Visioning With God.

January 8th

Prepare for Your Vision

God has a unique vision and purpose for each of His children. God wants to bring glory to Himself through our lives. Understanding God’s vision, however, is different from casting our own vision. When we make plans, we want everything laid out.

Think about the last time you traveled. When you mapped out the trip, you wanted to know where it started, where it ended, where you would stop along the way, and exactly how long it would take.

Many of us approach our lives in the same way—we try to plan out all the details in advance; we want to know all the answers before we begin the journey. However, God does not reveal His vision for our lives all at once. God reveals His vision when He knows we are ready and able to receive it.

As we willingly follow His lead, He will provide everything we need to accomplish His purposes. While we will encounter obstacles and detours along the way, we can have faith knowing that God’s vision for our lives will succeed.

Prayer: God, help me to lay aside my plans and to trust Your vision for my life. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5).

11th.

**Asking for God’s Vision.**

**Jeremiah 33:3**

**3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.**

To understand and embrace God’s vision, we must ask Him for it. The Bible tells us we have not because we ask not—and sometimes when we do ask, we ask with selfish motives rather than God-honoring motives. But God promises us, “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know” (Jeremiah 33:3). God wishes to reveal Himself to us, but we must first ask with pure motives and persistence.

The word for “call” in this verse means to do so continuously. We are commanded to ask continuously until God reveals His vision to us. Persistence teaches us to rely on God while He is shaping our hearts to delight in Him.

15th,

Matthew 25:21

Matthew 25:21 KJV

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:23

His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Hebrews 10:36

Managing God’s Vision

God gives His vision to those who are good stewards. God is looking for stewards who will manage His plans well, even in the face of opposition, frustration, impatience, or even spiritual attack.

As we follow God’s timeline, we may experience anxious moments and frustration while we wait for God’s plan to unfold. Satan will tempt us to bypass God’s timeline and question God’s direction. Yet God entrusts His vision to those He knows will persevere through criticism, seasons of waiting, and spiritual warfare.

God also gives His vision to those who are faithful in small things. He will give greater vision to those who are being faithful with what is already in their charge. The Bible teaches us that this is how God rewards His faithful servants. “You have been faithful with a few things: I will put you in charge of many things” (Matthew 25:21, 23).

The good news is that it is never too late to start seeking God’s vision. We are always at the right point in our lives to decide to honor God and to delight in Him.

Prayer: God, I pray that I will be a good steward of the vision You give me and that I will persevere no matter what challenges I face. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

“You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised” (Hebrews 10:36).

18th,

Submitting to the Vision

Luke 9:62

Has God ever given you a task that seemed like too much for you? Maybe He was calling you to lead a small group in your home. Or perhaps there was a specific person in your life who needed to hear the Gospel. Instead of rejoicing in His leading, you avoided His assignment.

We often claim that we want God’s vision and we want God to use us, but in reality we mean this only on our terms. Our words loudly profess, “Here I am, Lord. Use me however you want.” But our hearts whisper, “Lord, I want to serve You, but only if it means working on this project or serving in that location. I definitely don’t want to witness to this particular person or to that particular group.”

It’s easy to do God’s work when the recipient is someone we care for—but what happens when God wants us to minister to someone who is offensive, obnoxious, or condescending?

Has God given you a vision that you don’t like or that you are running from right now? When God is prompting us to do something, we must obey Him. Too often, we ignore His voice out of fear, embarrassment, or even disdain.

Prayer: God, forgive me for running from the vision You have given me. Give me the courage and desire to submit to and fulfill the vision You have for my life. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

“Jesus replied, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God’” (Luke 9:62).

22nd,

Exodus 14

Exodus 14:14-15

Hebrews 13:6

Going Forward

By Michael Youssef, Ph.D.

Do you find yourself stuck and unable to move forward with God’s vision? You are not alone. When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, they faced the same apprehension we do. When they reached the Red Sea, they faced mountainous obstacles on one side of them, a vast sea in front of them, and a powerful army behind them (see Exodus 14).

The people wanted to turn back in fear and stay in the past life that they knew. Moses, with good intentions, wanted to stay in the present: “The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still” (Exodus 14:14). But God wanted them to move forward into the future. “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on’” (Exodus 14:15). God helped His people supernaturally by parting the sea, but first He expected Moses to act in faith.

Sometimes we want to turn back in fear. Other times we may want to keep the status quo and wait for God to act for us. But God wants us to move forward with the vision He has given us. He will always be there to give His guidance, provision, and strength, but first we must be willing to step out in faith and follow His plan.

Going forward is not always simple. You will face disappointments and setbacks, opposition and hindrances. But no matter what you face, God will see His vision for your life accomplished as long as you remain a willing instrument for Him to use.

Prayer: Father, give me the courage to move forward with the vision You have given me, even when I am afraid. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

“So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?’” (Hebrews 13:6).

25th,

Acts 9:15

Acts 25

Acts 26

2 Corinthians 11:22-28

Galatians 6:9

Motivated by the Vision

Doesn’t it seem that our greatest battles occur while trying to accomplish something great for God? Do not be discouraged—no one has ever accomplished God’s vision for his or her life without facing discouragement, hindrances, and difficulties. But if it is truly God’s vision for your life—and not your own personal ambitions or dreams—then God will give you whatever you need to work through those obstacles.

God had a vision for the Apostle Paul’s life, and He communicated this vision through a man named Ananias: “But the Lord said to Ananias, ‘Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel’” (Acts 9:15).

But Paul didn’t go straight from the Damascus Road to the palaces of kings. It wasn’t until Acts 25 and 26 that Paul’s life-vision was completely fulfilled as he stood before King Agrippa. And in between those many years, he faced more obstacles and discouragements than most of us will ever face in a lifetime. Paul experienced imprisonment, beatings, starvation, insults, and hardships—all for the sake of Christ (see 2 Corinthians 11:22-28).

What motivated Paul when everything around him seemed to be against him? The power of his God-given vision. Having God’s vision for our lives will always keep us moving forward, but without it, we easily lose hope and give up.

We may never share the Gospel with kings, but God has a vision for our lives, just as He did for Paul. When you feel too insignificant to make a difference, remember that you are a child of the King.

Prayer: God, help me not to be discouraged when I am faced with obstacles to the vision You have given me. Help me to remember that it is Your vision, and You will give me everything I need to fulfill it. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9).

29th,

1 John 3:17

Meeting Needs

Having and following a vision isn’t just for big dreamers and world-changers. As Christians, we all have been called by God to pursue His plan and purpose for our lives. Having a vision will guide both your destination and your direction in fulfilling God’s purposes.

Visions can be big or small. They can be global or local. But a vision doesn’t need to be complicated. At the very heart of having a life-vision is seeing a need—and meeting that need.

God has placed us in our jobs, our neighborhoods, and our families for a purpose—to meet the needs around us. Truly visionary people are those who have the ability to recognize the needs around them, as well as the determination and willingness to meet those needs.

How often do we see a need, yet do nothing about it? We may feel pity or concern, yet we stand back and do nothing. We are unwilling to risk our comfort, our reputation, and our security. But we cannot be that visionary person for God unless we are willing to risk everything for Him.

God wants you to make a difference in the lives of other people. He has given you your blessings, gifts, talents, resources, and connections for a reason.

Prayer: Father, help me to be able to recognize the needs that are around me and have the willingness and courage to meet those needs. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?” (1 John 3:17).

February,

8th,

Discover God's Vision

Esther’s Vision

In the Old Testament, we learn of an ordinary woman named Esther who saw a need and met that need. Esther was a Jewish woman living in exile in Persia. Through God’s plan, she married King Xerxes and found herself in a unique position to help her people.

When the king agreed to the planned execution of the Jews within his kingdom, Esther was the only one who could possibly change his mind. God placed her in the right place at the right time. Her cousin, Mordecai, recognized this fact: “And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14b).

What was Esther’s response to Mordecai’s plea for help?

Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish” (Esther 4:15-16).

Esther’s decision did not come easily. She hesitated. She wrestled with her fears over her own future. She knew she was putting her life on the line to approach the king. But in the end she knew what God was calling her to do, and she obeyed.

Prayer: God, thank You for the example of Esther, who saw a need and responded in obedience to what You were calling her to do. Help me to have that kind of courage and vision. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).

12th,

Psalms 23:4

John 16:33

Focus on Christ

One of the hardest lessons we will ever learn is how to take a negative situation and turn it into a positive experience. In Psalm 23, King David reminds us that it is all a matter of faith and perspective. He writes, “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me” (Psalm 23:4).

David’s words are stepping stones to a great faith. In fact, if we practice the principle that he lived, God will develop a conquering faith within our lives.

David lived with adversity and, from time to time, we will too. No one escapes difficulty. It is a part of life lived in a fallen world, but we do not have to live with feelings of defeat, discouragement, and criticism.

You may be thinking: But you don’t know my circumstances. There is no way for you to understand the pressure I feel or the discouragement that plagues my heart.

While we can’t truly know or understand the hurt another person may be experiencing, we do know that there is one person who understands perfectly and that is Jesus Christ.

He was rejected, betrayed, criticized, and crucified. If you are looking for someone to identify with the pain that you are feeling, do what David did—realize there is One who is walking through the valley with you. No matter how dark life becomes, He will lead you on to ultimate victory in Him.

Prayer: God, as I face trials and discouragement, help me to remember that You understand what I’m going through. Help me to focus on You and remember that I’m not alone. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

15th,

Psalms 8:3-4

Job 9:7-8

A Godly Perspective

The source of many of our troubles, individually, corporately, and culturally, is the lack of a godly perspective. When we don’t have a right view of God, we don’t have a right view of mankind, nature, or creation.

In Psalm 8:3-4, David said, “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him...?”

David, the shepherd boy who spent many nights in the open field looking up at the stars as he watched over his flock, was able to praise the Maker of the stars. He was able to see beyond the creation to the Creator God. When he saw the galaxies dancing in the sky, he was awed not by the stars, but by the majesty of the One who flung the stars in their orbits.

The God who created all of this did it with such perfection. “What is man that you are mindful of him...?” said the psalmist (Psalm 8:4). How small we are in the vast, cosmic setting. How astounding that the God of this vast universe, the God who orders and controls it all, should think of us.

Prayer: Creator God, when I realize all that Your hands have made, I am amazed that You should care so much for me. Thank You! I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

“He speaks to the sun and it does not shine; he seals off the light of the stars. He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea” (Job 9:7-8).

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19th,

1 John 4:7-12

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

God is Love

Regardless of what version of the Bible we choose to read, the word “love” is found many times in the Bible. We can find it everywhere. We find love from creation to creation, from creation to Creator, and from Creator to creation. And it can be described in so many different ways.

Have you ever asked yourself what true love really is? Have you ever felt it? Have you ever really loved? We are going to focus on The Love of God for the duration of this devotional. And we will discover some aspects of the Love of God towards us, towards each other and towards Him. First, we should define what love is according to the Bible. 1 Corinthians has the perfect definition of what true love really is and means. Love is not just a feeling, or an emotion, or even a reaction to someone else’s actions. Love is. It is not something that is attached to actions. True love does not change according to what the object of affection does or does not do. It just is.

God is love. Everything He does and everything He did is because of love. He is the purest form of love. He is the true measurement of love. Love was made by Him, for Him, through Him. It is not until after we get to know God that we can truly understand what love is.

God shows us His love for us in so many ways. He gave His son in sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins because He loves us so much! He makes everything to work together for our good because he loves us. He created everything for us to enjoy, because He loves us. It does not matter what we do or do not do, God is love. And because He is love, He cannot go against Himself. It is who He is; it is based on His character, not our actions. So no matter what we do, He still loves us. Because love is Him, He is love.

My prayer for you is that you may get to know God in a deeper way. That through knowing Him more you may feel a love like you have never felt before. That you can understand what true love really is, and your life and the lives of those around you will be changed forever. Because what the love of God touches cannot remain the same.

22nd,

Romans 8:38-39

Deuteronomy 7:9

Psalms 85:7-13

The Love of God Is Steadfast

We live in a world where everything changes, where one day one thing is cool and the next day it is old-fashioned and ridiculous. I remember a few years ago when the egg yolk was almost forbidden to eat because it was so bad for our health! And now it is ok to eat it and they discovered so many health benefits that come from eating it. There are so many things like that throughout history. Everything changes and keeps changing.

There is one thing, though, that will never change. That is the Love of God for us. His love is steadfast. It is firm. It is unwavering. It is forever. It is always faithful. It will not change no matter what, because God stays the same forever. He is love. He promises us His steadfast love so many times in the Bible.

It might be hard for us to fathom the reality of the Steadfast Love of God—a love that endures forever. Because nothing around us lasts forever anymore. We are not used to thinking about things lasting forever in our lives, families, and society nowadays. We do not want things that last forever anymore, because everything moves so fast, so we get bored with things easily. We don’t want to buy furniture that will last us forever anymore, because we know we will get bored of it soon. We buy our cell phones knowing that in two or three years we will be upgrading them for newer models. We buy our shoes not because of their amazing lasting quality, but because of their design, because we know that they will not be in style for a long time, so we might use them for a year and then we will move on to other styles.

If we really think about it, how amazing is it to know that The Love of God is something that will never change no matter what? It will not change if we change. It will not change if we do something or do not do it. It will not change with time. It will remain firm forever.

Thank you, God, for your love. Thank you for loving me with a love that will last forever and will not change, no matter what I do. Thank you for the security that is found in your love. Thank you for a love that I will always be able to depend on. Thank you for a love that always is and always will be.

26th,

Exodus 34:6-7

Ephesians 3:17-19

The Love Of God Is Irrevocable

Have you ever wondered about something that could be done to make the world a better place? To make it more peaceful? Have you asked yourself what it is that makes it such a chaotic place?

The chaos of the world is because we have shunned the love of God. We have told God that we do not want His love, that we do not want to operate in His love or even experience it. We want to do things our own way, with our own wisdom, and for our own gratitude. That is the reason for all the chaos in the world. Because of this, there is not a single thing we can do as human beings to make the world a peaceful place. It has to be through the love of God, operating in the people of God, to shine with that love of God. A love that is irrevocable, no matter what anyone else does. It does not depend on anything, or anyone, but God Himself.

Human to human love is revocable; we are constantly taking back things we give, say, or do—always revoking things. But heaven to human love is irrevocable. The love of God for us is irrevocable. His love for us is not conditioned; it does not matter what we do or do not do.

Irrevocable is a legal term. It is something that you cannot pull back. It is something beyond recall—binding, changeless, definite, a fact, final, indestructible, permanent, stable, certain, conclusive, ironclad, unavoidable. That is what the love of God is for us. It is based on His character, not our actions.

We often think that when we do something wrong, or make bad decisions, that God no longer loves us, or that His love has changed towards us and He loves us differently now. But the love of God does not work that way. Not only because God is our father, but because it goes against who He is and all of the promises He made us.

His love will never change, and He will never take His love back. This is a truth that we must learn to accept and understand. There is nothing we can do to change it. It is something that God gave us to enjoy and take advantage of for the rest of our lives. His irrevocable love.

29th,

Micah 7:8

Psalms 145:8

The Love Of God Offers Us Forgiveness

There is a painting by Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn that has always caught my eye. It is the one called “The Return Of The Prodigal Son”. It is believed to be one of Rembrandt’s final pieces. In this painting he describes perfectly the forgiveness of a father towards his son, and it is based on the parable of the prodigal son from the Bible. If you look at the painting closely you can almost feel the love of the father through the way the hands are placed on his son’s back and the expression on his face.

This parable talks about a son who asks the father for his inheritance, and then leaves and spends all of his money. It tells of the forgiveness of the father when the son returns with no other expectation but to become one of his servants. It shows a love that offers unexpected forgiveness and grace. The same goes for the love of God for us. Even when we least expect to be loved and forgiven, He still loves us and forgives us, repeatedly. Because that is who He is.

The forgiveness that God gives us through His love is not the same forgiveness that we are used to showing or receiving—human to human. God throws our sins so far away so that they cannot affect us anymore; He forgives us and never holds a grudge against us. His forgiveness is complete. It is a forgiveness that forgets all wrongdoing. A forgiveness that goes deeper than what we can expect or imagine. And this is not because of us, because we did something to deserve such forgiveness, but because of who God is and the love He has for us. It is a forgiveness that restores, that brings life, purpose, meaning, hope, and grace.

We as human beings are used to forgiving but not to forgetting. However, God is not like us, as we have talked about in these previous paragraphs. And my prayer for you is that you will be able accept the love and forgiveness of God in all of its fullness. Knowing that it is not and will never be about you, but who He is. Knowing that our actions will never be greater than His character. That one day you may find yourself loving and forgiving others in the same way that God loves and forgives us every day.

March, Easter and audacious Faith

11th,

John 6:35

Why do we need Jesus?

You and I were created to live in a relationship with God. Until we find that relationship, there will always be something missing in our lives. As a result, we are often aware of a gap. One rock singer described it by saying: ‘I’ve got an emptiness deep inside.’

A woman, in a letter to me, wrote of a ‘deep deep void.’ Another young girl spoke of ‘a chunk missing in her soul.’

People try to fill this emptiness in various ways. Some try to close the gap with money, but that does not satisfy. Aristotle Onassis, who was one of the richest men in the world, said at the end of his life: ‘Millions do not always add up to what a man needs out of life.’

Others try drugs or excess alcohol or sexual promiscuity. One girl said to me, ‘These things provide instant gratification but they leave you feeling hollow afterwards.’ Still others try hard work, music, sport or seek success. There may not be anything wrong with these in themselves, but they do not satisfy that hunger deep inside every human being.

Even the closest human relationships, wonderful though they are, do not in themselves satisfy this ‘emptiness deep inside.’ Nothing will fill this gap except the relationship with God for which we were made.

According to the New Testament, the reason for this emptiness is that men and woman have turned their backs on God.

Jesus said, ‘I am the bread of life’ (John 6:35). He is the only one who can satisfy our deepest hunger because he is the one who makes it possible for our relationship with God to be restored.

a) He satisfies our hunger for meaning and purpose in life

Only in a relationship with our Creator do we find the true meaning and purpose of our lives.

b) He satisfies our hunger for life beyond death

Most people do not want to die. We long to survive beyond death. Only in Jesus Christ do we find eternal life.

c) He satisfies our hunger for forgiveness

If we are honest, we would have to admit that we all do things that we know are wrong. By his death on the cross, Jesus made it possible for us to be forgiven and brought back into a relationship with God.

14th,

Mark 10:45

Galatians 2:20

Why did he come, and why did he die?

Jesus is the only man who has ever chosen to be born, and he is one of the few who has chosen to die. He said that the entire reason for his coming was to die for us. He came ‘to give his life as a ransom for many’ (Mark 10:45).

Jesus said he died ‘for’ us. The word ‘for’ means ‘instead of.’ He did it because he loved us and did not want us to have to pay the penalty for all the things that we had done wrong. On the cross, he was effectively saying, ‘I will take all those things on myself.’ He did it for you, and he did it for me. If you or I had been the only person in the world, he would have done it for us. St. Paul wrote of ‘the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me’ (Galatians 2:20). It was out of love for us that he gave his life as a ransom.

The word ‘ransom’ comes from the slave market. A kind person might buy a slave and set him free—but first the ransom price had to be paid. Jesus paid, by his blood on the cross, the ransom price to set us free.

18th,

Romans 6:23

John 8:34

John 8:36

Hebrews 2:14-15

Freedom from what?

Jesus paid, by his blood on the cross, the ransom price to set us free.

Freedom from guilt

Whether we feel guilty or not, we are all guilty before God because of the many times we have broken his laws in thought, word and deed. Just as when someone commits a crime there is a penalty to be paid, in the same way there is a penalty for breaking God’s law. ‘The wages of sin is death’ (Romans 6:23).

The result of the things we do wrong is spiritual death—being cut off from God eternally. We all deserve to suffer that penalty. On the cross, Jesus took the penalty in our place so that we could be totally forgiven and our guilt could be taken away.

Freedom from addiction

Jesus said that ‘everyone who sins is a slave to sin’ (John 8:34). Jesus died to set us free from that slavery. On the cross, the power of this addiction was broken. Although we may still fall from time to time, the power of this addiction is broken when Jesus sets us free.

Freedom from fear

Jesus came so that ‘by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death’ (Hebrews 2:14-15). We need no longer fear death.

Death is not the end for those whom Jesus has set free. Rather it is the gateway to heaven, where we will be free from even the presence of sin. When Jesus set us free from the fear of death, he also set us free from all other fears.

21st,

Isaiah 59:2

1 John 4:19

Galatians 5:22-23

Freedom for what?

Jesus is no longer physically on earth, but he has not left us alone. He sent his Holy Spirit to be with us. When his Spirit comes to live within us, he gives us a new freedom.

Freedom to know God

The things which we do wrong cause a barrier between us and God: ‘your iniquities have separated you from your God’ (Isaiah 59:2). When Jesus died on the cross, he removed the barrier that existed between us and God. As a result, he has made it possible for us to have a relationship with our Creator. We become his sons and daughters. The Spirit assures us of this relationship, and he helps us to get to know God better. He helps us to pray and to understand God’s word (the Bible).

Freedom to love

‘We love because he first loved us’ (1 John 4:19). As we look at the cross, we understand God’s love for us. When the Spirit of God comes to live within us, we experience that love. As we do so, we receive a new love for God and for other people. We are set free to live a life of love—a life centred around loving and serving Jesus and loving and serving other people rather than a life centred around ourselves.

Freedom to change

People sometimes say, ‘You are what you are. You can’t change.’ The good news is that with the help of the Spirit, we can change. The Holy Spirit gives us the freedom to live the sort of lives that deep down we have always wanted to live. St. Paul tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is ‘love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control’ (Galatians 5:22-23). When we ask the Spirit of God to come and live within us, these wonderful characteristics begin to grow in our lives.

25th,

John 3:16

What do we have to do?

The New Testament makes it clear that we have to do something to accept the gift that God offers. This is an act of faith. John writes that ‘God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life’ (John 3:16).

Believing involves an act of faith, based on all that we know about Jesus. It is not blind faith. It is putting our trust in a Person. In some ways, it is like the step of faith taken by a bride or a bridegroom when they say, ‘I will’ on their wedding day.

The way people take this step of faith varies enormously, but I want to describe one way in which you can take this step of faith right now. It can be summarised by three very simple words:

‘Sorry’

You have to ask God to forgive you for all the things you have done wrong and turn from everything which you know is wrong in your life. This is what the Bible means by ‘repentance.’

‘Thank you’

We believe that Jesus died for us on the cross. You need to thank him for dying for you and for the offer of his free gift of forgiveness, freedom and his Spirit.

‘Please’

God never forces his way into our lives. You need to accept his gift and invite him to come and live within you by his Spirit.

If you would like to have a relationship with God and you are ready to say these three things, then here is a very simple prayer which you can pray and which will be the start of that relationship:

Lord Jesus Christ,

I am sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life (take a few moments to ask his forgiveness for anything particular that is on your conscience). Please forgive me. I now turn from everything which I know is wrong.

Thank you that you died on the cross for me so that I could be forgiven and set free.

Thank you that you offer me forgiveness and the gift of your Spirit. I now receive that gift.

Please come into my life by your Holy Spirit to be with me forever.

Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen.

28th,

Matthew 17:20-[21]

Mark 11:22-25

“I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to the mountain, ‘move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.”- Matthew 17:20b-21 NLT

When was the last time you had audacious faith? When was the last time you prayed a bold prayer and believed God for the impossible? Let me tell you a story of audacious faith and bold prayers.

In 2018 we moved into a 2600-square-foot four-bedroom rent-to-own home in Oklahoma. We loved our neighborhood; this was our forever home. Our five beautiful kids had so much space, and we were blessed with the best neighbors. God provided a way for each of our kids to attend a Christian school, and we were living the best life.

In 2022 our landlord informed us that they wanted to sell the house. Instead of freaking out, what did we do? First, we prayed. We prayed alone, together as a family, and got other friends to pray with us. We started speaking positive things. We spoke and we believed that we would have a $600-a-month house, with four bedrooms, somewhere within 20 minutes of our Christian School, a nice neighborhood with amazing neighbors. We testified that God was going to do this for us and invited people to pray and believe with us.

Some said this would never happen; we would be lucky with $1800 monthly rent. My answer was: “Watch what my God will do.” After five days of speaking about our faith and believing, a friend met with me for coffee and said, “I have no idea why, but I feel like God wants me to offer your family our rent house. The house is a four-bedroom house, 2200 square feet, in a nice neighborhood, and best yet, you get to be my neighbor.”

God showed up. This house is up to date, beautiful, and looks like we live in an air-b-and-b. We have a balcony off the master bedroom and a jet bathtub! The house is in a beautiful and safe neighborhood. I asked her how much she was asking for rent. She said that she felt led to rent it to us for $600 a month! God gave us even more than what we asked for.

When you pray, approach God with audacious faith, and bold prayers, speak positivity and life into your situation, and watch God work more than you can ask, think, or imagine. James 4:2 says “…You do not have because you do not ask God.” On our own, none of this is possible.

When you ask of the Lord you must:

Approach humbly.

Believe that you will receive.

Ask with the right motives.

God wants to bless you.

Prayer:

Dear God, help us to approach you with audacious faith and to have bold prayers. Show up in ways that we could never imagine on our own. Give us ideas for bold prayers and help us sit back with peace and assurance knowing you have got this. Thank you, God, for the provision and understanding of your timing. Help me to stay humble and with the assurance of what you have in store for us.

We at MoreThanWarriors want to thank Jessy for her contribution to this plan.

**April. Audacious faith and Honour**

8th,

Genesis 7

Genesis 8

Hebrews 11:1

2 Corinthians 5:7

Noah’s Audacious Faith

When was the last time you heard from God and thought this is crazy? How in the world am I supposed to make this happen? What happens if my friends make fun of me? This is when we need audacious faith to sit back and watch God move in ways we have never expected before.

“Faith will never make you look foolish. Just ask Noah.” - Matthew Hagee

Noah had audacious faith; God asked him to do something so crazy, and even though everyone made fun of him, he still listened and waited for God’s provision through it all.

Mankind became so corrupt that God decided to wipe out every living thing from the earth. But Noah found favor with the Lord. He was a righteous man who walked in close fellowship with the Lord. God asked Noah to build a boat big enough for his family, a pair of every kind of animal—male and female— seven pairs of every animal that God has approved of eating and for sacrifice, and make sure to bring enough food for his family and all the animals. So, Noah did everything God commanded him to do. Even while others made fun of him, Noah pressed on and did what God called him to do. When Noah finished, He waited on the Lord who sent the animals to Noah. Then it rained for 40 days and 40 nights. The waters rose higher and higher than the highest mountain on the earth.

All the living creatures on earth died. The only people who survived were Noah and his family, and the flood waters covered the earth for 150 days. Then Noah waited multiple months for the water to go down. He sent out a raven and a dove two different times to see if it was safe to go out. He was on the boat for over a year waiting on God for direction on what to do next.

Noah is a landmark figure in the history of redemption because he was a living example of “the just living by faith.” How can you wait like Noah with audacious faith? You can by always trusting God, believing in His Word, and acting in obedience. Noah had never seen anything like a global flood before and may not have even known every kind of animal that God was bringing to the boat. All he had to go on was God’s character and knowing God’s promise to one day end Adam’s curse and crush the serpent’s head. (Genesis 3:15) After God told him a great flood was coming, Noah made practical preparations for something he “had not seen.” He had audacious faith and a reverent fear of God. He acted on his faith no matter how crazy it may have seemed to the world around him.

Prayer:

God, give me faith like Noah. Help me to have complete trust in Your provision and to have faith in the waiting. Help me not to worry about what others are saying but to listen to your voice above all the other voices. Thank you, God, for the provision in the waiting, for the undeniable peace, and for understanding when things don’t make sense.

11th,

1 Samuel 17

John 14:12

1 John 2:27

David’s Audacious Faith

"I obey... right away!" The call resounds in the VK room, marking the beginning of every kid's service at Church. It's a simple concept: teach children that delayed obedience is disobedience. But as adults, are we also guilty of disobedience? Are we neglecting the tasks the Almighty has called us to because we feel inadequate? Does the timing seem unfavorable, or does God's instructions appear nonsensical? Are we telling God that we'll handle it on our own, relying on our resources and timing—a display of pride rather than faith? What we truly need is a surrendered faith.

We need audacious faith that can move mountains and propel us forward. Let's look at David, an ordinary teenager. As a skilled shepherd, he fearlessly protected his sheep by defeating lions and bears. When the Philistines challenged his people and taunted them through the intimidating Goliath, no one had the courage to step forward for 40 days and nights. David, bringing food to his brothers, heard Goliath's insults, and decided to confront him. Saul, skeptical of David's abilities, cautioned him due to his youth. Undeterred, David recounted how he had vanquished lions and bears, expressing his unwavering confidence that God would save him from the Philistine as well. This was audacious faith in action. Encouraged by Saul, David attempted to wear the king's armor, but its size made it impractical. Armed with a shepherd's staff, a slingshot, and five stones from the river, he set out to face Goliath. As Goliath advanced, mocking David's seemingly feeble weapons, David fearlessly proclaimed that he came in the name of the Lord, declaring the imminent victory and demonstrating audacious faith. With a swift motion, David hurled a stone from his sling, striking Goliath in the forehead, causing him to stumble and fall. David seized Goliath's own sword and delivered the final blow, triumphing with only a sling and a stone.

David relied on God's promises, fortified by past deliverances, and believed in the Lord's word. His audacious faith surpassed his fear of the giant. We have much to learn from David—choosing audacious faith over fear, walking confidently because of the presence of God and the anointing upon him. Our faith should motivate us, not be hindered by fears. Ultimately, everything should be for God's glory, prioritizing His reputation over personal victories. We must remember that the battle belongs to the Lord. Often, we feel alone in our struggles, but if we live for God, He is always present, regardless of the circumstances. David lacked proper armor, military training, and even adulthood. The seasoned warriors of Israel deemed the challenge insurmountable. Yet, David trusted in the Lord and refused to let circumstances dictate God's power. He didn't wait for an opportune moment; instead, he embraced what God had already provided, trusting that the Lord would supply the rest. That, my friends, is audacious faith!

Prayer:

God, help me obey promptly and place my faith in You. You have never failed me before, so why would You fail me now? Thank You for anointing me and guiding me toward my purpose. Grant me the ability to live fully in my purpose each day and to faithfully follow You. May I align with Your timing, not my own.

15th,

Matthew 14:22-36

Romans 8:32

2 Corinthians 5:7

Hebrews 11:1

Peter’s Audacious Faith

Have you recently taken bold steps of audacious faith? Have you chosen obedience over fear? Are you tuning in to God's voice or allowing worldly voices to guide you? Peter demonstrated audacious faith when he ventured onto the water to be in the presence of Jesus.

After Jesus sent His disciples ahead on a boat to cross the lake, He withdrew to pray alone. Meanwhile, the disciples found themselves in trouble far from land as a fierce wind stirred up heavy waves. Around three o'clock in the morning, Jesus approached them, walking on the water. When the disciples saw Him, fear gripped their hearts, and they cried out, "It's a ghost!" Instantly, Jesus reassured them, saying, "Don't be afraid. Take courage. I am here." Upon hearing this, Peter called out, "Lord, if it's really you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus replied, "Yes, come." Encouraged by Jesus' words, Peter stepped out of the boat and began walking towards Him on the water. However, as he noticed the strong wind and crashing waves, fear seized him, and he started to sink. Desperately, Peter cried out, "Save me, Lord!" Immediately, Jesus reached out and rescued him, asking, "You have so little faith. Why did you doubt me?" Peter indeed possessed audacious faith as he was the only one who dared to step out of the boat. He realized that his safety wasn't tied to the boat itself, but rather to being with Jesus in the midst of the storm. With Jesus, one can endure any storm, for all other ground is sinking sand. No vessel can save us except the mighty name of Jesus. Peter placed his faith in Jesus, and we too must keep our faith in Him regardless of the storms around us. Instead of fixating on the wind and waves, we ought to fix our gaze on the cross. Do we not realize that we were bought at a price? Romans 8 assures us that if God willingly sacrificed His own Son for us, what good thing would He withhold from us? We should believe Him when He declares that He desires what is best for us. He is a good God, and He has already demonstrated His willingness to provide for us. Rather than contemplating what He can or might do for us, we must focus on what He will do for us. And then, we must step out of the boat.

When Jesus commanded Peter to "come," he obediently followed Him, even though it defied logic. This is the essence of obedience accompanied by audacious faith. We must step into the unknown, even when it lacks rationality. When Peter ventured onto the water, he kept his eyes fixed on Jesus. As long as he looked at Jesus amidst the storm, he remained above the water. However, the moment he diverted his gaze, he began to sink. In the midst of our own storms, we must keep our focus on Jesus, regardless of the challenges we face. Audacious faith involves simply taking the next steps. It unlocks supernatural possibilities. Peter only experienced the supernatural power of walking on water when he placed his trust in Jesus. Fear will always drag us down, but audacious faith enables us to achieve the impossible. Jesus has promised to be with us always ("...I am with you always, even to the end of the age" - Matthew 28:20), and that includes every storm we encounter. Instead of approaching Jesus with fear and anxiety, we should surrender everything to Him and allow Him to comfort and care for us. Listen to His voice amidst the storms of life. Take courage and fear not, for He is the Great I am!

Prayer:

Dear God, grant me audacious faith, even in the face of the impossible. Help me keep my eyes fixed on You throughout life's storms. Thank You for never abandoning me in the midst of these chaotic tempests but providing a safe refuge.

18th,

Genesis 22:1-22

Philippians 4:19

Isaiah 55:8-9

Abraham’s Audacious Faith

Have you ever been asked to do something so outrageous, but you stepped into faith and something miraculous happened? In Genesis 22, God asked Abraham to do something so outrageous, and Abraham did it with audacious faith. He told Abraham to take his only son, Isaac, and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains. The next morning Abraham got up early, got the donkey ready, and firewood. Then they were off for a three-day journey. Then they traveled a little farther, and Isaac asked his dad, “but where is the sheep for the burnt offering.” “God will provide the sheep for the offering.” Abraham already had audacious faith knowing that God was going to provide for him If he did exactly what God had told him He would provide. Abraham built the altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he laid his son on the altar and raised his knife; right then an angel of the Lord called out ”Abraham! Abraham!’ “Here I am.” He spoke. “Don’t lay a hand on the boy. Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God.” Just then he looked up and saw a ram caught by his thorns in the bush.

Abraham and Isaac are walking up one side of the mountain while the ram is being led up the other. Abraham was walking in audacious faith even when the situation looked hopeless. God was leading a ram up the other side of the mountain. As Abraham was stepping towards God in obedience God was coming to Abraham with provision and love. When we put our faith in Christ, God himself will protect, provide, and care for us. (Philippians 4:19) God always provides for his children, but it may not be the way we expect it to be. The challenge for us is to see his provision even when it looks different than what we expected.

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9. These verses are powerful. God’s plans are not always what we want, but they are always better. I had my dream job; I loved everyone I worked with; I loved the kids. I worked at my favorite place to be, and all my kids went to school there. A week before school started, I got let go because of classroom size, but God took one of the hardest times of my life and turned it for good. Now I am going to college which has been paid for every single month when it is due, and I'm growing so much in my walk with Christ, learning so much, and I have made amazing friends.

This is exactly where I need to be right now. When you pray bold prayers and have audacious faith God will lead you and provide everything you need. Don’t be afraid to trust in the Lord when it doesn’t make sense. Faith does its greatest work in the face of your biggest adversity. Step out with your audacious faith and your bold prayers and trust God to do something miraculous.

Prayer:

God, help me to trust you when things don’t make sense. Send me the peace and reassurance that you have everything under control. God, help me to take my thoughts captive and turn them into audacious faith. Thank you for being Jehovah Jireh.

22nd, HONOUR.

John 4:1-29

Romans 10:10-12

Galatians 5:22-25

Have you ever felt shame?

Most of us have, although the feeling can be hard to describe. To some, it can be the feeling of being too much, not enough, broken or being wrong, or unclean.

We feel shame for our weaknesses, failures, and the secret things we can’t speak out loud. Shame can make us feel like we are rejected, disqualified, broken, or unworthy. This feeling is imposed on us by others, but also something we feel when we believe we just can’t fit in or have failed.

Rather than acknowledging that we have done a bad thing that could be forgiven, shame tells us we are bad. It can be difficult to know what to do with our shame!

A woman in the Bible shows us what shame looked like in her life (John 4:1-29). She walked to a well to draw water alone. She seemed distrustful and without hope.

As we read her story, we discover it is a story that Jesus already knew. Today, we might label a woman with five previous marriages, but in the first century Israel and Samaria, women couldn’t initiate divorce. She may have been partly at fault for where she was in life, but it’s just as likely that she faced rejection for things beyond her control. She may have been trafficked, traded, used, and abandoned. Her choices were limited, and she did what she could to survive. Not only this, but she was a woman, a Samaritan, maybe even childless—all sources of shame at that time.

She didn’t have a solution for these things. They were daily struggles, just like her daily thirst. But Jesus had something unlimited to offer her.

Jesus, who knew the secrets of her heart, chose to trust her with His secret.

He tells her that He is the Rescuer that her people have been waiting for. He has come to remove sin completely, even for her! She is the very first to hear of His true identity and has the double honour of taking this message to her people.

Why wouldn’t Jesus have chosen someone with power, popularity, and a picture-perfect life for such an important job? Because this is why Jesus came.

To give the shamed honour, the unloved a home, the forgotten a name, the discarded a purpose. To solve our sin problem but also our shame problem. That’s how powerful the work of Jesus is!

Read Romans 10:10-12 slowly. Do you see what it says? The rescue that Jesus offers us, which is ours through faith in Jesus, results in shame being shattered. We will explore this more in the coming days.

Pray and ask God to show you how shame affects the world and that you would understand the rescue Jesus offers.

25th,

God's Honour for Our Shame

Genesis 3:1-13

1 Samuel 2:6-8

Isaiah 53:3

Where did shame first come from? Before sin, people experienced a perfect relationship with their creator. After sin, suddenly, they experienced uncomfortable realities that were totally new. Adam and Eve tried to rid themselves of these bad feelings. The first was fear — to solve their fear, the people hid to protect themselves. The second was guilt –they shifted blame to one another. The last was shame – they covered their bodies with leaves.

This was the start of shame, that feeling of needing to cover up the flaw to be accepted. Shame still whispers to us that we are unworthy, incapable of being loved.

So we try to construct honour to cover ourselves, fragile as fig leaves.

But God didn’t leave his children with frail coverings. With his own hand, He sewed them clothing to wear when leaving paradise. Because they were his children, He gave them a gift out of love!

God offers us a covering too! Through what Jesus accomplished, our guilt, fear, and shame can be erased! Not partially or temporarily, but fully and for all time. When we accept God’s offer of forgiveness, He sees us as though we are worthy of all honour, as if we are beautiful, beloved, and blessed, just like He sees Jesus.

Honour happened for Brenda when a local church and Compassion centre reached out with love. Not only did they provide for her needs and medications, but they also welcomed her into their community. Church staff paid for an apartment out of their pockets while building her a multi-room furnished house. The shame became invisible because a community treated her as worthy of being loved.

That is the way that God has called the church to respond to people living in shame. This response tells the truth about the honour God offers each of us, a lasting covering.

What do you most need to have ‘covered’ in your life? What have you been doing to cover it yourself?

Pray and tell God the areas of your life where you experience shame. Picture God creating coverings for each one of them out of his love for you. Ask God to forgive failures, cover shame, and restore you.

29th,

Acts 8:26-40

1 Peter 2:6-10

Mark 2:17

On his chariot ride home from Jerusalem, the blinding sun made reading the scrolls difficult. So did the tears. He had travelled for days to worship the God of the Hebrew people, only to be turned away from the entrance to the temple. It wasn’t just that he was a foreigner from Ethiopia. It wasn’t any sin he had committed – he would make sacrifices. It was that he was a eunuch, possessing a physical deformity that prevented him from fathering children. Whether he had this condition from birth or his masters in the royal palace, we don’t know – all we know is he was excluded from the people of God by their laws until he met a man named Philip.

The man was reading scriptures about someone who faced shame as he did, but Philip offered him so much more than just a sermon! No, Philip’s offer was greater – baptism, a sign of total inclusion into the people of God!

How could Philip offer inclusion to a man the temple had rejected? Simple – he had been a disciple of Jesus, and Jesus had rewritten the lines of who was included in the people of God. No shame of ours can contaminate Jesus because his honour is infinite. The extraordinary Ethiopian man became the first to bring the Gospel of Jesus to the continent of Africa!

Once you begin to look for it, it’s impossible not to see God has a heart for outsiders. Think of how Jesus lived –spending days with tax collectors, prostitutes, and foreigners—healing the rejected. Did you know even Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were among the forgotten? As residents of a leper town, they were too unclean to be seen, yet Jesus stayed in their home!

Have you ever been an outsider? Many children born with physical disabilities around the world experience this rejection. Though her parents abandoned her when she was born without hands, 11-year-old Cleidy in Guatemala has been raised with love and confidence. Her grandmother didn’t give up on her, and her local Compassion centre taught her to write with her wrists, where she has won awards for her writing. The community of faith accepted her, loved her, and believed in her bright future. Why? Because they had experienced God’s unconditional acceptance for themselves.

Shame is a response to a community's exclusion, but honour needs an audience too. Look for a community that will do as Jesus did and welcome the outsider. Let your story be known, and keep your eyes open for those who welcome you anyway.

Are you able to see God’s love and acceptance of you? Are you able to offer this honour to others?

Pray and talk to God about the ways you have felt outcast and alone. Pray that you would experience his love and a community of people who see God’s image in you.

May. Respect.

9th,

13th,

16th,

20th,

23rd,

27th,

30th,

June,

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