

February 2017 Second Chances

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

Did you know that God is a God of second chances? How many second chances have you been given? GOD IS A GOD OF SECOND CHANCES. Have you ever found yourself crying or yelling out to God for help for (one more chance)?

God is always listening and he is your protector. Some day you will be up against a wall and Jesus will make himself known to you at that very moment. Then and there prayer will become a life preserver and a fact of life in your life.

Prayer is an actual crying out to Jesus and it becomes the very part of your heart that draws you to him. Prayer is the key to relationship with Jesus. It doesn't have to be a prayer of beauty. Nor does prayer need to be just a list of things. Prayer should come from the heart; your heart – your gut prayer – life saving prayer.

Are you worthy of this second chance? Answer to that is no. But, God is a God of grace. A loving Father who meets you right where you are. Circumstances are usually not pretty. You are a mess. But, in this mess, God comes to bring you an answer, a life preserver. He extends his hand to bring you up and out of the mess. It doesn't matter whether the mess is big or small he wants to give you a second chance.

My personal experience is he shows up when I am at my worst. He loves me as I am. I don't have to prove anything or be anybody special. He takes me, mess and all. He hears my cry and meets me with his hand of grace and second – or in my case three or four chances.

Don't give up on yourself. He never gives up on you. Let him in your heart and take his hand of mercy.

Don't wallow in self-pity. That's what the Devil wants you to do. He wants to hold you prisoner thinking there is no chance. Forgive yourself; reach up and take God's hand. I have several times. He loves you; believe it.

Soft Caress

Mahonia Eurybracteata

This plant has yellow flowers with textured evergreen leaves. In winter it produces yellow blooms. It grows about three feet tall. It looks great in containers with big leafy plants. It takes part sun and shade.

The foliage is striking in contrast with lighter shades of green. This plant should be planted in well-drained soil.

I have never thought of this plant as being special. But this plant won the plant of the year award in London's Chelsea flower show. Steve Bender of Southern Living magazine even wrote an article on this plant.

Maybe we need to take a second look at this plant. Sometimes we miss what may be in front of us.

Hardy, beautiful, and a classic look; this plant definitely needs to be re-visited. Sometimes we need to take a step back and really look at the blessings we have. Not taking things for granted and really looking at what we deem as ordinary. Thanking God for all our blessings whether it may be family, friends or our gardens. God doesn't make mistakes.

Take a second look at things around you and thank God for all that we have. Even when you deem them ordinary.