preparation Period

And when this is mentioned, it is to know when they are not growing even though they are being fed; are they receiving the proper nourishment that will produce growth.

Here's another lesson that we can gleam from the life of Moses during his entrance into Midian; before he was permitted by the Lord to look after the sheep of his father n law, he was first given a test, and that test came when he saw the daughters of Jethro at the well and they were being bullied by those men, here Moses stood up for people he did not know, and making sure that they met their purpose.

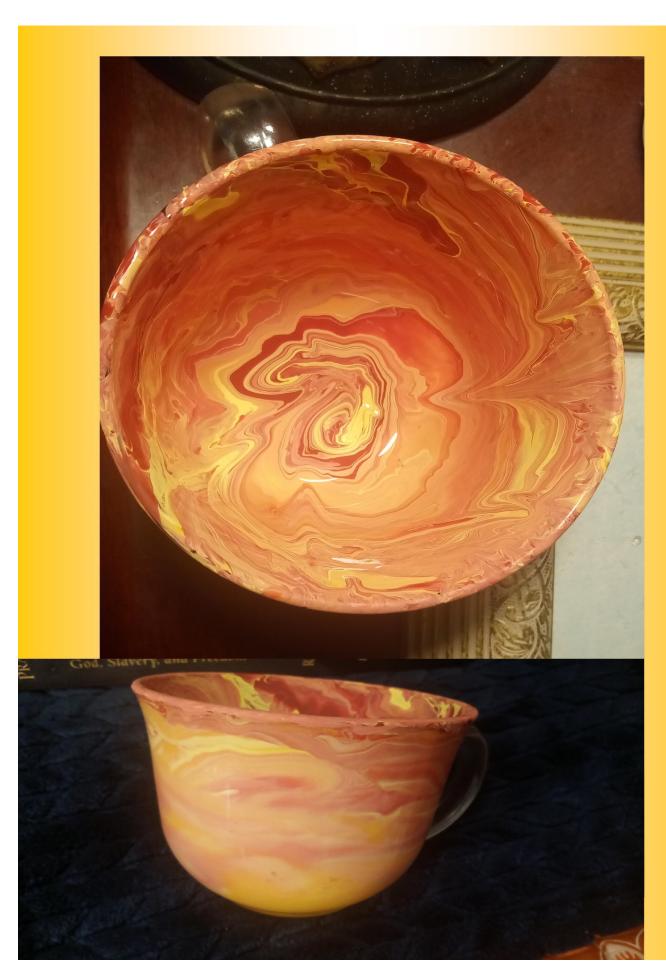
Maybe you are just entering into your role of leadership or perhaps, you have been in it for a while, either way, the lessons are the same, learning how to govern, and when it appears that one has lost control, God will send some guidance on how to govern where you are. Now, that's another lesson! Learning to govern where you are, because the place in which one started should change because of growth and therefore the needs of responsibility will change.

We encourage you to take a look at the process of leadership of Moses, then ask yourself, "am I prepared for this" along with the reality that one must continue to prepare because as leaders for the kingdom of Heaven, we are to lead the people to a destination and with the hopes that we will make it there too! ~













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# Standing On The Promises!

I took this photo on January 21, 2016. It was around 6:30 or 7 am and I was on my way to work. I was waiting on the bus and as I looked up towards the sky, the beauty of God was just there. Now, I have seen some beautiful paintings online and in stores but this has no enhancements whatsoever, it is in its natural state and still in our photo gallery.

The promises of God have no need for alterations, they are perfect just the way they are, we just have too see the beauty in them!

The memory of this photo came up in my social media memories last month, and it was as if I were in that same moment, this was the beginning of a journey for me, a journey of being able to "see" spiritually, and for the next year or so and even now and again, I am drawn to look up into the sky to see what He wants me to see! In this photo, I could see the eye within the beauty. God's eye upon His creation, watching over me, to remind me that as I was on my way to a place, (during that time it was hectic at work), He was watching over me and that things would turn out for my good.

Whenever God allows us to see something beautiful in the mist of confusion, it is His way,

(that I believe) of letting us see His expected plans for us, that it will not always be that way. No, pain and sorrow are not meant to last always, there will be times of joy and of refreshing.

With the beauty of God, there is this unwavering peace, that no one or anything can come and interrupt. This is one way that we may enter the presence of God. Seeing the beauty of God, reminds us that yes, He is The Creator. That what He speaks is commanded to show up. I truly believe that He allowed me to see this on my way to work because He knew what the enemy had set up against me, this was my place of serenity, my place of refuge, my place of peace, which He promised to give me as I look to Him, the hills which cometh my help! Remember, I looked up and He was there!

Every now and again, God will show up in the least expected ways, and it is always beautiful, even when we are being corrected, it may not feel good, but the end result is beautiful because it keeps us in the right position of righteousness. And so, my journey has had a lot of turns and even some bumps, but it has been for my good, and I am yet reminded that His plans for me are right, rich, and beautiful, because of eternal life in Christ Jesus.

I pray that God allows you to see the beauty that He has planned for you, and when those days come to try and make things appear ugly and disfigured, that the Holy Spirit will show up in your timeline of memories of what God has already Promised You......and this you shall stand upon..... He Promised Me that His watching over me is BEAUTIFUL!



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#### **PROPHETIC HOUR!**

this is a 911 Alert for those who have the mantle of the Prophet.

I hear Don't Silence Your Voice!

Don't let your voice go silent. This is exactly what the enemy wants to happen. What I see and hear in the spiritual realm is that those who have been commissioned to sound the alarm, might appear to not have an audience. It may appear that the sanctuary has become empty, or no one is listening to your live videos that have been placed on your social media platforms, maybe no one is hitting the like button on your inspirational post, or the opportunity to speak has gone cold, and the thought of giving up has entered into your minds. This is a plot of the enemy. He is out to silence your voice. He wants you to stop declaring the word of the Lord.

This is the enemy's way of tricking you too keep silent and not release what God has placed in your belly. If we recall, a lot of the Prophet's spoke Towards a Place or a people, they did not have a audience directly in front of them. So don't wait for the physical to be in front of you, speak the Word. Declare, Sound The Alarm, Warn the people, Command the Word, Don't Silence Your Voice.

The Word is Carried and will arrive at it's destination, remember God said he sent his word and it will accomplish where he sent it to! And finally, don't come down from the work that you have been given to do. Let us take on the position of Nehemiah, that we declare, we are on a good work and can not come down.

Be blessed on Purpose Because Y R ~

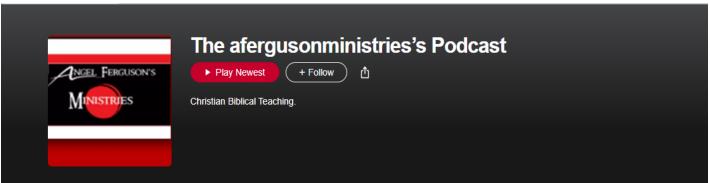
Pastor A. Ferguson

Be sure to check out Angel Ferguson's Ministries via IHEART RADIO's weekly Podcast where we will share an in-depth teaching of the Word of God.

Take us on the go with you or tune in while at your desk. Here's our personal link:

https://iheart.com/podcast/150184798





#### HOW DOES THE PROMISES OF GOD FOR ISRAEL AFFECT MY LIFE?

Are we praying for the fulfillment of God's Promises concerning His chosen nation Israel? There are several passages in the Old & New Testament that point to the Promise of God to restore Israel and Judah as one, the question is are we as the Body of Christ praying for and believing in God for the fulfillment of this Promise. This is one of the Promises that will occur prior to the return of Christ upon the earth to gather both those that have gone on to glory and those that are still alive unto Himself.

I understand that this is a topic that few dare to discuss, because often we are only focused on the Promises that pertain to ourselves and our loved ones in close proximity. In fact, we seldom consider those things that don't affect us directly, but the truth is that this Promise does affect us that believe in God and have accepted His Son, Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior.

If we are going to commit to standing on the Promises of God, then we have acknowledged that we have been adopted into the family lineage of Abraham through Christ, therefore we are a part of that blessed seed upon the earth; that lineage being given the name ISRAELL!

As these thoughts flood my mind, I am reminded of how we use the Word of God in a local sense, meaning in our inner circles only rather than in a Body of Christ sense or shall I say as a whole, for instance let us look at James 5:16 "and pray for another, that ye may be healed", this is as a whole; we are to pray for the healing restorative relationship between Judah & Israel.

Here is another important thing to consider, this is not a thought or concern that every person automatically has, it is the drawing the Holy Spirit that brings a person of faith to this area. Yes, the Holy Spirit draws the believer to pray for the concerns of God. This is how we are united in the spirit and not in the flesh, many who have the ministry gift of the prophet and deal with intercessory prayer are drawn to pray about the things that God wants to address or is about to move within. I said that because thoughts of this promise came to my mind here and there, now it is an area that I have been drawn to study, to see what has been written as things are unfolding in the current news. One day, minding my own business, the thought came to me "what promises are being fulfilled in today's times", and this took me to the Word and prayer. For years, I heard "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and I did it out of rehearsal not fully understanding what that meant, it is in this season of my life that God is giving me a little insight; this is one of His Promises, and He wants be to be a part of praying for the fulfillment of that Promise!

It was also a reminder stop being concerned only about what was local and to think globally, because we are a Body that is large and yes, we cover the sands of the earth.

So, think about it, are you praying for God's Promise of Restoration so that Christ may return, or have we really considered or understood just what that means from a believer's standpoint. My perspective has changed as you grow in Christ, so will yours.

**SCRIPTURE** 

**EXPLORATIONS:** 

Jeremiah 3:18

Isaiah 11:11~13

Jeremiah 30:1~22

Jeremiah 32:37~44

Jeremiah 33

Ezekiel 11:17

Mark 13

# ARE WE RESTING?

**As** my number of years increase upon the earth, the importance of resting at night is becoming more and more important. Although some nights sleep is so strong, the body is not resting, and therefore by midday there is this energy crash.

When there is a lot on the mind, then the body is still tense, then comes the restless night of tossing and turning trying to get comfortable.

I recently paid close attention to my sleep patterns, and it is not good at all! There is a lot of tossing and turning, as well as trying to get in the right or shall we say a good position so that my acid reflux is not agitated. Then there are the cares of life, business & ministry on my mind. And when I do drift off to sleep, it is as if it's for a long time but is only about an hour.

What I find is that resting and sleeping are two very different things! I can rest while being awake, if the mind is allowed to rest by redirecting the thoughts. Also, one must tell its muscles to relax, as well as doing things that bring on an atmosphere of relaxation.

There are many factors that bring stress to the body, that we are going to look at. One area is questioning your work performance. This can bring anxiety. The best thing to do is reassure yourself that your day was productive. Even if everything was not completed, focus on the things that were. Also, congratulate yourself on the newly implanted changes that were made towards the growth of your life, business, and ministry. I believe that using this method will remove the thoughts of doubt that you are not progressing.

And when it comes to our loved ones, give God the praise for what He is doing in their lives, even when we can't see it, just know that God does hear your prayers. My prayer is that He provides for my children, and when I hear reports that He is doing just that, then my mind can relax. It may not be on my terms and the truth is that it does not have to work on my terms, because I asked God to do it and He did, and that's all that matters.

And yet there are other factors that come to flood our minds and that is the expectations that are placed on us from those that we deal with. The average person will pass their obligations on to the next person to eliminate their load, while they do nothing. We must be watchful for these types of individuals. I like to call it a spirit of manipulation, so become mindful of what task you take on.

But if there is no sleep, then what. This must come in balance! Stress can hinder our sleep. Or being too tired can hinder you from drifting off to sleep. And here is the one that I must find balance with, if I take a nap to late, then it is harder for me to fall to sleep or if I go to bed too early, then my night becomes long with my eyes wide open.



## Conclusion of Sleeping or Resting,

It is important to think on things that bring you some serenity and peace, as much as possible. Tilt your head back, close your eyes and just breathe. Yes, taking a couple of deep breaths are good, drinking hot tea works for many, or perhaps getting a massage will help. The point is to make sure that we are experiencing the benefits of sleep and rest because without these two things, the evidence will show up in our appearance as well as our performance!

In closing, remember to cast (give) all your cares to Good, because He cares about YOU!

# Our prayer is that

you are encouraged with what God has given you to do!

"And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us:
and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea,
the work of our hands establish thou it". Psalm 90:17

# **HOBBIES WE LOVE! COLLECTING ANTIQUES!**





# Backdrops Decor & More

Came across this gorgeous lamp about a month after purchasing the burnt orange quilt! What a perfect match! And as you can see it graciously blends well with the pink rose pattern.



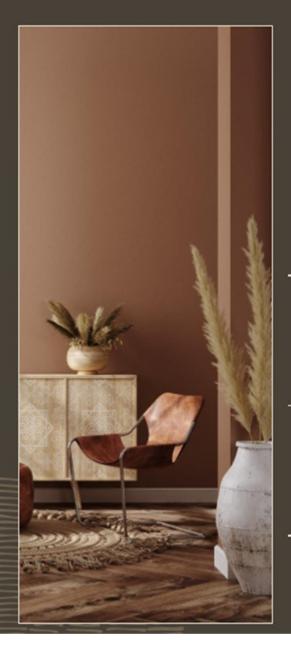


Oh, and the chair that this lamp is sitting on was another one of our GREAT finds while out looking for antiques!

January 31, 2024

# THE BALANCE OF LIFE





# THE BUILDING UP YOUR FAITH TEACHING SERIES

Greetings & welcome to The Balance of Life, Radio & Television Broadcast. This week, we are sharing a teaching series The Building Up of Your Faith. Many have no idea what faith is and how to distinguish between faith of salvation & the gift of faith. During this series, we are going to shed some light on the two.

DAY ONE

Understanding What faith is.

DAY TWO

Struggling With Faith

DAY THREE

How Faith Works

Please visit our YouTube Channel for the full broadcast of each day of this series

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During a recent Bible Study, one of the members asked for an understanding of Tower of Babel as mentioned in Genesis 11:1-9; here's a brief outline of this teaching. The full teaching has been made available via our YouTube Channel, and the link is https://youtu.be/S4j6oPmeN8c.

The Tower of Babel was a sign or an action of Rebellion as well as a showing of Pride from Nimrod and those he had influence over. He wanted to set himself up along with the same Omniscience as God Almighty, he, Nimrod thought that creating a tower that reached heaven would grant him this position. The scripture text of Genesis 11:4 provides the purpose behind wanting to build this tower; "lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the earth". Also, where it is mentioned that God came down and confused their language goes to the state of their mind, we support this with the scripture text of Genesis 10:5; "By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; everyone after his tongue; after their families, in their nations. Therefore, the people of Shinar spoke & thought the same; attempting to assert themselves to the same likeness of God Almighty.

Any thing that a person might try and place in the same likeness of God, being it, another person, place, or object is in battle with God! In other words, they are on opposite sides. There is only one and true living God. With God, there is no competing with Him, and to be on His side, is the side of Righteousness, which means one is working with God not trying to outwork or to compete with His work.

There is no comparison when it comes to the Work of God, no one or thing can do what He has done or shall continue to do.

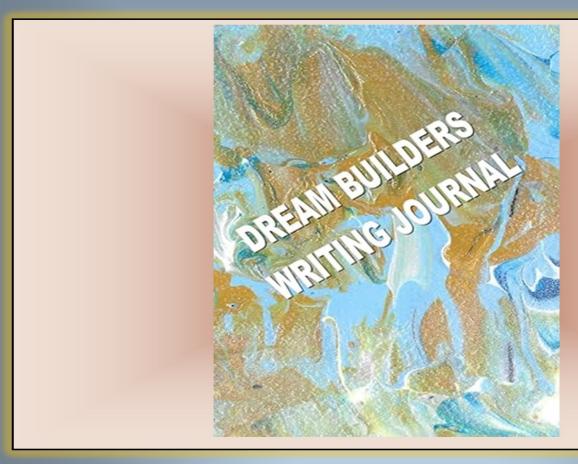
Now when we look at the definition of the word rebellion, we find the following: **having** a strong feeling of disagreement with authority; Nimrod and those that he influenced disagreed with God being the only Almighty. If we would keep in mind, the building of this tower occurred after the flood of the earth, and although Nimrod was after the flood, it is more than likely he had heard of what God caused to happen because of the wickedness of the people's heart, and now he wanted to try and make sure this would not happen again. He went about it the wrong way! The way to prevent the wrath of God upon one's life is by their faith in Him along with a heart of obedience

And therefore, we developed the necessary question of what can we learn from the written word that may be applied to our lives today so that we do not fall into such a mindset, and this is what we presented to those in attendance of the Bible Study Teaching:

"How Do I avoid this spirit from operating/ controlling my life's decisions"?

Conclusion on page 35.

# SCHOOL OF MINISTRY's UPCOMING EVENTS!



We are hosting a Virtual Vision Board Event March 19, 2024 @ 7 pm!

A few years ago, during a leadership training, we were given

THE 3 C's Formula; Consistency. Commitment. & Completion

and then a year ago we took it a step further with

THE 3 P'S Formula: PLANNING TOO PREPARE TO PRESENT!

Within this journey we are sharing through the Word of God

how too apply these formulas to our every day lives.

This journal also has a Vision Board, Some Important Developmental Questions,

& spaces for notes!

And we would love to have you as a special guest.

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Registration starts February 6, 2024 through March 4, 2024. For digital copies of the journal, registration will end on March 15, 2024



#### BIBLE SCHOOL. PART 1 Cont'd

One of the most important things for each believer is to understand and become stable in their belief of faith. One must come to recognize by faith, believing in one's heart and confessing from the mouth that Jesus is Lord, and that God hath raised from the dead and setteth Him on His right hand from which He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

Another important thing that one must believe by faith is the Written Word of God as stated in Ephesians 1:15-23. Not only did we explore what has been written in Ephesians 1:15-23, but we also explored the following scriptures and do encourage you to read them as well; (I believe that they will assist each of us in making sure that we avoid the spirit of rebellion from operating/controlling our life's decisions). *John 15<sup>th</sup> chapter; John 6:44; Romans 10:9; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6*.



Now we extended this lesson a little further in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week as we wanted to look at what the spirit of rebellion does, which is to FALSELY ACCUSE THE BRETHREN"! Let us look at a brief outline of this lesson, the fullness of this lesson has been made available as well via our YouTube Channel and the link is: https://youtu.be/3G5shR4x4VI?

# si=VXKulzzRlQ975Lbo

We started this lesson by taking a look at 1 Kings 21:1-10, simply because it was my personal study time and it also connected me to our previous teaching, In the instance of this example; Queen Jezebel wanted to bring her husband Ahab out of a state of depression, he was depressed because he wanted the land of Naboth, which he refused to give or sell, because it was his birthright. Well, her method of bringing him out of this state of selfish depression was to take it by any means necessary, so she sent two men of Belial to falsely accuse him of speaking against God and Ahab. The name of Belial is another name of the devil. Now in Revelation 12:7-12, we find the following: "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angel fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels. And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world (12:10b). Now is come salvation, and strength......for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God, day and night.

What we have read in Revelation 12<sup>th</sup> chapter, we see further when it came to Jesus Christ our Messiah in Mark 83:1-5 and again in John 8:1-11.

We went this route of the New Testament to the Old Testament to set the stage of showing that the spirit of rebellion which accuses the faithful of God has been happening since the beginning of time and will continue until his final judgement. In each of these examples Satan is being rebellious/ resisting God's decision to heal, to deliver and bring salvation.

Other scriptural examples are found in Zechariah 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter, this is concerning the spiritual dressing of Joshua the Prophet. Satan was resisting (being rebellious) against God's decision to FORGIVE/ELEVATE this man of God! And when it came to Job, Satan was resisting God's Word concerning Job's faithfulness to Him because He was God and not just for the possessions that God had blessed him with.

As we can see, once again that this rebellious spirit is against God Almighty!

## **HOW DO I OVERCOME THE ACCUSER?**

Verse 11 of Revelation 12<sup>th</sup> chapter says, "And they overcame by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony: and they loved not their lives unto the death".

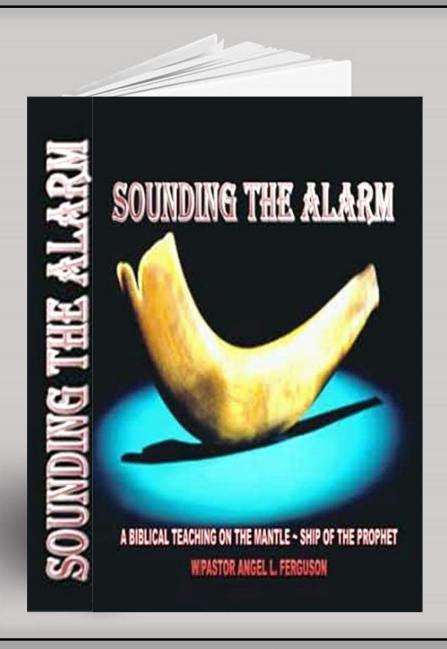
Hold faithful to God's Word

Become and remain faithful to what God has instructed you to do.

Endure through until the end of those times of testing. Hold your peace and let the Lord fight those battles for you. Remember it is written "Vengeance is mine saith the Lord; I will repay"!

We pray that this lesson has been food to your soul & a light unto your path.

There is an alarm going forth and it has a mighty roar of a lion meant to set the people of God free. Within these pages we are exploring the scriptures and digging deep into what we as believers of Christ have access to. This book is more than a training, it is a Clarion Call for the Prophets of today!



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# Does God Want Me To Have Wealth?

This is a question across the minds of both believers and non-believers. Many have confused God's plans for their lives with the lust of their flesh. I faithfully believe that God will provide what we need to carry out His Will. I also believe that many will not get to a certain level of financial wealth because of the spirit of greed, because once they obtain that wealth, they will no longer serve God, transferring their worship to money, power or even wisdom and knowledge, it is what we do with what He has given that matters, as well as making sure that we Keep the Giver of the Gift FIRST.

But let us look at the different areas in which God desires to bless each believer so that they become wealthy. The first is in spiritual things, which are wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, and might. If we are rich or shall we say wealthy in our knowledge of Christ, then we will understand which is more powerful and will carry the most weight. Money will spend, or someone might come and steal it, it could get destroyed, but wisdom, knowledge and understanding is with the beholder forever, no one or thing can take it away. Not even hard times, knowledge will be remembered and used again to get back up from a circumstance when there is no resource of money around.

Another area that a person is wealthy is with their gifts and talents, in having the ability to just bring things together, such as the décor of a room or in fashion, not everyone has this ability. And with their gifts and talents, they earn a living; some to a certain wealth and to some not so much. Our focus should be on the one that gave us the gift and not just on the money that it produces.

I believe that God is concerned about our day-to-day needs, and it is expressed throughout the scriptures, such as in Matthew 6:24-34. Over in Matthew 14:13-21, Jesus was concerned with more than just the physical needs of the people that had followed him and sat through His teachings, we was concerned about their nourishment, in this is His Promise to be a Provider!

Another belief is that God wants us to become GOOD stewards over what He has provided for us. He guides us with our finances, such as in giving, how to give and in developing a plan to get out of debt and to have something left over after our bills are paid.

We have provided a few scriptures that will support our stand on our belief that God desires that we are wealthy in every area of our lives. There are many more examples for us, it is our sincere prayer that you would allow the guidance of The Holy Spirit to lead you to these passages of scripture and that it adds richness and wealth to your life as is the desire of our Father in Heaven.

Examples of how God wants us to have wealth!

# **Dealing With Financial Debt:**

2 Kings 4:1-7
Daily Provisions:
1 Kings 17:8-16

# <u>Restoration After A Hardship:</u>

**Haggai 2:1-8** 

# **In Spiritual Gifts:**

**Ephesians 1:15-23 Ephesians 3:14-21** 

# Spiritual & Physical Health: 3 John 3:2

Spiritual Authority: Luke 10:19; 21

<u>Through His Promises:</u> Deuteronomy 11th chapter

In Relationships:
Genesis 32nd & 33rd chapters.

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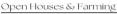
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-Pamela Simmons

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\*Janice is an outstanding , professional she has patience, charisma, very knowledgeable about the real estate business. She helped us fix our credit, lowered our debt to income ratio. Which we didn't know what it was to start with.

She gave us pointers to help our realtor get us seller concessions. Just a Blessing. -Valerie Jimenez

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# LENDING

#### PARTNER GUIDE



Presented by Janice Williams

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ON BEHALF OF Hope & Truth Magazine, we would like to extend a warm appreciation to each of you that have been a part of ministry, whether this is your first time receiving a copy or if it was 20 years ago, when we first launched.

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Yours in Christ, Hope & Truth Magazine



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# Angel Ferguson Ministries



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