

Transform Magazine

December 2020
Volume 3 Issue 12



"Every day we are blessed to
awaken is the opportunity for a
New Beginning!"



The New Room
At The Threshold Into
Standing In The Doorway



Stepping up to the threshold into a New Year:

This has been a year like we of this generation have never seen before. We must also understand that nothing happens unless God allows it. In the midst of everything that has transpired within this year. All of man's areas of opportunity have actually risen to the top like a boiling pot exposing everything that must be done away with in our character that does not align with the will of God. Scriptures have been demonstrated right in front of our eyes. We have lost a lot of loved ones due primarily because of disobedience to the will and principles of God. Each individual person on the face of the earth going forward doesn't need to point fingers of blame unless it's done in front of a mirror which shows our reflection. We are all contributors to our current conditions until we deal with our individual selves and quickly get to the posture of humility before God individually, we will continue on the same path. It's time, to be honest with ourselves and take this necessary step to allow change to come and experience what can be a Happy 2021!

Isaiah 6:1-8

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If you are interested in submitting an article to the magazine, please submit your article and contact information to an editor for consideration.

Thank you for your interest!

Crossing Into The New

Evangelist Stacie Daniel

An Olympic contender in a long-distance race will train for months, undoubtedly, years before competing in Track & Field. The training is arduous and grueling but necessary to effectively contend for a medal. All the hours, days and months of training are for one purpose...to cross the finish line as the winner. As we stand so close to the threshold before entering a new year, we will soon close this year and cross over into 2021.

It is true that we do not know all of which a new year will bring but we can be assured that something new is around the corner. Every season of the year will bring about a change. Likewise, we will either evolve and progress in that space of time or become stunted. Sometimes we may not always realize how we are evolving from day to day and progressing to new heights, levels, dimensions, and ventures. However, it can be deeply felt when we realize we are missing the mark and headed down a path to nowhere. While staring over the threshold ask yourself the questions: What will my new look like? Ponder this---Will you walk in the new with heavy heart and hopelessness or will you enter the new full of hope and steadfast faith in God?

Isaiah 43:19 tells us that a new thing now springs forth. We find ourselves in uncertain times as it seems a plague continues to ravage our world, social injustice refuses to bow, economic collapse seems inevitable, and many people find themselves without a living wage. Despite all of this, God still has the power to make all things new. He spoke light into darkness, created a galaxy from nothing, and breathed life into dust of the earth. There is not one problem too hard for God to solve. There is not one challenge insurmountable for the King of Kings. There is not one creature that He does not see. It is our responsibility to seek Him and make sure that we are aligned with where He would have us to be spiritually and naturally. As we swiftly move forward in time, you may find yourself at the threshold of a new open door, new opportunity, or fulfillment of promise. It is imperative not to wait with anxious anticipation but to pray and make preparation. We should urgently consider our place in life and ask God to align us with His purpose and His will. How significant is it that Jesus said at the tender age of 12 in Luke 2:49 (NKJV) "Why did you seek me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" Distractions will come and you may be sought out by others for a good reason but not a God reason. Stay Focused! Jesus

knew there was no time to waste on what does not truly matter. God wants a surrendered life when we are young as well as older.

As we stand at the threshold to enter the New, let us make sure that we are postured with right spirit, attitude, motivation, and purpose. Money is not the focus nor materialistic things. When we lose sight of that it will flow to us effortlessly as we seek to align with the will of God. Romans 12:2 (KJV) "Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

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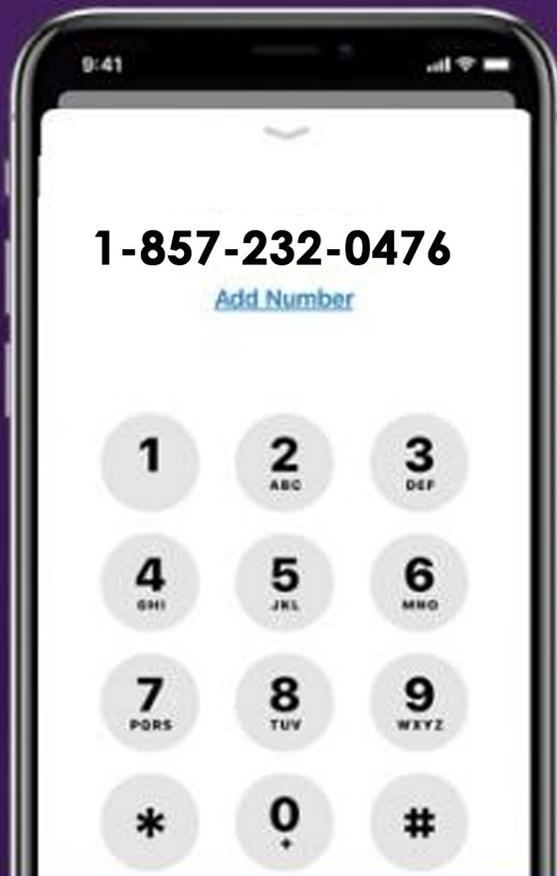
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December 21, 2020

PRAYER CALL



7:00PM EST



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Sibyl Graves



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Min. Tony
Gillems



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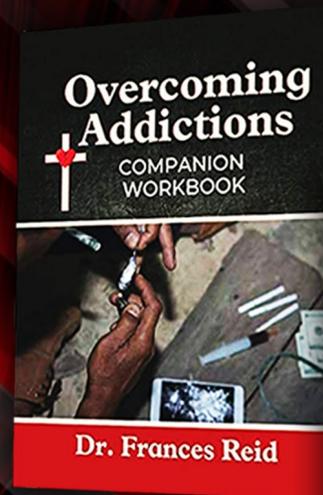
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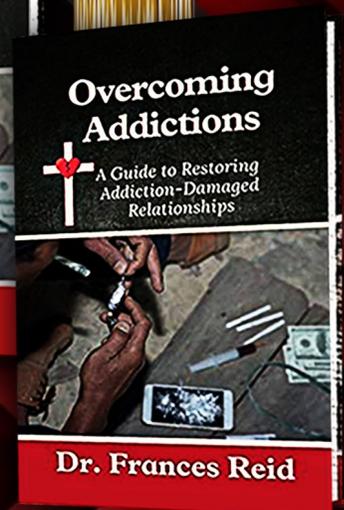
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Overcoming Addictions: Companion Workbook Paperback \$14.99



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.

Standing in the Doorway at the Threshold into the New Room

By Eunice A. Christian

December 5, 2020

Revelation 21:1-8* ~ ¹Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ²Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, **Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.** ⁴**And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.** ⁵Then He who sat on the throne said, **Behold, I make all things new.** And He said to me, **Write, for these words are true and faithful.** ⁶And He said to me, **It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.** ⁷**He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.** ⁸**But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.**

* * *

Introduction

The theme for this month is ***Standing in the doorway at the threshold into the New Room.*** Initially, I could not determine the path in which to go that I thought would be inspiring to others. However, and eventually, thoughts began to come my way that kindled a message that I hope will, in turn, inspire you, the reader, to know God and His Son, Jesus, more. As it is written, *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* (2 Timothy 2:15; Kings James Version.) It is my hope that you will read the scriptures for yourself to confirm that what is shared in my article. Needless to share, and just as important, that is just what God desires and requires of us.

As is my custom, I like to break down the theme so as to provide a better understanding of my message. *So, here I go.*

Standing: Physically | An Affirmation | Reputation

Standing, or taking a stand, can mean: (1) that one is upright with the use of his or her feet (physical); (2) that he or she is taking a stance pertaining to a matter of the heart or conscience (an affirmation); and (3) a description of one's character (reputation). (A negative standing would be, for example, someone of *ill repute*.) Additional examples:

Physical: *They are standing in front of the garage doorway.*

Affirmatively: *We are standing in the need of prayer.*

Reputably: *This physician's standing among his peers is truly impressive.*

Having shared the above examples, I have decided to take *all three of these concepts* into consideration for this month's theme, ***Standing in the doorway at the threshold into the New Room.***

Matthew 6:5 ~ ⁵**And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.**

Ephesians 6:10-16 ~ ¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and having shod your feet with the preparation of

the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

John 8:44 ~ ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Many Are Called, Few Are Chosen

It is written, **Many are called, but few are chosen** (Matthew 22:14). According to the Holy Scriptures, many are called, but few are chosen because God allows humankind the freedom to choose spiritual life or spiritual death. Unfortunately, multitudes will gravitate to matters of the flesh which is at enmity to the Spirit of Christ (The Book of Romans 8). To receive spiritual life is to accept Jesus The Christ, as one's personal Lord and Savior. To accept spiritual life is to acknowledge Jesus as the Son of the Living God. To deny that He is the Son of God is to deny God Himself. To the peril of one's soul, to deny God is to deny the power of the Holy Spirit, The Comforter (John 14:16).

Before Jesus left the earth in the natural, before His crucifixion, He not only gave witness to His Father, but also taught and warned His disciples of the importance of the Believer's relationship to God the Father and Holy Spirit. Jesus taught that to go against God and to speak against the Holy Spirit is to speak condemnation against oneself. So, if one is to be considered God's chosen vessel, one must not only accept Him for who He is, but all of Him—His Son, Jesus, and The Holy Spirit—collectively, The Holy Trinity. To deny The Holy Trinity is to deny oneself of spiritual life and peace.

Many are called, but few are chosen, because many will want to appease their spirit of self-gratification (James 1:20-22). Many believe that to live a holy life is equated with a life void of pleasure and prosperity. Of course, there are varying pleasures; not all are meant to feed the flesh or will cause disgrace upon a Christian's walk in God. Yet, what the multitudes who turn away from God focus upon is that God does not promote worldly values—and rightly so—The Holy Word clearly expresses how worldly desires can hinder one's spiritual walk in God. Excessive focus upon worldly values can cause us to lose focus upon what God desires in our walk in Him. God wants us to be blessed and favored—*that we are right now*—but our purpose in God is to win souls for the His kingdom. There should not be any thing greater than knowing that one is saving souls. Multitudes equate the Christian walk with living a life of dread—there is nothing farther than the truth. Loving and worshipping our Lord and our God is a beautiful experience—*because our Lord and our God are real!* What the Holy Word teaches about God the Father and Son are true. God is a loving Father who looks after His own (John 3:16).

Matthew 7:13 ~ ¹³ Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

The Joy of the Lord Is Strength and Peace

There is great joy in knowing that when we place God first, we have access to blessings that the world cannot take away from us. We have peace in the time of storm. We have a purpose in life that enhances our lives and the lives of those who receive through us the gospel. I am a witness to how, in spite of all the harshness of life, God continues to bless with unmeasurable peace and favor. To share, it is disheartening to see how many do not believe; it is even sadder to see how some are even angry at God. And if this was not enough, it is heartbreaking to see and know how those who walk with ministerial titles made or make a mockery out of the gospel by how they preyed upon the innocent and weak in spirit. That is why we should all that much more not shut God out of our lives. God warned us through His Holy Word that trials and tribulations will come, and that there will be wolves among the sheep (Matthew 10:16), but because of Jesus and His obedience to His Father,

we have the gift of everlasting life. We have the blessed assurance that this world is not our final resting place. Being within the Will of God is far more gratifying than being anywhere else in this world, and to add to this immeasurable blessing, our heavenly Father bestowed upon us through His Son Jesus, the power of The Holy Spirit as our Comforter and Guide.

It is a shame that there are those who share the gospel, but who also walk a contrary life. It is even a greater shame that those outside of God's Will looking in are discouraged by this fact. It is one thing to fall short; no one is without sin—repentance should and must follow (1 John 1:9)—but if one lives a deliberate life of sin and expect it to be fine with God, such a walk is on precarious ground.

On another note, one would be surprised to know or learn who in their midst are knowledgeable about the Will and Word of God—and may be even gifted in the spirit of prophesy; however, will not profess Jesus openly, lest their peers frown upon them. These are those who have allowed the cares of this world to choke the Word of God from their hearts, believing that to reveal their faith in Christ means to lose what they want, what they need, and what they consider as more valuable in life (Mark 4:19). *Perhaps, this is what God would want them to be, under the radar Christians? Uhhh...what do you think?* What I know is that I know too much about God to keep Him to myself. *I am in my Room. I praise God in my Room.* Then there are those who think, *Why become saved? Look at what she is going through.... Or, for those who are favored, but are backsliding...look at what ☹☹ and ☹☹ are doing! Aren't they God-fearing people? They're not doing better than I! Why should I receive or believe anything they share with me pertaining to the Word of God? (O.K., I thought to change it up a bit with a couple of visual effects.) Those who are fighting the good fight of faith—keep on fighting! Those who profess to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, but are not walking upright—abandon your ways that are contrary to His Will and repent—you're damaging your testimony in the sight of others.* As Believers, we know that God is merciful and kind, He will pardon those who come to Him with a sincere heart and a transformed mind (Ephesians 1:7).

Romans 8:23 ~ ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

1 Peter 5:8 ~ ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Don't Criticize or Turn Away From The Gospel

When a person does not know God, or understand His Will, he or she not speculate but should study the Word of God for him- or herself, *a workman who need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth* (2 Timothy 2:15). That is also why one should remember, as expressed above, that *many are called, but few are chosen* (Matthew 22:14). So, if you, being an unbeliever, had read the Word of God, and then were blessed to have your eyes become spiritually opened, you will then understand that this world we live in is not our own (John 15:18-25). You will or should have opened eyes to understand and receive that many who end up denying God will one day cry, *Lord! Lord! but* will not make it in. You may also realize as a Believer that there will be experiences in life that will set you apart from those who you thought would be your partner, or close friend, for life. This may be a painful experience, too; however, I have learned that sometimes it is for the good for spiritual growth. The most important takeaway is that whatever comes our way, God will grant us peace beyond measure if we desire to receive Him at His Word, and that Jesus saves—for without Him in our lives, there is no remission of sins (Matthew 26:28).

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' disciples were touched by The Holy Spirit to remember His teachings; having contained God's message to the world in the form of a collection of books that were written over 2,000 years ago collectively named The Holy Bible. *So, how can we*

ever doubt or denounce a collection of books that were written over 2,000 years ago that pretty much shouts relevance today? To turn away from God's teachings and path is to reject The Living God. To reject The Living God is spiritual suicide.

Knock and the Door Shall Open

I would like to share now that I was not finished with expounding upon the word: *Threshold*. When one is standing at a threshold, one is standing at a border (usually a wooden plank) that signifies the separation of an area of space. A threshold confirms the division of two rooms. So, if one is standing at a threshold, it means that one is standing at a place where there is an entrance to another specifically defined room. *Have you ever entered a dwelling place where there was a wooden plank on the floor, and then a thought such as: 'This must be the dining area' or 'This must be where the living room ends.'* If one is standing at a threshold, the border between one area of space and another, it also means that he or she has not yet entered into the other room, but is on the border line or near to it. *Have you ever explored a building, or a place where you approached the threshold of another room, but for some reason, dare not go in—and not for any obvious or apparent reason?—i.e., no warning or signs prohibiting to do so. On the other hand, have you ever approached an unfamiliar threshold, but felt confident that you were meant to go forward? Do you ever remember coming to a new threshold, where there was also a door that was closed in order to get to the other side?* This analogy is to stir up your consciousness that if you have not fully entered into the presence and place of God, you will not know Him for yourself because you were afar off from Him. Also, if you are fearful of knowing God, do not be. What you should fear is not knowing Him and losing your own soul.

Acts 26:28-29 ~ ²⁸ Then Agrippa said to Paul, *You almost persuade me to become a Christian.* ²⁹ And Paul said, I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains.

Enter The New Room

In visiting again the theme for this month, *Standing in the doorway at the threshold into the New Room*, means to me the place of transformation. It is a place where newness begins. ***The New Room is the place where we meet Jesus for ourselves. The New Room is a place in our own heart.***

To have biblical truths come your way and you still not desire to enter into God's presence, or to not enjoy the blessings of *The New Room* is to stand at the threshold of salvation, but not receive it. To not enter into *The New Room* is to deny who Jesus is, or not believe that Jesus The Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. To not take part of what *The New Room* offers is to succumb to all the sinfulness that plagues this world. To succumb to this world is to take the stand that it is preferable to lose one's soul because to follow Christ Jesus equates to missing out on the *quote finer close quote* things in life (James 1:20-22).

As Believers, we know the importance of seeking the presence of the Holy Spirit which is calming, comforting, and peaceful. Supported by the Word of God, fellowship, fasting, praying, and singing scriptures, we are encouraged and uplifted. We have the blessed assurance that we are heaven-bound—one day to become free from this world of sin (John 14:27) upon Jesus' return (1 Corinthians 15:52-54). So when trouble comes our way, we do not handle it like those in the world who act as though they have no hope. So, if you do not know Jesus The Christ for yourself, if you have not yet trusted in The Living God and His Word, the written word which has been documented over 2,000 years ago in various languages for various cultures, ask yourself, *Why not? I bet you do not have a good reason.* So, if you are at the threshold of *The New Room* where Jesus is knocking,

where Jesus is calling to you, go to Him—or let Him into your heart—while the blood is still running warm in your veins.

In closing, I would like to further expound upon this month's theme. *Did you know that the word 'threshold' also means a place or a point of a new beginning? Now, guess what?* Since you are reading this article, or if you have previously read inspirational writings, or if you have already read The Holy Bible, Jesus has already knocked in order to get your attention and is waiting for you to embrace *your new beginnings, your New Room—the New Room of your heart.* So, if you have not already done so, make space for Jesus The Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit in your life. Listen to His voice and the unction of The Holy Spirit. Embrace our Lord and God while you still have time.

Luke 13:25 ~ ²⁵ When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from....'

Revelation 3:20 ~ ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.

* * *

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

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

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

Eunice A. Christian

Content Writer; Missionary

Stay Encouraged

We cannot truly fathom how great our Lord and God is, but what we can identify with is our Lord and our God's mercies towards us. Knowing that there are recorded accounts of how Jesus walked this earth—and knowing how He lived and died for us—should cause us to serve Him with an abundance of gratitude and humility. We know that we could never repay Him for what He has done, and continues to do for us, by the power of the Holy Spirit—we know this—but the way we can honor Him is to love and obey Him.

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

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

* * *

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

So, if you'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. ❤️

We are returning to a Virtual Service platform
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God will let You!

C.A. Dangerfield II

An often-familiar comment was made to me when I was a Training Manager and worked in Continuous Improvement with the responsibility to encourage, enlighten, and motivate. In the course of my presentations, I would get this response "They won't let me" the first time I heard that I asked whose they? The more I would get this comment of loss of hope I came to the understanding of the mental bondage and mental imprisonment that had been implemented and accepted by these individuals who had lost their God-given identity.

To me, this very statement was so contrary to everything I had read and learned from the Word of God. Rather than become a part of the mindset of the environment that I was in. I rebuke the spirit and mindset from within that I would not become sympathetic to it nor a cheerleader of it. Because you can become like your environment or your environment can become like you when you can stand within the strength of Jesus Christ. The greater understanding, I was also receiving was the sources to which we attach ourselves to does provide some input to our outlook depending on how much we yield to it.

The statement also declares that one has also rendered or submitted themselves to their authority. Therefore, having no power of decisions of their own, they have instead surrendered everything to another. Being content simply as a pawn. Stop and think about it you have decided to let another typecast your future in the role of a participant rather than a contributor/creator/producer within the cultivating trenches that nurtures growth.

Stop and consider this greater yet better opinion. It has a monumental impact on yourself based on your thoughts. Realizing that the most influential people are those who serve others in humility because they leave behind the residue of their unique touch. Not for recognition per se but because that is the gifted part of their nature. That's why we thank God for their presence as an instrument used by Him that we too might be able to reciprocate in another. Take another moment to deposit that within your spirit that it might blossom in you. Each generation is sustained by those who seek to do the will of God and demonstrate the nature of Christ that others will find hope.

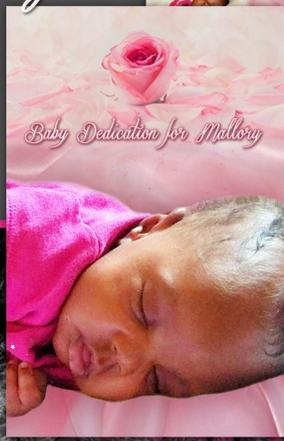
The nature of the world can present a less promising picture because of the examples of some crass, cold and, calculating individuals who have been positioned within the limelight. Which unfortunately sometimes positions them as an authority just because of fame or social status. Because of pride, they will revel in the unproven level of exaltation even to the costly expense of another's life rather than seek help from one who is well versed. Rather than share in any acknowledgment with another, making life's path more difficult and in some cases devastating, to say the least. Compassion for their fellow man is nowhere within the atmosphere or immediate environment they simply just don't care it's all about their agenda.

We have to learn to pay attention, close attention accessing the smallest of details concerning every aspect of situations that could impact our lives and the generations to come. In doing so we can avert devastating outcomes by applying what the word prescribes. So, it is imperative that we come well versed in the word God. Study to show yourself approved because in doing so you will stop living by reactions and rest in the fact that through your study your trust level will increase and you can rest in God. Therefore, you then will be able to rest in God because you understand and believe in God and respond to what the word of God has proclaimed. Your faith will increase and you can and will be able to speak into the atmosphere and God will allow it to respond. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and mind.



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Minister: Do you commit before God and I witnesses that you will do all that is within your power to maintain your home where Malory will be cared and loved, and do you consent to rearing this child and honor God with all her heart?
 Parents: We do.
 Charge: Bishop Carlton L Williams

Minister: Do you commit before God and I witnesses that you will do all that is within your power to maintain your home where Malory will be cared and loved, and do you consent to rearing this child and honor God with all her heart?
 Parents: We do.
 Charge: Bishop Carlton L Williams

Baby Malory
 Scripture: Psalms 127:1-5
 1 Samuel 1:27-28
 Statement of Intent: Bishop Carlton L Williams

Baby Dedication for Malory
 Minister Shermel Epps
 Mother Patti Grant
 Statement of Intent: Bishop Carlton L Williams

God established the home as one of the most vital institutions on earth. God said to Adam and Eve, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth." Since that time, God has blessed man and woman with the wonder of birth.
 We can take our role of faith and practice for this service this morning from God's Word, the Bible! We find several accounts in the Bible of children being dedicated to God. Samuel was dedicated to God in 1 Samuel 1:26-28. Jesus was dedicated to God in Luke 2:22-23.
 So we come today, not only to ask God's special blessing on this life, but also to challenge and encourage the Mother and God Parents to love and care for Malory and give every opportunity to live the kind of life that God wants her to live.
 So in this act of dedication, I ask these questions:
 Minister: Do you, Tonya Norman and God Parents present Malory to God?
 Parents: We do.
 Minister: Do you stand before us and before God today seeking to be Godly examples? Parents: We do.

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&
Pastor Ella J. Alexander*

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“LIVE”

Who Will Stand Between the Dead and the Living?

By Elder Diane Harvell

Like many, my heart is saddened to say the least, concerning the current events of today. As I prayed, I heard the Lord say, "Sons of Korah" and so I searched the scriptures for the answer to the Lord's instruction and He directed me to the 16th chapter of Numbers.

It was amazing to me how quickly the Lord "heard my humble cry."

In short, the story within the 16th chapter of Numbers tells of Korah who had an important responsibility within the tabernacle, (the church) but he wasn't satisfied with that. He wanted to be a priest and challenged God's appointed priests, Moses and Aaron and their priestly positions, thus he challenged God. Korah's sin is that he rebelled against God's authority to appoint as leaders' men of His own choosing. Korah also influenced many others to go along with him in his revolt and God destroyed them all but by this time the congregation of Israel accused Moses and Aaron of having killed "the people of the Lord." And as a consequence, God slew 14,700 people with a sudden plague. People began to die!

It's dangerous to agree or to "go along with the crowd" and to go against what God desires and whom He has chosen as His priests or those He called to do His will. This rule especially applies to the people of God. Korah and those who followed him were people of God and Korah influenced the people to talk against Moses and Aaron. Although Korah and some of his followers were destroyed the remnant of the congregation, began to say "Ye have killed the people of the Lord." This provoked the Lord to anger and a plague of death began to strike the people!

We cannot call good evil nor can we call evil good! There is a great temptation today to go along with the popularity rather than the word of God. What God has called sin is sin. What He has called an abomination is an abomination. Whom He has chosen, He has chosen for His specific purpose(s). To influence others to go against God's will, is to call God a liar and will bring the wrath of God upon the people. So, the Lord allowed a plague of death to destroy the people. Sound familiar?

We cannot continue to go along with the world because "it's a new generation," or "generation Z or generation X."

Romans 3:4—"God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar."

To stop the plague, it took the same priests whom the people had murmured against to intercede, for God to have mercy upon them. Moses instructed Aaron to take incense from off the alter that was burned and carry it quickly to the congregation to make an atonement for them because the wrath of God had quickly fallen! And Aaron ran into the middle of the assembly (church), to make an atonement for the people; "And he stood between the dead and the living; and the plague was stopped."

We may not agree and may have our own opinions about whom the Lord has chosen to lead, but we must ALWAYS respect the will of God and never go along with the crowd especially if they have rejected the will of God!

We are in the world but not of the world.

Romans 12:2-“And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Proverbs 14:12-“There’s a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”

Lesson: God is The Only One who has the authority to declare a people, place or thing, evil or good or to choose whomever He wants to bring about His purpose. Going against His authority brings horrible consequences, and many will suffer and die, but we the true leaders of God, must prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” and stand between the dead and the living and make an atonement for the sinful rebellion of man!

For me, it's no time for church as usual, no time for more conferences or convocations, it's time to Stand Between the Dead and The Living and declare the righteousness of the Lord for the healing of the land!

May God Bless You All!



Ladies & Gentlemen,
Introducing Diane Harvell, author of

"Praising My Pond"

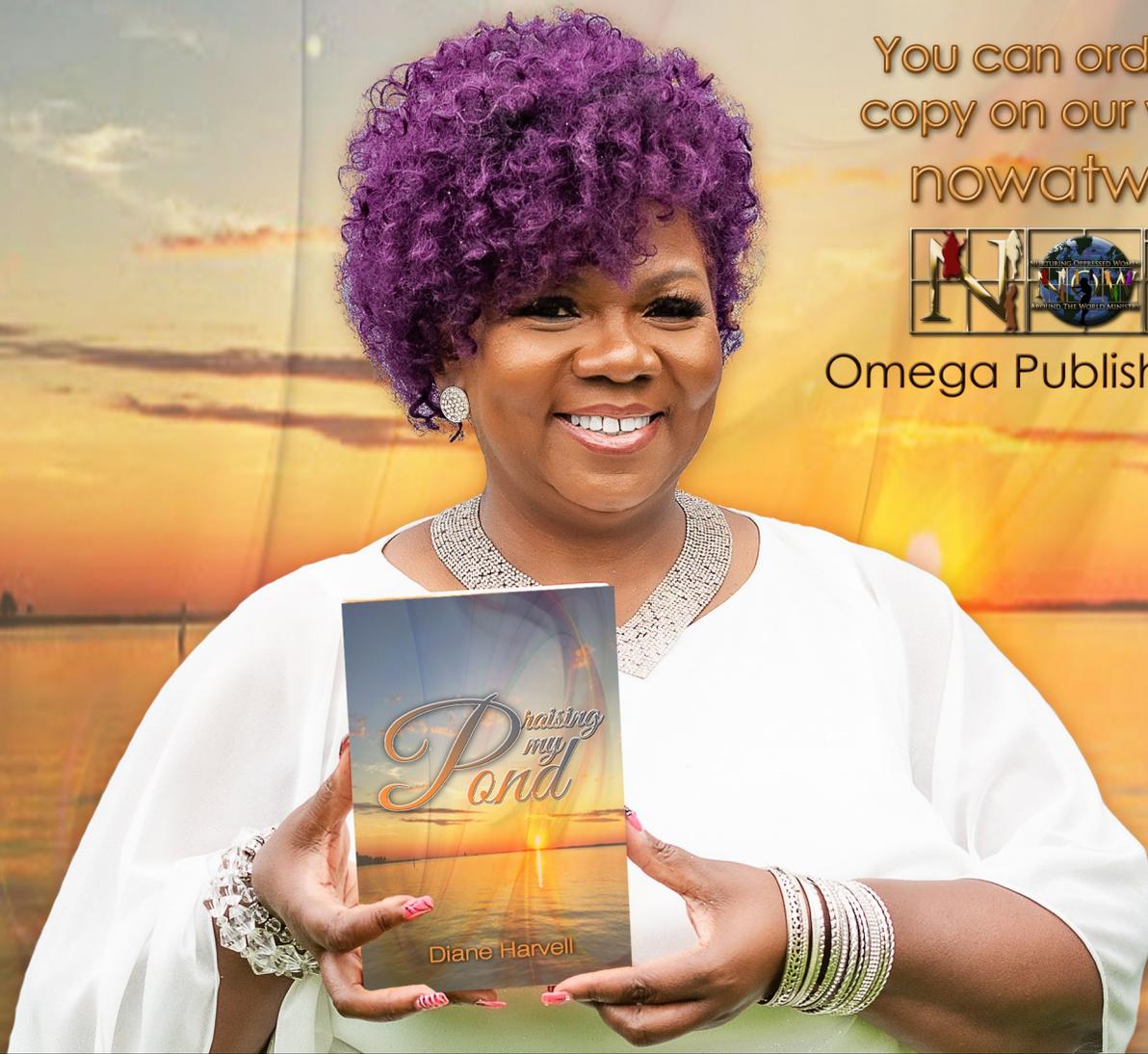
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The Call to the Ministry (excerpts from *Praising My Pond* by Diane Harvell)

He explained we would sit before The College of Bishops of Bethel Churches of Christ, where questions would be asked of us and if they felt we were not ready, we would not be "passed" into a leadership role in the gospel and would have to come back again next year! It was all so exciting yet nerve wracking at the same time. But Bishop was such a loving personable leader, yet he pushed us into areas of excellence, and he did not compromise his standards. He was very serious concerning God and he expected nothing less than excellence from his flock and more so from his "Aspirants." That's what we were called until we would become ordained Elders. Those who were going to be ordained Elders, Ministers or Deacons, were all called Aspirants of the Bethel Churches of Christ.

Have you truly allowed God to Cleanse the wounds within your Life?

Dr. C.A. Dangerfield II

Some people don't understand that there is a process that has to be administered when treating a wound that it will not become infected. An astringent has to be applied to disinfect the wound. So the impurities have to be drawn out in order for successful healing to take place and to eliminate the chance for infection or reinfection in the area of the wound.

So it is with events that happen in our lives that have an impact that creates challenges. We have to take it to the Chief Physician that will walk us through the diagnosis identifying the issue that is affecting us. Providing the consultation regarding that which is in us and how to properly apply the prescription that has been prescribed for us. Most importantly to complete the process in order and entirely. Go back through the scripture and look at the case studies demonstrated throughout the record in the word showing outcomes based on the decisions made. Remembering the word teaches us there is nothing new under the sun.

Apply the prescription this will draw you in closer to Christ, because He will change you from the inside out. He will listen to you during your initial consultation and guide you through the healing process of mending your wounded or broken heart with compassion and understanding. He will guide you through rehabilitation by strengthening your mind and spirit reassuring you that you are strong enough to stand and move forward successfully in life no matter what was in your past. Because you have survived whatever the circumstances and situations were because you have a purpose and your existence matters. In spite of what anyone may say about you. God's word proclaims in Psalms 139:14 "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." You will always have the assurances to know going forward knowing that He will always have a presence in your life.



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There is a Pathway to Hope

Dr. C.A. Dangerfield II

We are coming to the close of this very trying year 2020. 20/20 vision has clearly been exposed this year to show mankind how misaligned with God we truly are. Yet we still walk around with blinders on as if we don't see. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 2 Corinthians 4:8 KJV

We have gone through so much worldwide that has touched every nation because we forsook our creator. Placing so much in front of Him who makes all things possible and not presenting our best. Because of our arrogance and disobedience, we have lost many and sacrificed others behind our actions. We also pulled back the veil and completely exposed our evil, harmful, and compromising ways. Yielded our principle to the temptations and manipulations of the enemy of our soul. Accepting false promises, trinket, and disobedience to the Word of God sacrificing millions around the world. The literal treasure that would still be here had we been obedient.

I understand that we all have been touch by something that has happened, political unrest, racial tensions, health pandemic, and even economic hardship which are just a few things that have impacted all of us in one way or another. I also understand that this has been overwhelming for some in one capacity or another and they are extremely worn out from the devastation. For some who have lost key and essential people that were a part of their lives. We must share and show patience providing comfort to them. Grief is not a short-lived process and it affects everyone differently. Some people may be able to power through it and years later break down from the loss. I have witnessed that happen because there is no set way of dealing with a loss.

We are also in a period of time where we must self-reflect our own true standing with God. Do we still have the same excitement and level of intimacy we experienced when we first established our relationships with Him? Or do we feel some sort of distance because we allowed ourselves to be distracted or caught up which took that focus, we had in another direction?

This is our wake-up call to a new room, a new reality, but we first must be in the posture of humility with repentance upon our lips. Those who truly understand will accept the diagnosis and hear the voice of the Chief Physician applying the treatment, part take of the only prescription that will deliver healing and deliverance for a cure. And the Lord appeared to Solomon by night and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for a house of sacrifice.

2 Chronicles 7:12 KJV

If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; 2 Chronicles 7:13 KJV

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14 KJV

Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attend unto the prayer that is made in this place 2 Chronicles 7:15 KJV

God will provide a way to return to our first love as long as we demonstrate a humbleness and willingness to do so then we can move forward into the chapter of our life in Him to walk out our destiny. Clearly understanding our purpose with the gifts and talents he has placed with us. Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the thoughts I think towards you sayeth the Lord. thoughts of peace and not of evil to give you an expected end. Learn to live in expectations as we expand our trust and hope in our Father.



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Ability to Listen

Hold on to your Aspiration, walk out your Dreams, stand in your Purpose

Gaining an Understanding

It's amazing how emboldened that some people get to think they have the right to typecast someone's life to fit their needs. Always trying to push their agenda to meet their motives unconcerned with the desires or aspirations of another. Failing to understand that this situation will be short-lived and the outcome could become volatile and even devastating to the point of no reversal and a bridge destroyed.

Everyone is entitled to live out their dreams as well as their God-given purpose in life. One must understand their worth and true destiny and that is not to be manipulated by another.

Demonstrate Integrity

Being Accountable

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

Entitlement Creates Entanglement

Dr. C.A. Dangerfield II

Webster defines Entitled

1. having a right to certain benefits or privileges

2. having or showing a feeling of entitlement spoiled, entitled attitude/behavior leading and entitled life

we are also the so-called generation

Entitlement

a. the state or condition of being entitled, Right

b. a right of benefits specified especially by-laws or contract belief that one is deserving of or entitled to certain privileges.

Entangle

to wrap or twist together: interweave

: Ensnare to involve in a perplexing or troublesome situation to make complicated.

This has been a trying year for our nation and the world; however, our nation has created a much more intense and troubling situation for itself. The only way out of it is to admit our transgression and humble ourselves. This has been and still is the plight of this nation. We have not learned that when we continue to operate in error, we will be held accountable at a higher level than ourselves which is God our Creator.

Honesty is one of the first remedies alongside humility that must be applied in our current situation. The nation has been in turmoil throughout its history and has changed course to a more humbling spirit and less of a spoiled brat due to our entitled mindset within. When we go back and look at the many times and come to the realization that our principles and core foundation had shifted away from alignment with God and sent us as a nation spiraling towards destruction until we owned up to our transgression and that remnant of individuals stood in the gap and got into the posture of humility and God heard their cry. Which allowed a period of recovery?

When we fail to watch and pray and be conscious of both the natural and spiritual aspects of our life, we digress back to a place of tremendous turmoil brought on by ourselves due to our disobedience. This is a fact and not debatable because history holds the truths to our insanity. We keep allowing the same sort of behaviors time and time again to resurface and jump on board as if it were something new trying to drag society back to a place where selfish, spoiled and entitled individuals can oppress. This is utterly contradictory to the principles of God and should be a red flag for us to pay attention to. But man has become a surface thinker, a microwave thinker in his actions which gives him no response time for redirect and clear sight. The fact that we are in this state of mind with these sorts of actions we fail miserably at paying attention to the very important details which speak to the impact that affect the outcome in a great way.

Sadly, then we will find ourselves in the same place we are now. Where the tonic salesman came to town with a so-called cure without any evidence to prove it. So, he lies and pretends in order to capture the desires of the naïve who are overzealous and oblivious to reality. So, he continues to present false hopes until the scales are removed from their eyes and clarity sets in and reality returns. The Bible instructs us to watch as well as pray in order to do that we have to be conscious of our surroundings. When we have a relationship with Christ, we know His voice and we understand the leading of the Holy Spirit into all truths. Then and only then we can avoid the traps and mayhem that could be launched by the enemy. We don't want to find ourselves as a participant in the blind leading the blind. So, we have to study the word of God so we don't find ourselves caught off guard. We individually have to do the things that are required so that we don't spend our lives traveling on unintended paths. Fortify your relationship with God it's personal and intimate and the outcomes are marvelous and true.

As we come to the last month of this year, we must reflect on the things which we have observed and learned. We have had a year with many challenges that I feel were in place to help us grow and mature to a better place going forward. This year has truly exposed all of our areas of opportunity as individuals and as a nation. If we are truly paying attention to the details, we all around will come full circle in our understanding. Allowing us to make wiser decisions in the future for a greater outcome. We have been granted some grace going forward provided we don't repeat the same transgressions. Learning not to turn a blinded eye or silence our voice when we should stand up and speak out truths against known lies not fear retribution, but more so fearing God.

I have personally come away from the conversation which we have had with a broader understanding. I have learned from everyone regarding their fears, areas of discontentment, and common concerns. We have had the important conversations of how to bring forth resolutions applying the principles of God to the vast situations that made for these much-needed conversations. Truly walking into next year understanding that the initial change to our society begins with the initial change that starts within us before it can be directed without towards others. We need to be the first partaker of our own desires for our society by being the visible example.

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IT'S TIME TO **REPENT** &
come to the place of Humility

Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good, lead me into the land of uprightness. Psalms 143:10

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

WARNING

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

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

Acts 1:11

Bishop Carlton L Williams



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What Reflection of Christ are We Displaying?

Dr. C.A. Dangerfield II

In this season that we are living in with everything literally all over the place mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. The question comes to mind what reflection from our own individual life demonstrates the principles and attributes of Christ? What about our walk says to others he or she has a relationship with Jesus? These two questions should cause us to pause and self-examine to ensure that our character, as well as our integrity at the very least, provides hope to others of a better way in the midst of all that is going on. When we align ourselves with Christ it brings his Word to light in such dark places that people are dealing with. One thing we all must do is learn to be obedient. Realizing that His Word will not come back void. Warnings come before destruction and to obey is truly better than sacrifice. Walk-in His Word and His way. Let's prove what is that good, acceptable, and perfect will of God. For those who may not really know just take some time out and have your own conversation with God, you won't be disappointed!

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A Conscious Realization

Dr. C.A. Dangerfield II

I was alone driving down the road admiring all things around me. I came to realize that we never really paused and consciously look around us and appreciate our blessings. What we do in most instants is to find something to be disenchanted with and make that our focus for the day. That seems silly, yes, it is but the fact is we may find ourselves engaged in continuously taking this outlook time after time. When we stop and examine this sort of behavior in ourself we should come to the understanding that we have more to be thankful and grateful for. In fact, we have missed out on a significant part of our day. That is giving God praise because we have been allowed and blessed to just be present. Existing in this awesome atmosphere and once we grasp that we can go up from there. How you may ask? By how we process that which we see through the lens of our understanding in that which we see. Partly sunny or partly cloudy it is a choice given to how we declare that which is in our view. We speak to the atmosphere and our words of declaration become alive within our surroundings.

You can have two individuals standing within the same environment at the same exact time but they will declare totally opposite perspective. Sometimes that's due to how we have been encouraged to view life as a whole. The environments that we have grown up in and the influencers that were present to shape our views on life in general. The beautiful thing about life is when you have a relationship with God, life in general, takes on new meaning. transforming who we are, bringing us into our true selves. Aside from all the noise and chatter designed to distract us from receiving our manifold blessing while fulfilling our God-given individual purposes. Yes, we are in a very trying time now with a health pandemic crisis, financial challenges, and crazy political unrest. Here is something to think about aside from all of that when you are able to mentality, emotionally, and spiritually push your way through and go into your secret place with God, commune there with Him you will find contentment and peace because you can rest in knowing you are in the most secure place and you are blessed for being there. Enjoy that time and realize it's always accessible. He has given us this time to discover and rediscover it, take advantage of it, as for all the other surrounding things they will pass. Then you will gain back your true focus on what is truly real.



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Of these things put *them* in remembrance, charging *them* before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, *but* to the subverting of the hearers.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:14-15

When you Lead with Defiance what does that say about You?

Dr. C.A. Dangerfield II

When you lead with defiance what does that say about you? Especially when the request is in place to help others. Do you actually consider the request and open our hearts to compassion? Does the actual request put you at risk? Or are you feeling as though you are entitled to do as you will? These are questions that speak to motive rather than principles. God allows life to present tests to check our desire to follow the Will of God at all costs. Sometimes it's the simplest things that confound the so-called wise. The fact that we become dogmatic in our reasoning places us in a place of spiritual suicide against the principles of God. The question we should always ask ourselves is if this decision and stand I render now should I take my last breath finding myself standing before God. What would be my outcome? Sincerely it takes asking the extremely hard questions to bring us to a place of awareness of our own contribution to conditions within the atmosphere in which we are apart. Can we render some inconveniences to ourselves for the sake of ensuring the safety of another? Don't be hasty in negatively answering this question. For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth does speak. Once words release they manifest atmosphere change good or bad. The next question is what atmosphere have we created compassion or contention. It also speaks to the nature of our individual source that which we are plugged into that defines our character and exposes our heart.

THINK ABOUT IT



The mindset of the head controls the body. Therefore that which we process yields some form of response or reaction. The magnitude in which we choose brings forth an outcome in kind. Our history makes this statement relevant and also true.

C. A. Dangerfield II

