

Ring of Fire Ministries ~ Joy To The World... The Lord Has Come! Christmas Outreach 2024

May Jesus Bless You & Comfort You & Hold You In His Love!

When Jesus came, He brought everlasting... Joy To The World!

It is my heartfelt prayer for you, as the days unfold into the year 2025. May you, in truth, embrace that the Lord has come close to you. May your heart make room within for Him to dwell more and more every day, as He rules your world with both truth and grace, found singularly in the glory of His righteousness. And may His love be known to you in a most precious and exceedingly wonderful way, in that with great joy you unceasingly adore Him!

We, at Ring of Fire Ministries, hope you find comfort always in Him, through a growing and personal relationship, so you know you are never walking this path of life alone. He is always by your side and when you cannot take another step, Jesus will pick you up and carry you the whole way through until the end of whatever trial you are facing.

Jesus is a Wonderful Counselor ~ You can tell Him anything, while looking to Him for comfort and love.

Jesus is a Mighty God ~ He will save you, even from yourself sometimes, so you can trust Him faithfully.

Jesus is one with your Everlasting Father ~ He promises to guide you back to your Eternal Home.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace ~ With Him abiding within, you shall not be shaken.

May you fall deeper in love with Jesus every single day... Because, He already adores you! You matter to Him and you matter to us. It is our pleasure to assist you on your spiritual journey with Jesus.

In His Love, Angela

**If you need a Bible or a Study to assist you in learning more of Jesus & His ways, please write to us at:*

Ring of Fire Ministries, PO Box 5282, Grand Island, NE 68802

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*LET HER GO ~ Written By: David, Texas Inmate*

*When I said change, she looked at me strange, like what I said was insane. Maybe because, I wouldn't be the same or my old ways would no longer remain. I don't think she wants me to escape so much pain or enjoy the rainbow after it rains.*

*But easy is not my claim, change is hard and difficult to remain. Especially, when all of my life was the same thing - destruction, lies and games. Tough love and fake fame, looking up to people who are choosing the wrong dream.*

*Making excuses for my schemes, while blaming it on dysfunction when I'm to blame. Thats just a walk down, nowhere lane.*

*And I wasn't surprised that she looked at me that way. With her I really wasn't alive and at times I didn't believe I would survive.*

*Too many setbacks from a closed mind, knowing that it's not right. But, still doing the wrong things all the time, he was stubborn, selfish, and never kind.*

*Destroying, controlling, and hard to leave behind. It's true that love is blind. But I had to get rid of my love, and her name is pride.*

*A special thank you to David for blessing us all with this precious poem he wrote!*

## *A Message From Mares ~ It's About Jesus ~ Choose the Narrow Path*

I have been contemplating the great mercies God has bestowed upon me throughout my life. I should have been dead and gone too many times to count. Yet, God gave me more time and opportunities to change my ways, to choose a better way. It is God's very nature because He is our Heavenly Father, Who truly desires our good outcome. He gives us freewill to get banged up and even break a few bones by following our own desires, thoughts and belief systems, in hopes we figure out our way is not the best way. He quietly offers another pathway that is unlike the ways of this world. In the book of Matthew Chapter 7, Jesus teaches us that there are two paths to choose from in this world. There is a world pathway, that many follow readily and it's often well-travelled. And then there is another path, a path few take, few choose.

*Matthew 7:13-14 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

Few choose the pathway Jesus sets before us, because the world's path is so much more desirable to our eyes. The prince of this world tells us to feed our desires and take the worldly pathway. Jesus offers another pathway. All throughout the whole entire process we call our life here, we are learning and growing and choosing which path with every thought and deed. We can see that Ephesians 2 is actively playing out this very day in each of our lives.

*Ephesians 2:4-10 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us. Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

God sent His Word (Jesus) in human flesh to be the manifestation of His love for us. Jesus was born not of the nobility that the people were seeking. They were looking for a fierce strong king to come and subdue the kingdom and release those in bondage with great force. Instead, a babe was born in humble surroundings with a quiet announcement the rest of the world overlooked, save some shepherds and 3 wise men. He didn't come with a grand entrance and proclamation for all the world to be awestruck of such nobility and wealth as Kings would do who were of noble means. Everything about Jesus was easily overlooked because the people had it in their minds how their King would show up, and as a result, they missed it and for much of His life, they also missed the signs of his nobility. Today, there is a churning in us. A knowing that time is very short, and our Lord's coming is soon and very soon. He tells us in *Matthew 24* *it will be like the days of Noah, people going about their normal ways.* They were taken by surprise when the flood came. The end of time will be like that. Jesus tells us to keep watch for His coming and not get lazy falling into old habits thinking He won't come yet. The time we have right now to get ourselves ready, is a huge gift from God, allowing each of us this precious time to finish up loose ends and be sure our walk with Christ is sound and firmly planted in Him. Jesus is the gift and its better than any gift you can ever hope for. He is waiting and ready for all to accept Him and forgive and surrender to His love and His process. Choosing to take the narrow gate is the best choice we can ever make. It's not always the easiest pathway, but worth it in the long run. Jesus is the Greatest Gift we could ever long for. A Gift that will have lasting effects on us eternally. It's up to us to choose Him. For some of us, it may mean a recommitment of our faith and repentance of our backslidden ways. For others, it may be choosing Jesus for the very first time. Today is the day! Start right now! Tomorrow is not promised for any of us.

*Lord thank You for touching the hearts of those who read this letter. Let Your perfect will be done in their lives. This is my prayer for you. Precious Savior let me never underestimate or take for granted this time You granted. Never let me forget the mercy, love and grace You poured out to me. Show me the darkness that still resides in me that it be removed forever, as nothing of darkness will survive in Your glorious light. I want to be found in You Jesus. Help me to walk in Your ways, for my ways are not righteous and they are tainted with world beliefs from the prince of this world. I want to be more like You Jesus and less like me. It is in my heart's desire to serve You by shining the light of a lamp to this world so they can find You too. May the blessings and gift that Jesus is touch your heart and work mightily in your life. Amen*

*The Long Road Home*... I've come to realize in my latter years in life that all things have been purposed. Every event, good or bad, has brought me to this point. It has been a journey filled with experiences or what I have come to know as "choices". Each choice sets in motion a consequence. Many were not the right choice; however, even the bad choices ultimately took me closer to Home. Home meaning, Kingdom thinking. Being in Christ. Having a Christian belief in the return of Jesus Christ and the assurance that He is the present and future hope of believers. That He died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day.

Our Blessed Hope, Jesus Christ allows us the free will to choose... to make a choice. His hand is in all of it. The greater the fall... the greater the lesson. Those like myself, who have fallen far, understand this on a different level. And if we allow Him into our heart we have an opportunity to repent. We have an opportunity to change our stinking thinking. I must remember, my best thinking took me into darkness. My best thinking took me where I never planned to go, but through Christ was given an opportunity to become what I was truly sent here to be. Not what the world molded me into, but what the Word of God can mold me to be.

Being born into dysfunction and violence I sought an escape. In my early teen years I wanted to disconnect myself from my short past. Going to work gave me freedom, money and a way out of my circumstances. During this period I found a friend. A friend that would later betray me. A friend that would take everything. A friend I thought I could not live without. We did everything together. We became inseparable. His name was Alcohol.

If he couldn't go with me... I didn't go. Later I realized the separation from past friends and family. The disrupted holidays. The people I would avoid for him. I began to make new friends. People who shared my lifestyle. I was a dysfunctional, functioning alcoholic. Meaning that I could maintain parts of my life while other parts crumbled. It was a mask for the world. It was what I wanted everyone to see, not what was reality. Reality was that I was broken. I was broken emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Deep inside me I wanted change, but I had no idea on how to obtain it.

Many thought I was successful, as the world measures success, but I was unstable. Never dealing with the scars and trauma within me. I became hardened. Almost emotionless. I thought nothing could touch me. I thought I was invincible, but I was actually running away. Running away from the pain I could not face. Physical pain was easy compared to the emotional trauma within me. It was a pain I had no defense from and denied it all. Facing it scarred me more than anything. It was my Achilles heel. Something I feared I could not overcome or stand back up from. Even the thought of feelings scared me. Alcohol gave me the escape I sought.

I knew two emotions, anger and love; however my idea of love, at that time, was highly flawed. Love asks for nothing in return. Love expects nothing, but does everything for the sake of

another. Love has no promise or request behind it. To love for love's sake. Love does not have to be loved back. Christ is love and through Christ I can now love freely and continue to move forward in that understanding.

Knowing He loves me though I deserve nothing. Knowing He paid the price for my sins. How could I not be moved by that? He paid a price that I could not begin to pay back. No one else would stand in my place. No one, but He did. He washed me of my disgrace, my shame, my insecurities. Cleansed in the Blood of the Lamb. By His grace I am His. I owe Him everything. When I truly accepted Christ into my heart, my life did not immediately go from shame to glory, but there was a difference. A difference I could see and feel within me. A melting away of the old and a new beginning. The desire to drink completely left me. Alcohol was but a symptom of past scars. I didn't have to clean up first, nor wait for a future time. The time was now. To come as you are, with all the dirt still on me. In defeat and tears I gave all that I was to Him. In full admittance of my sins... asking for forgiveness. I stood up and began walking, but this walk was beside my Lord and Savior, Jesus of Nazareth. I no longer walked alone for He was with me.

Today, we continue this walk together and overcome what is brought before us. If you have not stood up yet... please consider the one who can heal all things, Christ. If you haven't been told how important you are today. You are important and you are loved. You matter. The farther we have fallen the more we can lift up. May the Lord bless you and keep you.

*Written By ~ Tom, A Servant Unto The Lord Jesus*