

Senior Moments with Jay

Happy New Year! Does it seem strange to be saying, “2025”? Well, of course, we’ll get used to saying it. But what a privilege we have to forge ahead with new ideas and new work for the Lord. Our theme for this year is: “Jesus Leads and We Thrive in 2025.” With that in mind, consider this thought: Living In The Way. This comes from scripture: Acts 26:19-20. The Apostle Paul is before King Agrippa and is giving his defense of the Gospel. “And so, King Agrippa, I obeyed that vision from heaven. I preached first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that all must repent of their sins and turn to God – and prove they have changed by the good things they do.” Many communities of faith make it a practice to tell one’s own story of faith. Stories are important ways to hear the Good News about God’s love. Some stories, like Paul’s, are dramatic. One day Paul lived like this, the next day he started living like that. A flash of light here, a miracle there – pretty amazing story! Other stories seem less dramatic. A person can grow up in the faith all their life with no drama, no big miracles, no flashes of light – and yet, it’s still a pretty amazing story. Maybe your story is like Paul’s. Maybe not! Either way, your story is unique because it’s about you – not Paul or the person on your right or left. It’s about you! And it’s about God in relation to you. So Your story is pretty amazing, too! Maybe you will tell your story on big stages or simply in living rooms. It doesn’t matter much. What matters is how you see your story within God’s story, how you express it when given the chance, and how you live it even when no one asks. Pam and I went to the cinema to see the movie: “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.” It’s a very good movie – one I recommend going to see. I saw this story by Bryon Hutson on Facebook, and it goes right along with the movie. You may remember Bryon as the lead singer for a while with the gospel group, “Soul’d Out.” A true story.

“Not long ago, I had a conversation with the most arrogant, self-righteous person. His ‘know it all’ attitude was almost sickening. Some of you might know him. His name is Bryon Hutson. Yeah, me! I was setting up our sound equipment in the church sanctuary and this little 4 year old girl was running around the church. Everyone else was in the church’s fellowship hall getting ready for Sunday School. She wasn’t bothering me. Her young (maybe 20 year old) Dad came in and told her it was almost time for class. She mumbled “No. Go away. I wanna play in here.” All I could think about was how my Dad would’ve never let me talk to him that way, and how I would’ve known better NOT to talk to him that way. My Dad DIDN’T put up with ANY back talk. None. Zero. Under my breath, I kept saying “if YOU were my daughter... My frustration level was getting high. NO, I never said a word, but I certainly thought it. The young Dad finally picked her up after several minutes of her purposely running away. He was so patient with her. I finished my sound check and set up our product and I went into the fellowship hall. The adult class had started their lesson, and there was the young Dad. Over the next few minutes I learned that the little girl’s Mom is not really involved in her life anymore. He’s trying to raise this little girl with the help of his parents. He said he felt like a failure that he had to move back home with his parents. But there he was TRYING. There he is in CHURCH. A new Christian. He’s got his baby girl in church. Both learning about Jesus. And here I am, old enough to be his Dad, not acting much like Jesus. He told the SS class that he wants to be a good Dad for his daughter. Most young men his age are staying home from church. Let me tell you, God really convicted me of my attitude. I judged this young man. I judged the situation. I was expecting her to know how to act in church. I was raised in church. They have only been going to church for a few weeks. I did not represent Jesus very well today. ‘Lord, forgive me for the times that I stand in judgment of someone when I should be the hands and feet of Christ. Help me extend grace. Help me be more like Jesus.’ This young Dad’s name is Joe. Would you all say a prayer for him as he continues his walk with Christ? And may we all strive to be more like Jesus.” And with those thoughts in mind, Bryon then went out to minister to the church.

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Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 200

Rev.7:1-9

Sealing the Saints

I V E L M A N A S S E H I F G
 O N E A R T H I R T V Y S R N
 P E O P L E S O S O R E R O I
 S P R E V E N T I S H E A B V
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 B E A D L I E L N A G C L S L
 I A V U C N S A B E V R H S E
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 T E B I U B E G E H O N E A R
 Z D T T N M W U S T A W P S T
 E A E L T A O A B H I H I H N
 N M Y U R L P G E E T H R N F
 U N I M A J N E B A N O W G G
 H P E S O J P A L M N M R A H
 S R E N R O C I E E H A D U J

ANGEL BENJAMIN
 ASHER BLOWING
 COUNT BRANCHES
 EARTH CORNERS
 GAD ISSACHAR
 HANDS LIVING
 HARM LANGUAGE
 ISRAEL MANASSEH
 JOSEPH MULTITUDE
 JUDAH NAPHTALI
 LAMB NATION
 LEVI PREVENT
 PALM REUBEN
 PEOPLE ROBES
 POWER SEALED
 TREES SERVANTS
 TRIBES SIMEON
 VOICE THRONE
 WHITE ZEBULUN

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Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 200

Rev.7:1-9

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 O N E A R T H I R T V Y S R N
 P E O P L E S O S O R E R O I
 S P R E V E N T I S H E A B V
 E S U E M U H C N C A N E E I
 B E A D L I E L N A G C L S L
 I A V U C N S A B E V R H S E
 R L B T O R R N L L E R D A N
 T E B I U B E G E H O N E A R
 Z D T T N M W U S T A W P S T
 E A E L T A O A B H I H I H N
 N M Y U R L P G E E T H R N F
 U N I M A J N E B A N O W G G
 H P E S O J P A L M N M R A H
 S R E N R O C I E E H A D U J

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Ephesians 2: 8-9 (NKJV)

⁸ For by _____ you have been saved through _____, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the _____ of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should _____.

L E O V

Y M C E R

E E T R L N A

Jude 1
21-22

²¹ keep yourselves in the _____ of God, looking for the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ unto _____ life. ²² And on some have compassion, making a distinction;

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