

## Journal ARCHIVE 2015

### **JANUARY 2015:**

**01/01** - This [past year](#) was filled with many changes and blessings in my life, there were times when the hand of God was evident and my spirit was lifted by His awesome glory and presence. But there were also times when I allowed the influences of the world to distract me, causing doubt and making it very difficult at times to understand and recognize just what God's plan is for my life.

*But today is a new day, a new year, a new beginning, a new opportunity to experience a spiritual revival that will bring back the excitement and joy of living a life of Faith.*

*And so it is today I re-commit myself to the life God wants me to have, a commitment that starts with humility, confession, repentance and becoming a "doer" of God's Word!*

**01/11** - Monday January 5th was the final day of the 2014 "Check-Out Hunger Campaign"; a community-wide scannable coupon promotion sponsored by the Retail Grocers' Association in collaboration with the Harvesters Community Food Network. The program raised over \$450,000 last year that provided the community with over 1,350,000 meals.

*As the campaign comes to a close, I was tasked today with removing all campaign materials for my assigned store and giving thanks to the store for their participation.*

*I am truly blessed to have played a small part of this wonderful campaign to help provide food to those in my community who struggle daily with providing food to their families.*

### **FEBRUARY 2015:**

**02/01** - This year marks the fourth year since I began my personal Leap Of Faith, and as I continue this journey, I am constantly reminded that Faith is a process, with each day providing important lessons to becoming mature in my Faith...

*For I have seen the glory of God, and witnessed the power of Faith and prayer in my own life. And I have come to recognize those who are working quietly behind the scenes to bring honor and glory to His name...*

*Yet as a human being whose affected by his emotions, I find it difficult at times to sustain the emotional highs of God's presence over the long haul when everyday I bare witness to our societies cravings for physical pleasure, pride in achievements and possessions, and acts of hatred against one another, which makes even the most dedicated believer shake his head and wonder how we will ever endure to the end.*

*But God has given me the wisdom to understand that I MUST endure if I am to see the fulfillment*

*of His promise; the promise of a new life that will be filled with eternal joy and peace in the presence of our Lord and Savior - Jesus Christ. This is the promise and world in which I long for, and the message of hope that keeps me going!*

*And so it is today that I turn my eyes to the sky and humbly surrender myself to my Lord and Savior, asking Him to lift my burdens and strengthen my Faith so that I may endure to end!*

### **MARCH 2015:**

**03/14** - *It has been 16 months since returning back to the corporate world, an opportunity that was accepted as a blessing and gift from God, a chance to fulfill my role as a father and husband by allowing me to provide for the needs of my family.*

*Yet somehow I've allowed this blessing and gift from God to turn into a spiritual depression. Over the past few months I've allowed the demands and stress of my career to cloud my Faith. No longer do I have the patients, joy and peace that I once experienced not so long ago, no longer do I feel that my actions are bringing honor and glory to my heavenly father, no longer do I feel the light of the Holy Spirit shining through me like a lamp on a hilltop for all to know and see God's power and glory.*

*This spiritual depression has lead me to react to some of life's difficulties with anger instead of patience, selfishness instead of compassion and doubt instead of confidence. All of which has caused friction in my marriage and has allowed the temptations of this world to filter back into my life.*

*And so today, I took a long look in the mirror and came to realize, that in order for me to be God's vehicle, I need to once again surrender myself to God's message of salvation and truth that comes through Faith in our Lord - Jesus Christ. Only then will I be able to begin to fight the battles from within and rebuild my life to once again begin living the example of Christ for others to see and follow.*

*You see Faith is a growing process, with each day providing a challenge for us to become mature in our Faith. For it is through our weakness that God's strength is made clear, and it all begins with a good foundation...only when the roots of the tree are standing in firm ground can it weather the storms of this life and begin baring the fruit that brings glory to God.*

*There is a personal revival on the horizon, in fact it is here now. For today is the day to make that change, take the Leap Of Faith and begin experiencing the confidence and hope that comes from trusting in God to lift my burdens and fulfill His purpose through me.*

### **APRIL 2015:**

**04/05** - *And so it is on this day we celebrate and recognize the One whose sacrifice ripped open the veil of the Holiest of Holy's to reveal God's power and glory to ALL. For He has Risen, and given light where there was only darkness, and salvation and hope to those who choose the narrow path to His loving Grace. AMEN!*

**04/19** - *Everyday I see so much turmoil, suffering and pain going on in the world around me, and it makes me so grateful for the blessings and gifts that I've been given.*

*As I stand before Him with Humility, Trust and Faith, I am reminded of our Lord's sermon on the mount, and I find peace in the midst of my trials and tribulations here on this earth, and hope for those who believe!*

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.*

*Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall obtain mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure of heart,  
for they shall see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of God.*

*Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

*The Gospel of St. Matthew 5:3-10*

### **MAY 2015:**

**05/13** - *As my days seem shortened by the roles and responsibilities of the life I've been given, I cannot help but share this lesson in faith for all to know..*

*For only when we surrender ourselves to God's grace, and live each day with gratitude, humility and love for one another will we ever see our Faith come to fruition!*

*Everyday is a blessing, an opportunity to live in God's love for us, and we must accept each day as a gift. And in every circumstance in our lives we should be grateful for the One who brings us hope of a brighter tomorrow.*

*We should never give up or give in to the temptations that separate us from our heavenly father, But when we do, rest assured that we are forgiven when we turn away from our sins in earnest and seek His mercy.*

*For we must remember that it is in our weakness that God's strength is revealed, and when we put our trust and faith in Him, our days will be filled with joy, our efforts will bring forth glory to His name and we will see the kingdom of heaven!*

*Glory to GOD!*

**05/31** - *As children of God we are called to reflect the spirit and actions of our Lord and Savior-Jesus Christ.*

*For it is through our Faith in Him that we are given the power of the Holy Spirit, which comforts us in our times of need, and guides us in our actions so that the light of God's spirit will shine through us, and bring glory to His name.*

*Each day we have an opportunity to share His glory with those who need it the most, and today was just such a day...*

*Today, I shared the gifts of His blessings with the residents and staff of the Skilled Nursing facility where my Dad now resides...to Gayle, the gift of a wrist watch, to Sharmaine, whose daughter has been diagnosed with Lupus, a donation to the Lupus Foundation, and to my Dad a cup of hot soup, companionship and the gift of love in knowing that someone still cares about him..*

*It is a joyful day when I am able to bring happiness and love to those in need, I only pray that this journey and gift of giving and receiving will never end!*

## **JUNE 2015**

*The month of June has been filled with personal struggles as I face the battles that rage both within myself and the fallen world around me...*

*My days have been filled with the stress and pressures of work, taking care of my elderly father and the responsibilities of being a father and husband, which has left little time for professing my Faith for all those who want to hear.*

*Time has been my enemy, and although it saddens me to not be able to profess my Faith in action through my writing, I know in my heart the struggles I must bear are part of God's plan for me.*

*But through it all I have never grown weary of doing good for others. For when the season is right I know I will reap the fruits of His Glory if I do not give up.*

*The Bible references change and new beginnings in our lives as being seasons, which is a metaphor for God's perfect timing in delivering us through all the changes He makes in our*

*lives, and these seasons can bring about the blessings we reap from having been obedient in following him through those changes, even if we did not fully understand or welcome them.*

*The scriptures also tells us to never give up. No matter how long, strenuous and painstaking the road or trials are in our lives, there is always a new season ahead, a season of new beginnings.*

*As believers, we need to be incessantly grateful and continually thankful to God even when our future seems unclear, and stay firmly planted in our faith so we will never wither; but always prosper and produce good fruit.*

*Never stop believing and growing. We can never fully know what God's intentions are for us, but we can always do our absolute best with where He has placed us right now. Only then, when we have learned all there is to learn and are truly grateful in this place, this season, will God move us to a new, more bountiful, and blessed season.*

*For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1*

### **JULY 2015:**

**07/12** - *Today I sit humbly before God and give thanks and praise for all the gifts and blessings he has bestowed on me...*

*Thank you God for your loving grace; your special and undeserving gift of mercy and love, that promises us salvation through Faith in my Lord and Savior - Jesus Christ!*

*Thank you for granting me the wisdom to understand how to live a life filled with hope for a brighter tomorrow.*

*Thank you for showing me "the way" to finding peace and joy in my life.*

*My Trust and Faith is in YOU!*

### **AUGUST 2015**

**08/02** - *It is with great sadness that I received the news today that my beloved Dad has passed on after complications from a broken hip and the onset of Alzheimer's.*

*As I stood in my yard absorbing the news of his passing I heard the sweet song of a turtle dove. A subtle reminder that he is now in a better place where he can now join hands with my mother and feel the comfort of God's loving arms as they transcend the hardships and burdens of this world to take a new life that will be filled with peace and joy...*

*After caring for my dad for the past few years I've watched him go from an active, independent senior citizen, to a man who was unable to walk, talk or eat. And in the past few weeks I've watch him wither away like sand in a dust storm, a mere shadow of himself, and a breath away from finding the peace, happiness and forgiveness he's longed for.*

*Although my Dad had made some bad choices in his life that left an indelible mark on our family, I choose to remember the positive memories as a child growing up, and how his dedication as a father and provider set the example for me to become that man I am today.*

*I will miss the times when we use to have lunches together at the Don Bosco Senior Community Center, taking him to the grocery store and the VA for his regular medical check-ups, and our talks together about his life experiences in the Navy and his days spent with my mother.*

*I will miss his words of gratitude for being the son that was always there to care for his needs. For I know in his heart he was truly regretful for all the wrongs he had done in his life.*

*RIP Pops, I love you and I will miss you!*

*PS. I want to send my personal prayers of love and gratitude to my beloved brother and his family for helping to care for our Dad during this difficult time, and for finding it in their own hearts to forgive. And to the staff at the Jefferson Health Care facility where my dad was cared for with love and compassion his final days. May God bless their lives and remember the goodness in their hearts.*

**08/23** - *Bringing Honor and Glory to our heavenly father is the essence of our Faith, and the purpose of our life here on earth.*

*But our journey in Faith can be like a double edged sword...for there will be days when we experience the joy and peace that comes from having a personal relationship with God through His son Jesus Christ. And then there will be those days when we feel so alone as we try and deal with the daily struggles and difficulties of our daily lives..*

*But fear not, for you are not alone!*

*In my personal journey and walk in Faith I have discovered through the testimonies of countless believers, that they too experience these same difficulties and struggles, and in fact God's word itself speaks of countless stories of His faithful having to deal with these same difficulties.*

*For example, in the book of Psalms, which was written by some of early patriarchs and ancestors of His chosen people, we hear of the day to day struggles of a people who question "why" the God of their ancestors seems to have abandoned them as their enemies continue to oppress their lives and take over their land.*

*But just like the writers of Pslams, no matter how difficult life gets, we too must continue to give thanks and praise to GOD for all that He is and recognize the hope of an eternal life spent with our heavenly father is right around the corner IF we put our complete Trust and Faith in Him.*

*Yes, life in this fallen world will always be difficult, even for the faithful. But the struggles and pain we deal with are nothing compared to what was carried on the cross by our Lord and Savior - Jesus Christ, who paid the price in full for US, so that we may come to know our heavenly father and begin living a life with the hope and promise of a brighter tomorrow!*

*Everyday is a new opportunity to bring honor and glory to our Lord - Jesus Christ, and I challenge everyone who reads and hears my testimony to reach out to God during your times of struggle and difficulty, and pray these words...*

*"Heavenly father I pray on this day that you may lift my burdens, teach me your ways and show me the path that I should walk, and grant me the purity of heart so that I may bring you honor and glory in all that I do - AMEN"*

*Keep the Faith*

## **SEPTEMBER 2015**

**09/19** - *These last 2 months have gone by like a whirlwind in my journey and walk in Faith...*

*As I sit here today and reflect on the loss of my Dad, and the recent loss of a longtime friend, I start to realize how my make shift memorial of those I've loved and lost is starting to grow; 5 since 2011. A subtle reminder of just how short this life is and how important it is to "enjoy each day" with the one's you love.*

*In addition to that, my re-entry into the corporate world has limited my opportunities to truly reflect and express God's work in my life through my writing, and has limited my opportunities to interact with those who need to see God's light through my actions so they too may come to understand the power and glory of God.*

*But through it I have remained steadfast and true to my Faith. For I know that "God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to his purpose for them".*

*"We can make our plans, but in the end it is the LORD that determines our steps...for what we may suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later, and despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us"*

*Jesus was once asked by one of His disciples " Rabbi, "why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins?" And Jesus replied "No, It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins, this happened so the power of God could be seen in him"*

*So you see, although my recent walk in Faith has been filled with sorrows and difficulties, I will not throw away this confident trust I have in the Lord. For no matter what happens I know the great reward it brings!*

*Patient, endurance and trust in God is what I need now, so that I will continue to do God's will and receive all that he has promised.*

*Keep the Faith.*

## **OCTOBER 2015:**

*10/25 - Every since my mom passed away Ive come to find peace through the message and principles of my Faith, and for a long time I've been able to control my negative reactions towards this life through patiences, commitment and gratitude for all that our Lord has blessed me with, and sharing the massage of salvation and hope with others through my actions and words.*

*But recently it's been harder and harder for me to remain steadfast and true to the principles of my Faith because life in this world continues to be filled with roadblocks, temptations and difficulties as the people whom I've come to love and trust continue to let me down, and the life I've strived to build continues to fall short of my expectations.*

*However, as I travel in this journey of Faith I've come to realize that I have no control over the choices other people make. The only thing I DO have control of is myself and the responses and choices I make. After all, when it comes to our spiritual walk, it is our "free will" (a.k.a. Our God given ability to choose) that makes us unique from all of God's creations.*

*And so it is that today I CHOOSE to re-commit myself to my Faith in the resurrected Christ, and continue to fight the good fight of the faith!*

*For if I truly believe in the message of salvation and hope that comes with Faith then I must surrender myself, my burdens and my life to Christ, and continue to stay focused on living my life with the purpose of bringing glory to God through my actions and my words.*

*And although I realize that this will not guarantee that my life will be without struggles, difficulties and pain, it does give me the confidence and hope that no matter what happens in this life HE will be there to light my path and give me the direction I need to bring joy and peace back into my life!*

*10/26 - Today I made a special trip to Harvesters Community Food Network to participate in the kick off this years "Check- Out Hunger" campaign.*

*This yearly event is sponsored by the Retail Grocers Association in collaboration with Harvester's Community Food Network, and utilizes scannable coupons at each check-out line to help raise awareness and money to feed the hungry throughout the community. This is the largest fundraising event of the year for Harvesters, and our goal for this year is to reach or exceed \$500,000.*

*As a store captain, my role is to setup promotional material and encourage store employees to share the campaigns mission and goals with their patrons.*

*I am honored to be able to play a small part in this annual event to help those in need.*

### **NOVEMBER 2015:**

*11/07 - Today marks the four year anniversary of my beloved mom's passing from cancer...it was a day that is etched in my memory forever, a crossroad in my life that opened the door to*

*this journey of discovering the true meaning of Faith.*

*Since then I've come to understand that there is much more to this life than can be seen, there is an omnipotent presence; our creator, whose gifts of mercy, love and grace is there for the asking if we only believe. For it is through our belief that we gain the confidence that what has been written and promised in His Word will actually happen; a promise of salvation and hope through Faith in our Lord and Savior - Jesus Christ.*

*Although my personal walk in Faith has been a difficult one at times, it is with each difficulty that I've grown more mature in my Faith when I rely not on my own understanding, but put my complete Trust and Faith in Him.*

*And so it is today that I humble myself and give thanks and praise to my Lord and Savior for lighting the path that has lead me to understanding how the power of Faith can change our lives!*

### **DECEMBER 2015:**

**12/04** - *For it has been written...That if someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person?*

*For it is not merely enough to say that we love each other, we must let the truth be revealed by our actions. For it is our actions that will show that we belong to the truth, so that we will be confident when we stand before God. - 1 John 3*

*And so it is today that the truth of God's love has been revealed through me as I share my God given blessing and gifts with my friends at [Phoenix Family](#), bringing them a gift of supplies for their "Busy Buck" store; a place where the low-income senior residents can pick out everyday cleaning supplies and hygiene products to make their lives more comfortable.*

*May God bless those who share in the gift of Love that God has given us through His grace, and may the power of Faith be revealed from the hearts of those who believe!*

**12/25** - *And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"  
- Luke 2: 10-14*

*On this Holiest of days, let us not forget the true meaning of Christmas...*

*For it was on this is the day more than 2000 years ago that our Heavenly Father would send forth a Savior; His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, whose miraculous birth would set into motion the fulfillment of a promise foretold centuries before; a promise of a Savior who would come into this world to serve, teach and become the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of all humankind so that*

*we could be born again as children of God, regain a personal, loving relationship with our heavenly father, and be filled with His spirit to live a life for His glory!*

*Thank You Heavenly Father for your loving Grace and promise of salvation and hope that comes through our Faith in our Lord and Savior - Jesus Christ!*

### **END OF YEAR SUMMARY**

*This year has passed by like whirlwind, but not without major milestones and lessons learned in my journey and walk in Faith...*

*Today as I reflect back on 2015 I recall the difficult times that I had to endure; the passing of my beloved Dad, the loss of a longtime friend, the overwhelming pressures of work life and stress of dealing with a struggling marriage and family problems...*

*But through it all I've come to learn that "the fullness of joy is to behold God in everything", and "in everything we must give thanks to our heavenly father: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning us".*

*As I move forward to the coming year with this attitude of gratitude and Faith, I know that whatever God throws my way I will never grow weary of doing good for others. For when the season is right I know I will reap the fruits of His Glory if I do not give up. No matter how long, strenuous and painstaking the road or trials are in my life, I know that there is always a new season ahead, a season of new beginnings.*

*As believers, we need to be incessantly grateful and continually thankful to God even when our future seems unclear. We must stay firmly planted in our Faith so we will never wither; but always prosper and produce good fruit.*

*I will never stop believing and growing in my journey and walk in Faith. And although I may never fully understand what God's intentions are for me, I will always do my absolute best with where He has placed me right now. Only then will I learn all there is to learn about this loving and merciful God that loved me so much, that he sent His only begotten Son to suffer and die on the cross for the sins of all mankind so that we may recognize the fulfillment of a promise foretold by our heavenly father; a promise of a Savior who would come into this world to sacrifice himself for the sins of all mankind so that we could be born again as children of God, regain a personal, loving relationship with our heavenly father and be filled with His spirit to live a life for His glory!*