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YOUTHCROSS EXPERIENCE

Christian Magazine



How is
Your
WALK
with
GOD?

ARE YOU
LIVING IN
LOVE?

The **HOPE** for
PURPOSE!!

Put **DEPRESSION**
And **OBSESSION**

Behind **YOU!**



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Editorial

Jesus is for the Lost!!!

“Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered. “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Then Jesus told them this parable: Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, “Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep. I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”
John 15:1-7

I read somewhere once that Jesus leaving the ninety-nine may seem illogical until that one is you and it reminded me of where I was when Jesus found me. It reminded me of each time I drifted away and Christ was there to bring me back home. When that one is you, you will be grateful He came looking for you! Trust me, life is not easy and sometimes there are so many distractions diverting our attention away from the Truth, away from the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are sometimes more influenced by what’s happening around us rather than trusting the Word of God. I want you to take a minute and remember when you were at your lowest. Remember when there were tears rolling down your cheeks and there were no more words to utter a prayer. Your heart was just crying out for help and help did arrive. Jesus did show up to comfort you. He came searching for you in that time, He left the ninety-nine and came to your heart’s door and knocked until you opened. Then He came in and started to fill you with love, joy and peace. He came in with forgiveness and placed His nailed pierced hands on your beating heart assuring you it will be okay.

He says in **Matthew 11:28-29** **“Come to Me, all**

who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” He takes our pain away and gives us peace in Him. He wants us to let go of our burdens, He knows you are tired and He wants to carry you and be your strength. You are worth everything to Him.

He saved us so we could save others. He showed us through this parable of the lost sheep and the demonstration of His love in our lives that every soul matters. Every person who is going through a tough time matters. Sometimes we may not see the ones who are hurting because they usually cover it up quite well but Jesus knows and if we pray He will surely direct us to the ones who need to hear about Him. There were people who prayed for me until I was saved and their prayers still carry me today so I want to encourage you if you find it difficult to tell someone about Jesus, please pray for them. One day those prayers will change someone’s life. If you can talk to someone about Jesus and if the Holy Spirit is leading you to do so then you should. You could be used as a vessel passing a message that needs to be heard.

The currency of heaven is souls and the more souls go to heaven – the less goes to hell. Yes, Heaven and Hell are real places, so be sure you know where you’re heading. The world is dark enough as it is and the light of Christ needs to be shorn brighter each day. Let your life be an example of what the Light of Christ can do and let your soul be a guiding light to Christ.

Be Blessed and Share The Good News Every Way Possible!

Britney Jenine
Editor-In-Chief



The Dove with the SCARLET THREAD

AS I MUSED IN PENSIVE REVERIE, methought I saw a most beautiful dove flying through the sacred pages of God's blessed Word. In and out, between the chapters and the verses flew this dove (. . . emblem of innocence and gentleness, symbol of the Holy Spirit . . .) and with her she carried a slender scarlet thread. My bible was open before me and turning back to Genesis I sought to trace the passage of this prophetic bird. From whence had she come and whither was she bound as she sped her way across the pages of Holy Writ?

My search had only just begun when I sensed that the dove had been this way just ahead of me. It was in the lovely Garden of Eden that the dove had first appeared from the realms of eternal Light. Adam and Eve had sinned and their iniquities had separated them from God. Unavailing they tried to hide themselves for they were ashamed, but the good God Himself made them coats of skins and clothed them (Genesis 3:21). The blood was shed and by the sacrifice of another their sins were covered. The dove speeds on and following close in pursuit I see with her scarlet thread lingering over Abel's sacrifice. Both Cain and Abel are making offerings unto the Lord. Cain brings of the fruit of the ground but Abel brings of the firstlings of his flock. The Lord has respect unto Abel and his offerings, but unto Cain and to his offering God has no respect (Gen.4:3,4). "Without the shedding of blood is no remission." (Heb. 9:22).

On and on, down the Crimson Road, flies the dove with the scarlet thread. Both Eden and Abel's sacrifice are left far behind now. Into the dark, dark night of sin the dove makes her determined way. "The wickedness of man was great in the earth and it repented the Lord that He had made man." (Gen.6:5, 6). Plunging through the darkness of wickedness the dove enters in through the door of the Ark and then out again through the window in the top storey. (Gen. 8:20-22). Hovering momentarily over Ararat's Altar, the dove watches Noah as he builds an altar unto the Lord; an offering is made and God is pleased again. Great Divine promises are made (Gen 8:20-22), but the dove cannot wait, her mission is urgent, so on she speeds through the Arch of the

Rainbow until she comes to Mount Moriah. Here she sees a very pathetic scene before her eyes. Abraham has brought his beloved son Isaac and is making ready to sacrifice him to God! Isaac is now bound upon the sacred altar. Abraham lifts his gleaming knife to slay his son, when suddenly a voice is heard from Heaven saying, "Abraham, lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him, for now I know that thou fearest God." (Gen 22:1-13). Abraham sees a ram caught by his horns in the thicket which he takes and offers instead of his son. The dove sees Isaac released because God provided a ram which dies instead. (John 1:29). Joyful of heart, the dove heads towards Egypt with the glorious message of the scarlet thread. "It is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul." (Lev. 17:11). Down down into the blackness of Egypt's night speeds the dove. The midnight hour is about to strike! God has already spoken to Israel that a lamb must be killed and the blood must be sprinkled on the doorposts and lintel of each house. The great Passover is instituted. "When I see the blood," says God, "I will pass over you." (Ex. 12:13). The blessing of the Lord rests upon the obedient homes and salvation comes wherever the blood is applied. After circling several times and rejoicing in this perfect cameo of Redemption, the dove speeds north again only to make her way through the veil of the Temple into the Holy of Holies. Here the Priest with outstretched finger sprinkles one drop of blood upon the altar. The dove with the scarlet thread looks down upon this most glorious type of Atonement and then, on she flies through the Prophets, both major and minor, until, with the glorious dawn of another day, she passes out from the Old Testament altogether and enters into the New.

The night has been long and it seemed the day would break. Four hundred years of silence preceded the Dawn of this Day of Grace. It was to meet this sunrise that the dove had flown across the 4,000 years of the Old Dispensations. Down the Crimson Road the Messenger of Peace had faithfully borne the Scarlet Thread! Thrilling moments are now ahead. A brilliant star appears in the Heavens and in the company with this celestial phenomenon the dove speeds to Bethlehem.

The Dove with the SCARLET THREAD

CONTINUED ...

Here shepherds are agog with excitement for angels have appeared unto them and have told of the Saviour's humble birth in a manger. All nature seems to know that a Heavenly Visitor has come into the world to save sinners. Ecstasy and delight abound everywhere. The joy of the dove knows no bounds as she sees wise men coming from afar and near to worship the Christ who is born on the Crimson Road. The dove knows well that here is the Lamb of God Who will take away the sins of the world. (John 1:29). To accompany this Christ the dove has hastened through the ages. Thirty years of vigil pass gently by and Christ comes to the River Jordan to be baptised by John. With great reverence Jesus is immersed in the flowing waters and then rises again with mighty spiritual power. See! The dove is present to witness the commencement of Christ's public ministry. (Matt. 3:16). Endured with THE Holy Ghost and power, Jesus went about doing good healing all who were oppressed of the devil, for God was with Him. (Acts 10:38). Three years later, the dove shows the first signs of alighting. Round and round the Holy City of Jerusalem she flies; her journey has been a very long one but it seems that she is tireless. Still clasping the scarlet thread she watches the saddest events in all history taking place below. Nothing is hidden from her eyes. It is Thursday night and Christ is praying in the Garden of Gethsemane; Judas comes and betrays Him with a kiss; Christ is arrested, falsely accused and brought before Pontius Pilate. Although found innocent, public opinion demands that Jesus shall be crucified. He is delivered to the unruly mob. They smite Him, spit on Him, jeer and mock Him, but not a word He says, there is no retaliation! This is the Crimson Road! Along the Via Dolorosa Jesus carries another man's cross. Once through the Damascus Gate, the gaunt cliffs of Golgotha stand naked before the gaze of the motley rabble. Up Calvary's Mountain Christ is cruelly led and once the summit is reached He is nailed to the cross! The ghastly spectacle is lifted up for the multitude to gaze upon. Jesus Christ is here nailed to the Cross at the end of the Crimson Road! The dove? Ah, there she

comes, circling down, down, down . . . Oh! She's going to alight, her journey is complete! With a gentle flutter the dove with the scarlet thread alights on the Cross. Ever pointing ahead to Calvary this Ambassador of Peace has carried her message faithfully through the ages until at last she comes to her journey's end.

God makes a Covenant with sinners when He sees the blood! (Ex.12:13). Not the blood of animals for it is not possible that the blood of the bulls and goats should take away sins! (Heb. 10:4). The law was only a shadow of those good things which came with Jesus Christ! There is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood! (Heb. 9:22). The blood alone will satisfy the Holy claims of God! (Ex.12:13). The blood alone makes atonement for the soul! (Lev. 17:11). Are you redeemed with the precious blood of Christ? (1 Pet. 1:18,19). The Blood of Jesus Christ will cleanse you from all sin! (1 John 1:7). The blood justifies the believer! (Romans 5:9). It has made peace for us with God! (Col. 1:20). Thank God for the glorious message of the dove with the scarlet thread, a message sweeter than any other in all the world. "Now, in Christ Jesus, ye who sometimes were far off, are made nigh by the blood of Christ." (Eph. 2:13).

Extracted from: Sermons from the
Sanctuary_Moving
Waters_May 1940.



Pastor J.F. Rowlands

Walk Circumspectly

BY RICCO J GOVENDER



Ephesians 5:14-17

**“Therefore He says:
“Awake, you who
sleep, Arise from the
dead, And Christ will
give you light.” See
then that you
walk circumspectly,
not as fools but as
wise, redeeming the
time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not
be unwise, but understand what the will of the
Lord is.”**

As young people in your journey with Christ you will encounter a lot but one of the most important things is “Your Walk” with God because your walk will ultimately determine your destination. Sometimes we as believers cannot fully walk into the plans & we cannot fully walk into the purposes of God in our lives simply because we are in a slumber & whenever the Bible talks about slumber it is equivalent to being spiritually dead but the scripture says...

“Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.”

So in your walk with God, it is not only about movement but what type of movement you make because the Bible says “Walk circumspectly” meaning let your walk be accurate, let your walk be blameless before the Lord.

I submit to you that there are some places that your foot shall not tread that is why Jesus would do something so symbolic that was only done by the lowest ranking of servants in that day and age which was washing the feet of the disciples so that their footsteps would be ordered by the Lord and that they would walk circumspectly. I submit to you when you walk circumspectly it means that you will be mindful of the places that you go to, that your walk will not bring dishonour and disrepute to the Kingdom of God.

Isaiah 52:7

**How beautiful upon the mountains
Are the feet of him who brings good news,
Who proclaims peace,**

**Who brings glad tidings of good things,
Who proclaims salvation,
Who says to Zion,
“Your God reigns!”**

So why is the feet beautiful of those who brings good news? Because in that which they are declaring and in that which they are proclaiming they don't only bring the good news being the word of the Lord but they also walk in it meaning; that which is being declared and that which is being proclaimed is evident in their lives so this is how you walk circumspectly, this is how you fully walk accurately into the plans and purposes of God over your life.

Proverbs 4:27

**Do not turn to the right nor to the left; Turn your
foot from evil**

So turning to the right or to the left is symbolic of someone that is unstable in their walk with God that is why the scripture says “Turn your foot from evil” because swaying to the right or the left in your walk with God is attributed to evil. We as young believers need to know how to stay focused in our journey and in our walk with God; not to be distracted along the way because in Christ there has to be a continuous migration whereby we move forward in the things of God.

Psalms 1:1

**Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful**

In this scripture the verb is WALK because the kind of walk will determine if “Blessed is the man”. When we are fixed and when we are focused in our walk with God there will be progression in our migration. When you walk circumspectly, when you walk accurately, the blessings of the Lord will follow you, the blessings of the Lord will run after you in Jesus name.

Bible Verses for DEPRESSION that will HELP YOU through your DARKEST HOURS!

Do you ever feel like life is becoming too with healing emotionally, depression should hard for you to handle because there's just never be taken lightly. If you are struggling too much to deal with? Depression can affect never hesitate to talk to your parents, kids of all ages and sadly it affects millions of teachers, youth leaders or pastor and seek teenagers each day. From the fact that medical help as well as counselling to cope hormones are raging to the life struggles, peer with and overcome the anxiety, fear, and issues and family problems it can be tough to depression you are feeling. When it comes to manage. getting out of depression, you need a reason to get motivated and moving in the morning.

There may be times, where you feel, you I love Bible verses because God has a way of have prayed and done everything right, but inspiring us through His word.

things are still not going your way, bad things are happening to you. You probably question God and ask him if he is even listening...God is always listening. He takes things away from you because he knows what's good for you and even though you might not understand it at that time, he only wants to give you the best. When everyone is against you...HE IS FOR YOU!!! Don't give up on him. Remember God loves you more than any other person on this planet.

Here are some verses to meditate on when you are going through a tough time, when you pray, speak these verses into your life, tell God what you need and ask him to fulfil his promises to you. While these Bible verses for young adults are a great place to begin

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I Know The Plans I Have For You' Declares the Lord, 'Plans to Prosper You and Not to Harm You, Plans to Give You Hope and a Future. “

Psalm 40:1-3

“I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.

Bible Verses for DEPRESSION that will HELP YOU through your DARKEST HOURS!

CONTINUED...

Deuteronomy 31:8

“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

John 16:33

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you may have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Matthew 11:28

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

1 Peter 5:7

“Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”

Psalms 23:4

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

Whatever you are going through, whether you need advice, help, prayer or just a friend to talk to. Please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always here for you.

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OBSESSIONS

BY BRADLEY MOONSAMY

What is an obsession? It is the state of being obsessed with someone or something. Being obsessed with something means to preoccupy or fill the mind of (someone) continually and to a troubling extent, and to be constantly talking or worrying about something.

Obsession is a terrible truth. One of the stand out things with teen related obsessions is when a person is obsessed with another and it's a one sided thing. This leads to all sorts of danger such as rape, murder, acts of violence, mental, physical, substance and emotional abuse and many other dreadful things. In the Bible it says **“What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”** (Mark 7:20-23), all such sorts of doings also relates to obsessions when a person is obsessed with someone or even something it can bring out the worst in the person. In my opinion being obsessed with someone is your destruction just waiting to happen.

It is never good to be obsessed. I'm speaking from experience, I've had terrible obsessions in the past and it really did affect me in ways I didn't even realise. I was lucky that I got out of it, through faith and some people and most importantly God who gave me the strength. Now when I sit and think back at those days when I was obsessed, it's like I was a completely different person. The Bible also states **“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.”** (1 John 2:15-17). Basically earthly objects are not going to be with you when

you go to heaven and being so obsessed with it, will not do you any good when you die. One common thing that a lot of people get obsessed with is “MONEY” and the bible says it's the root of all evil. Some people are so greedy and obsessed with having money that it consumes them and they can do horrendous acts because of it. Let me ask you this, when you die you think you're going to take all your money with you? In the book of **Matthew 6:24** it says **“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other, You cannot serve God and money”**. Do not indulge yourself in these worldly desires and become so obsessed with it that it destroys you and the things that really are supposed to be of value in one's life, things like love, peace, kindness, patience, obedience, discipline and many other values. We must always have the love of God and walk with Christ in our lives daily.

Do not indulge yourself in worldly pleasures that lead to obsessions. No one is perfect, but we must strive for the mark of perfection and believe and trust in God. If you are going through a struggle being obsessed with something, Trust in Him and He will guide your steps and you will overcome it. He did it for me and He will surely do it for you. Let no temptation come near you, cut of the wrong things in your life and lean towards God and you will see how things will turn around for you. I will leave you with a scripture from the book of **John 15:5** **“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”** God bless!!!



Need to be quickened according to His
Word?

Plead your cause by writing to:

Ask Flo @ Florence.Pillay1@gmail.com

**A biblical advice column on matters of
the Heart for Women.**



Dear Flo

I hate attending church on Mother's Day. The reason being I am married for 14 years and I cannot conceive due my husband's medical problem. Women who don't have children are never recognized and are totally left out. Why does it have to be so? Is this our punishment? The community and family members criticize us enough, must the church be the same? It is not the gift that everybody boasts that makes you less a woman; it's the thought of making you feel like a married woman.

Kogie

Dear Kogie

The origin of Mother's Day goes way back to Anna Jarvis in 1907. Anna's mum had died two years earlier. Anna missed her mum very much and wanted to do something special in memory of her. She called several of her friends together and held a celebration service in her lounge and shared an idea that was birthing within her. The second Sunday of May, the anniversary of her mother's death will be set aside to show appreciation not only for her mum but for all mums across the world... to reward them for their unconditional love, remarkable strength and selfless hard work in the lives of their family. Her friends were receptive and after many furores from the government, the first official Mothers Day celebration was held at Mrs. Jarvis's church in Grafton, West Virginia, U.S.A. And gifts were given to all mothers as a token of appreciation. Anna's mum served this church for 20 years as a Sunday School teacher. Anna Jarvis was never recognised nor rewarded for her warm idea and died childless in 1948.

There are many causes of infertility amongst couples. In males you get Azoospermia: no sperm cells being produced, Oligospermia: too few sperm cells being produced and then there are adequate quantity of sperm cells produced but with defects. In women there may be an ovulation disorder, blocked fallopian tubes, births defects involving uterine structure, Poly Cystic Overian Syndrome (PCOS) where there is a glandular disorder and age.

God gave every man a charge: **“Be fruitful, multiply, replenish and subdue the earth and have dominion over the earth.” Genesis 3:28.** God loves you deeply and unconditionally and wants you to be fruitful by serving Him and mankind. **Jeremiah 31:3 “ I have loved you with an everlasting love. I have drawn you with loving kindness.”** **Ecclesiastes 3:1,2 “There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven – a time to give birth; and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted”**

In order to be fruitful read Psalms 139. St Augustine said: ‘God loves each one of us as though there was only one of us to love.’ Then be Christlike – weep before the Lord – **“Jesus wept” John 11:35.** Weep out your struggles of anger, bitterness, resentment, lack of selfworth, shamefulness, grief and emptiness with Him. God knows your tears...He stores them in heaven. Be open and totally honest with Him. After all, **“He is our help and shield.” Psalms 33:20.** Get closer to your spouse. They feel your pain too. Refrain from the blame game and never compare yourself to people with children. God has a unique and purposeful plan just for you. Count your blessings; name them one by one and thank God for them. As a family of two, embrace your true identity in Christ, romance, encourage, love and pray for each other. Forgive all insensitive people, they do not mean to intentionally hurt you.

Remember God has not made you childless. This is not a 21st century affliction – it comes from ages past – a tactic from Satan to keep one under his power. God has given man the power to rise and rise again – trust in Him and let Him be the lifter of your head. The Word of God says in **Psalms 113:1,9 “Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord...He makes the barren woman to be a homemaker and a joyful mother of spiritual children. Praise the Lord.”** Hallelujah! God has chosen you as a multiplier to this lonely, needy world. He has chosen you as a mother to nurture others in His kingdom and if you are faithful, available and teachable, He will make you amazingly fertile as a witness of His great love. He will keep you FAT in constant pregnancy and make you give birth to new life that will fill your life to overflowing with **“gladness and joy” (Isaiah 35:12)** and you **“shall not be in want of any good thing” (Psalms 34:10).** And lastly, when you and your spouse are ready God can also make it possible for you to adopt children and give them a loving home. **James 1:27 “Religion that God our father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”**

I pray you have been blessed. God made me fertile in His Kingdom first from a young age, before blessing me with a beautiful baby girl in my eighth year of my marriage.

Love

Florence

The Christian Walk

BY BRITNEY JENINE

Every day we live our lives not knowing what tomorrow holds or who we would meet. We may have an excellent opportunity today or a missed one tomorrow. We could have a brief encounter with a stranger whom we may never meet again or form a bond with a stranger who may become a close friend. Life is unpredictable and as humans we take it one day at a time. As Christians we trust God for what our future holds for we believe he already has our plans in his hands.

Colossians 3:1-5 “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

In the world we live in we ought to set our hearts and minds on things above. It is easy for a believer in Christ Jesus to drift away from God’s purpose. The enemy likes playing tricks especially on our minds. The enemy makes us doubt ourselves and doubt our faith but God is greater. God through His Holy Spirit ministers to us and brings us back to where we are meant to be. He reminds us on how we should live in a holy and spiritual way. When the enemy tries to attack us, Jesus reminds us that we have power through Him to conquer the enemy. That’s what makes this Christian Walk so amazing! We walk with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit by our sides plus angels that God gives us.

Living as a Christian does require sacrifice but not in the shedding of blood as Christ has already paid the ultimate price. The sacrifice which is required to be made is quite basic. As humans in order to live a good life we must work hard, make wise choices and make

constructive changes in our lifestyles. As Christians we must refrain from doing evil and live in a way pleasing to God.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

When we are in Christ we become a new man, we cannot live the same way we lived before. We cannot follow the same ways of the world which lead to sin. We have been saved from sin so we cannot go back in the direction leading to sin. God lays out two roads for us to follow, one straight and one narrow and He gives us two final destinations, heaven and hell. He says we have a choice to where we end up and all we need to do is make that decision. He gives us instructions on how we should live, He tells us what to stay away from and what to do more of. He says “**But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.**” (Colossians 3:8). He says “**Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.**” (Colossians 3:12-14). It’s all our decision how we choose to live. We can walk this road with Christ on our side, we can pick up our cross and follow him or we can choose to stay stuck in situations drowning us in sin.

Two Roads, Two Destinations, One Walk!
How would you walk this life?

The Hope Of Your Purpose!

BY CHANELLE GOVENDER

Ephesians 1:4-19

Background: The apostle Paul is writing to the people of Ephesus. He is imparting divine wisdom to the people who at the time, found Christianity to be a mystery. He writes to the people to share supernatural insight that salvation through Jesus Christ was offered to Jews and Gentiles alike.

Read Ephesians 1:4-19

He says that he chose us in him BEFORE the creation of the world. Another time that we are told that God knew us before the creation of the world is in **Jeremiah 1:5 - Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart.**

God chose each and every one of us because he has a plan and purpose for us. He predestined us in accordance with His will. Paul goes on to say that we are freely given glorious grace, I know about this grace and I do find it sufficient for me... And through His blood, we are forgiven of our sins.

So if God foreknew me, He has a plan for me and he has predestined my footsteps, why does he offer up his blood for my sins? I mean, if God has it all planned out, surely He doesn't make mistakes and therefore I shall not sin, right?

I've been on a mission to find what my purpose is and I often question God as to why He put me here on Earth that is full of suffering and evil. I've done a lot of praying, reading the bible and research and what I understood about human existence is that God created us and gave us free will. But why free will??? An all-powerful God chooses to give us free will and then have us sin and disappoint him? Now He has to send down an innocent man to be killed for our iniquities? Why? Why all this drama? Why put the tree of good and evil in the Garden of Eden? If that tree wasn't there, maybe that serpent wouldn't have shown up, Eve wouldn't have betrayed mankind and we all would be one big happy family with no issues.

The reason is love. We all want love. To love and be

loved and being made in the image of God, it makes sense that God wants our love. BUT he won't force us to love him because then it is not REAL love. He is such a gracious God that he gives you the OPTION to love Him. That alone is amazing... A God that will literally DIE for you yet he still gives you the option to love him!

I first thought it unwise to give humans free will because look at what we do with it. We falter and fail every minute of every day and not just by the physicality but through our thoughts and the things we say. A bitter heart is no better than a drunk man. Sin is sin and it is unmeasured. However, back to Paul, he says God redeems us through his blood. So God understands that we are human, we are sinners and we are saved by His grace. Great! Amen. But what about this purpose He has for us?

God requires our pure praise and worship that is how we show him Love by choosing to worship Him. When we make the choice to Believe in Him, He reveals all that He is and more in our everyday lives. You may think God will be found in the big and mighty things. Like winning the lotto. That's God. Or maybe there's a big, beautiful mansion in Umhlanga with your name on it. That's definitely God right? While I do believe that God is more than capable of all of this, I know Him to be a humble God. He won't give you that mansion but rather a job that will lead to that mansion. He won't give you a bank balance that never runs out but rather He will meet your every need whilst teaching you how to maintain a bank balance. He is righteous and teaches us to be righteous in our humanity. Because let's face it, as humans, winning the lotto will mean the party never stops. We will do all that our flesh desires and God will be an afterthought.

Speaking of flesh, him knowing us before we were born implies that our spirit resonates or resembles God. I like to think of it as God took our spirit/soul and wrapped it up in flesh and sent us down to Earth with a mission.

However, during transmission, we sort of lost memory of the Holy Spirit and our flesh took over, influencing us through the things of the world, which only confused our poor souls more.

The Hope Of Your Purpose!

Continued ...

However, whenever our spirit recognizes the Holy Spirit, we become hungry to know more. And this is what Paul says in his letter as well. **"Verse 17: I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, may give you the "spirit of wisdom and revelation to know him better."** To know God more. This also explains why God allows bad things to happen to us. It is through trials and tribulations that we seek God and become desperate for him and that is when He reveals more to us. The scripture says in **verse 10: to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment-to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.** In other words, when the time is right, God will reveal what he requires of us which will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. **Mathew 18:18** says **whatever you bind on Earth will be bound in Heaven.** Ultimately in some way or the other, our purpose is to help God bring about some kind of unity on Earth as it is in Heaven. This is done when we decide to have a relationship with him... in biblical terms, when we "believe in him."

Verse 18: I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you".

This has two meanings for me, William Shakespeare said "the eyes are the windows to your soul".

If God had to take a screenshot of your soul right now, would He find darkness or a beautiful picture? Your soul should have a vision. You should have a vision for yourself. An inward vision. What is created on the inside will be portrayed on the outside. If you have bitterness, anger and malice on the inside, you will portray it on the outside. I used to be very angry and bitter all the time. I had to go through a series of self-work to learn how to be a better person and let me tell you, the work never stops. Every day is an opportunity to do better. I had to ask myself, what has God given me and only ME? Am I busy looking at others instead of what's in my own hand? Am I competing for my neighbour's gift instead of nurturing my own? The truth is, it is easier to find the fault in others and overlook the fault within. It is easier to fix someone else than it is to fix ourselves.

I have come to learn that this is the most common trick the enemy uses to deter us from our very own purpose. He captures our attention with the scandalous behaviour of the next person to distract us from acknowledging and correcting our own.

The second part to this is, it says, "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the HOPE to which he has called you.

This goes back to free will.

God has called YOU.

He has known YOU before you were in the womb.

He has a unique plan that only YOU can fulfil.

You really don't have to if you don't want to.

But, God in all His majesty and sovereignty, He HOPES that you find the purpose to which he called you.



LIVING IN LOVE: Part 1

1 PETER 2:4-5 “You are coming to Christ, the living stone who was rejected by humans but was chosen as precious by God. You come to him as living stones, a spiritual house that is being built into a holy priesthood. So, offer spiritual sacrifices that God accepts through Jesus Christ.”

INTRODUCTION

God has created each one of us to be a living stone. He has chosen us and our families to live in love and display this love to the great world out there. He wants our houses to be successful - our spiritual houses and our physical homes. To live is to love and to love is to live.

Our choices in life always affect and influence others. Will our choices help or hinder them... bless or injure them? Every choice in our lives always ought to be **Romans 12:1-3** choices.

ROMANS 12:1-3 NKJV

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”

God’s will is to make us a living seed of love that will be planted into the lives of those around us causing a great harvest of successful living, proving that we are in the perfect will of God! He wants our thinking to be adjusted to fit the

Word of God and the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

LIVING IN LOVE WITH PEOPLE

BIBLE STORY - RUTH

Naomi thought she had no hope in life... but something good was about to begin. For our first session let us look closely at Ruth’s reaction when Naomi suggests she should leave her and go back to her ungodly roots. **“But Ruth held on to her tightly.” (RUTH 1:14)**

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE

“Living in the uncompromising love for people that God gives you to love and care for will cause you to hold on tightly to them.”

1. God did not create us to be alone or walk this path of life alone. No man is an island. God wants us to hold on tightly to those we love.

God gave us a responsibility - to love the people that God gave us. If we fail in our responsibility, we would be the ones who will live in regret, sorrow and loneliness.

We need to care for the people God gives us! Ruth clung to Naomi. She would not let go! Think about the value of loving those God gives us! Our families - our friends.

2. Living in love requires true commitment to our relationships, which makes us survivors in the race of life.

Ruth and Naomi never knew the outcome of their journey. The one thing they knew without doubt was that commitment to each other would lead them to victory over and above any situation or circumstances. They valued each other!

LIVING IN LOVE: Part 1 Continued...

RUTH 1:16 “But Ruth said: “Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.”

Ruth did not allow Naomi’s sadness to influence her love nor her attitude towards love. Are we influenced by the attitudes of others? Do we see things through their eyes? Doing so puts great limitations on our lives and hinders us from living in love.

- Ruth did something incredible - she declared her commitment. Ruth sowed seeds of love into Naomi. She knew Naomi was given to her by the Lord to love and care for. Ruth was committed and gave Naomi all she had (Just as the Lord did at Calvary for each and every one of us).

A RICH REWARD

Ruth received a rich reward for her commitment. God watches us and waits to tell us: My beloved son and daughter, I know of all that you do to care for the people that I have given to you. It is fully reported to me.

Ruth lived in love. Love was her heartbeat. God gave her a rich reward – her husband Boaz. God has a full reward for us too when we are constantly living in love - in His great love.

RUTH 2:15, 16

God is merciful and full of grace to those living in love. He opens up the windows of heaven and pours out His great love. He needs our uncompromising commitment to him and those that are around us.

3. Living in love with commitment in our hearts for those that God gives us will bring God’s unlimited care and provision in our lives.

Clearly defined boundaries are given to us by the Lord to love and care for the people he has given

us. In committed loving and complete trust we find satisfaction and fulfilment in living in love. We are able to give and receive God’s love.

God kept Ruth under the shadow of His wings. Naomi recognizes the hand of God on the move. She sees the love that Boaz has for Ruth. She understands that Boaz can rescue them - can redeem from hopelessness.

God through Boaz becomes their ordained kinsman redeemer. He was the person who took care of the needy in his family. He was responsible to help them. He bought back those that were sold into slavery. Jesus is our Kinsman Redeemer. He redeems us from the bondage and slavery to sin.

1 PETER 1:18-19

4. Living in love guarantees that we will enjoy His divine protection forever - for many generations to come! RUTH 4:13-17

5. Living in love promises that the seeds of our love will bring their own harvest ... others who will value and love us.

Seeds of love will be sown by Ruth’s Son Obed into their life. Comfort, provision and protection are guaranteed in the latter days of their lives. Then, in time, he would be the grandfather of King David. We know that the Lord Jesus Christ comes from the line of Obed and King David.

Living in love guarantees success for us, in our homes, life and ministry.

“Greater love has no one than this, that He lay down His life for His friends” - John 15:13

God bless you - Love - Florence Pillay

BIBLE STORIES

The Story of The Image of Gold and the Blazing Furnace (Daniel 3:1-15)

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.

Then the herald loudly proclaimed, “Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.”

Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “May the king live forever! Your Majesty has issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up.”

Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?”

BIBLE STORIES

The Story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Daniel 3:16-28)

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?”

They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”

He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

Alphabet Poem
Life's a blessing

Add to life, o' heart of gold
 Bring in kindness standing bold
 Care for those you see each day
 Dream of those you want to stay
 Eyes on things you cherish and love
 Family and friends are part of the bunch
 God's sweet grace I live- no fear
 Highly favoured when he is near
 I myself know I'm never alone
 Justifying truth - not on my own
 Keeping up the heat my feet still stand
 Loving them all the best way I can
 Making every effort to improve the way I seem
 Noting every moment I may no longer redeem
 O' life is this ride that we're together travelling on
 Pressing on forward though temptation beats strong
 Quote another scripture we need the guidance ahead
 Regret nothing more when we're on our end bed
 Strength will be drained, spirit man fights no more
 The final chapter be read as fate locks the door
 Understanding this gift - we need to make the most
 Viewing our achievements we need not boast
 Winning is the finish game and we surely hold the gold
 X-ray proves identity be true and fakes no more we hold
 Young but wise I learnt it now
 Zealously living I shall allow

GAMING TIME!!!

Bible Riddles



1. I am the son of Jacob and Leah. My tribe was not allocated a territory in the Promised Land. Who am I?

2. I am the second wife of man whose name changed to Israel. Who am I?

3. I am the son of Perez and was appointed by Moses, as ordered by God, to be Prince over the tribe of Judah. Who am I?

4. I was a prophet and the wife of Lappidoth, who was once leading Israel. I went with Barak to fight Jabin's army. Who am I?

5. I was an assistant accompanying Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journeys. Who am I?

DELICIOUS RECIPES TO ENJOY

Recipe for:

DATE BALLS

INGREDIENTS:

- 125g butter
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 1/8 tsp cinnamon
- 250g dates, chopped
- 1 egg, whisked
- 1 pack Tennis Biscuits (Marie Biscuits will work too), crushed into small pieces
- 100g coconut (+- 1 cup) for rolling



INSTRUCTIONS:

- In a small saucepan, melt the butter and add the sugar. Stir until the sugar has dissolved.
- Add the vanilla essence, cinnamon and the dates and heat for 3-4 minutes until dates are gooey and soft.
- Take the mixture off the stove and transfer to a large mixing bowl
- Add the whisked egg and mix well until the mixture looks emulsified.
- Now add the biscuits and coat well with the mixture.
- Place in the fridge to cool for 20 minutes or so and then roll into medium-sized balls.
- Roll in coconut and store in an airtight container, in the fridge.
- Enjoy with a cup of tea!

Notes:

If you can't find fresh dates, you can always use the depitted packaged dates – I think they come conveniently in a pack of 250g.

Youth Cross Experience

Thank you to our Team who have contributed towards making
YOUTHCROSS EXPERIENCE a **SUCCESS**.

Our team:

- Britney Jenine
- Ricco J Govender
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- Chanelle Govender
- Florence Pillay
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If you would like to be part of this magazine, don't hesitate to write to us.

We will inform you about our requirements.

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Editor-In-Chief

Owned by God
Redeemed by Christ
Sealed with the Holy Spirit

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