



**90 years  
in God's Grace**

**Lois Ewald**

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Father, thank You for your gift of a long life. Thank you for your mercy and long suffering, over years of knocking at the door of my life when I refused to answer. Thank You for grace upon grace extended during my years of ignoring, insulting, snubbing, rejecting, scorning and turning You away. What can I say? There are no words.

Thank You for your directness and open arms when I finally came to an end of myself and to You, for your forgiveness and cleansing. Thank You for the words I heard as You spoke in my spirit. Thank You that You made Yourself known. There are no words.

Thank You for the first day of my new life, the new beginning of a walk in light. You worked in my mind and heart to create a new person, and brought newness of life to me, penetrating personal darkness. There are no words.

Thank You for the walk with You, for Your work in bringing me into agreement with You, of renewing my mind, of opening up before me the pathway of the cross, of the resurrected power You became in me so I could be one of your disciples. There are no words.

And now, Father, I'm nearing the end of my allotted years, the number of which you know beforehand. Thank You for Your presence, Your loving kindness, mercies upon mercies.

There are no words.

I'm living in my 90th year with a birthday date soon (should it please our Father)...I asked my family not to do anything extraordinary to celebrate this event which some families like to do for the 90th year. I have always liked quiet birthdays which evoke prayers of wonder and gratitude from my heart for the goodness and mercy (Psalm 23) that have followed me all the days of my life, and a deep sense of delight that I dwell in the house of the Lord forever...in Christ.

This big number birthday year I want to share Him and His Word with you, by noting some teachings He taught me very early in my walk and even yesterday. It was His voice that began my new life, His Word that guided my steps, filled me with the joy of the Lord as my strength, His Word which He equipped me to share with others, His Word that held me, and brought me back from a straying heart into an abiding life with Him. I will in time be with Him, with perfected heart and mind as He promises. It is what He does, Jesus Christ, the living Word. God the Father drew me to Jesus, He became my Lord and Master, the Holy Spirit the seal of my life in Christ. It is in all of this I celebrate my ninetieth birthday. If you are on this same pathway with me, let's love and serve Him with our whole heart. If you are not, let me say to you that as you live each day, you will sense a sad darkness in your mind, something missing, and a haunting fear in your heart because our Father created us to be His own possession, one with Him; but when this spiritual birth takes place, fear and loneliness simply vanish and His joy rules our everyday world.

Important Note: Writing a personal testimony often causes readers to think of the writer, and in some cases that is fine. But in my heart, one who walks gratefully with our Father, receiving His gift of life and the blessings of years of His grace...this writer would prefer any afterthoughts would be on ONE BEING:

## OUR GOD

May the Holy Spirit draw everyone who reads this memory book to see His faithfulness to a sinful human being who bows before His throne, continually needing His grace. Just kneel there with me...our Father invites us all. Come with me...

## Introduction

It was soon after my 89<sup>th</sup> birthday that the idea of writing this, as a testimony of our Father's faithfulness to His Word came to mind with the hope of sharing it with my circle of friends and acquaintances as my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday gift to them. This is a journey book, with writings that describe just a few workings of God in my heart and ways He led my life. The object of this little book is to glorify God, the only One worthy of glory. He is the One who created and gave physical life and then spiritual. May every page speak of the limitless power, the limitless grace, the limitless mercy of our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of His sheep, the sheep of His pasture. That's me, one of many sheep.

In this book you will find favorite Scriptures, of course, some teachings He gave me, some hymns He planted in my heart over the years, some thoughts that motivated my early walk and some things I grew to understand as I listened to Him and obeyed. Some personal work is described, things I hope will bless you. You have a story of grace too. Life with Him is all of grace. Perhaps you should share your story of His grace in your life. A testimony of what the Lord has done, His mercy and grace...that's what I've tried to put together. As you journey through it with me, keep in mind that it is not my purpose to focus on myself, but on Him, our Lord.

Just this morning, the precious value of His Word for so many years came to me, along with powerful Scriptures, and the idea of sharing these with you, some with comments, some personal reasons why these are dear and precious to me. If you've ever been asked if you have a favorite Bible verse, quite likely it was impossible to name one favorite. I have so many that became part of my heart over the years. One favorite? Not possible! I knew from the beginning that the Word was living and powerful

and sharp, and spoken by the Holy Spirit into our lives just when we need it. He does this for us.

The very day I repented of my sins to God, almost within the same hour, came the desire to read the Bible which I came to understand is His Word. I had trouble finding one in our house, but I kept looking because I knew there was one...somewhere. Then I sat alone and began reading a Psalm...the only book I knew by name. The Holy Spirit immediately placed a hunger and thirst for His Word, yet to be read and understood...which has never left me. It started that awesome day. My walk with God continually connects with the Scriptures. It seems quite appropriate that my gift to you, celebrating 90 years of life would be with Scriptures.

Lois Ewald (2020)

I was physically born 90 years ago in 1931, but began to live life in 1958.





## The Next Morning

After my prayer this morning, the thought came to me about the morning after God knocked on the door of my heart and I opened to Him. That was truly awesome. It was tearful and serious, and all these years later I am caught up in the afterglow God gives.

The morning was usual in preparing breakfast for the family, helping John off to work as he managed a J. C. Penney store, and our three girls off to elementary school a few walking blocks from our house. All the while doing this, there was this feeling, this sense that something was different. I remembered distinctly my encounter with our Father. What I experienced were new thoughts moving about my mind, and a desire to pray and read the Bible was very clear. So I hurried through the routines of the morning, and then taking the Bible in hand, even now after all these years, remembering the set up of the living room, and the corner of the sofa where I sat down with God. I knew He was with me, I knew I was not the same person inside myself, I knew my thoughts about Him were new and powerful and while I had many questions, thoughts that needed further understanding, this was a new beginning for my life and stretching out before me were all kinds of complications I knew I would encounter and so much I would need help with; but at the same time, I knew the difference was something God had done. I did not know the spiritual words or lingo, but I knew I was on a differ-

ent course. It was later that the term “born again” enabled me to understand what God had done for and in me. I only knew that I was a forgiven woman and that God loved me. I knew that God loved me. I knew that God loved me. God loved me. I had never known that before. He was not who or what I thought He was in the past. A new beginning was that God had entered my life and I knew it.



## **“In the beginning, God...”**

(The Holy Spirit began using Scripture in me.)

Opening the Bible to read it as a new Christian is an experience I will never forget. I asked God to teach me about Himself and told Him that I would depend only on Him, that I would study the Bible and believe only what was in it, what I understood, ridding myself of all kinds of things that I had been told about spiritual matters. In doing this, I may have struggled with some things I did not yet understand, but I did not disbelieve them. Looking back, I believe God gave me the gift of faith when I was born again so that I would come to know Him and obey Him. His Word gripped me!

Life was not easy because as I understood and believed, many things had to be changed in my heart and life, but “with strong crying and tears, I learned obedience,” also knowing that I could only know God better little by little...all baby steps, but a hunger was in my heart to know and understand and learn to trust and obey the Scriptures God was showing me. Slowly came the awesome information about Jesus Christ, who made all this possible; the Holy Spirit became a personal teacher and the Bible my textbook for life! As the Bible opened to me, God became Father, teacher, guide, shepherd, friend, master, Lord, and warrior. I knew God was with me. Those were wonderful days, months, years. True today.

The Bible says His Word is our Bread of Life; He gives us hunger for it, and it is His Spirit who gives understanding.



## The New Treasure

(Jesus opened Himself to me as I read the Scriptures.)

Earlier I mentioned my desire to look for a Bible I knew was packed somewhere in our house. It had been in that box for many years, but had never been used. In fact, it was given me when there was no desire to know God, by someone who was concerned about me. It was the year of 1958 when I first opened this Bible, which I still use in 2021...it has had 63 years of use... and I'm sure you can see it has fallen apart.

I agree with the person who said that what made it fall apart (daily use) is what kept me from "falling apart," searching, reading, confessing, bending the knee and bowing the head. I began to understand Who God was and who I was. The old passed away, and the new had come. This Bible is one of my treasures. I've worn out other Bibles since then...but this Bible is special and I would not want a replacement. We've been through a lifetime together.

The Bible indicates He has personal, practical, and eternal purposes for giving us love for His Word. It is simply another of His many gifts to His children.



## **The Bible Says: “In the beginning” (Genesis 1)**

All life was and is created by our Father.  
From Genesis and Psalms...Christ creating all things living  
and human life...He creates human life in the womb

Scripture—His Word

It is the Father who orders and plans.

Scripture—His Word

The world’s description

Scripture—His Word

The world’s behavior

Scripture—His Word

The world’s lost condition

Scripture—His Word

The world’s ultimate dilemma

Scripture—His Word

The world’s only hope

Scripture—His Word

God’s only remedy

Scripture—His Word

God’s offer to man

Scripture—His Word

Man’s response

Scripture—His Word

God's action

Scripture—His Word

Scripture: Draw near to God and He will draw near to you

HE DREW ME; I DREW NEAR, AND HE BECAME MY GOD AND FATHER. It was my 28th year of life. His Word became personal and powerful. I later discovered this happens for every person who comes to God. The Scriptures became part of my life because Jesus Christ is the Living Word (John 1). Life was never the same. Mine became a redeemed life, being filled with God's Holy Spirit, living in communion with Him. There are Scriptures in this little book that have formed my life. With some of these I am adding details revealing how personal and powerful our Father is in the lives of those who hear His invitation, move toward Him, become forgiven and cleansed and placed in His school of obedience that we might be His witnesses, bringing others to Him, building His Kingdom for His new world. I trust you are finding all of this to be the same in your walk with God.



## The Bible Reveals...

the mind of God.  
the state of man,  
the way of salvation,  
the doom of sinners,  
and the happiness of believers.

Its doctrines are holy,  
its precepts binding,  
its histories are true,  
its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise,  
believe it to be safe,  
and practice it to be holy.

It contains light to direct you,  
food to support you,  
and comfort to cheer you.

It is the traveler's map,  
the pilgrim's staff,  
the pilot's compass,  
the soldier's sword,  
and the Christian's charter.



The writer of this awesome statement about the Bible is unknown. But every word is as true as the Bible itself.  
May it be written in our hearts.

Here Heaven is opened and  
the gates of Hell disclosed.

Christ is its grand subject,  
our good is its design  
the glory of God its end.

It should fill your memory,  
rule your heart,  
and guide your feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully.

It is given in life,  
will be opened at the judgment,  
and will be remembered forever.

It involves the highest responsibility,  
will reward the greatest labor,  
and will condemn all those  
who trifle with its sacred contents.



Owned, it is riches,  
studied, it is wisdom,  
trusted, it is salvation,  
loved it is character, and  
obeyed, it is power.  
—Author Unknown)



## The Book of Life

(God helped me to see that the Bible was relevant and powerful, daily molding me into His plan.)

(God makes Himself personal and knowable.)

I prayed the sinner's prayer, when He offered to help me. I knew God had spoken to me personally. I rose from the side of my bed, with a clear understanding that God had brought me into His waiting arms. I wanted to be in no other place. I knew in my heart and mind that this was real and I was moving into a new life, a beginning. In that awesome moment, it was God the Father and me. The full implication of this was yet to come. Gone was my hostility toward God and God's people, gone was the heavy load of guilt, gone was the envy and hatred, the malice and evil thinking, replaced with deep sorrow over those I had hurt and sinned against. Replacing my belligerent heart attitude was peace and an immediate longing to really know God and obey Him. I said to Him, "I want to know you, not what I was told by others in past years, but personally from you, through what you teach me." I meant it.

At that time, I knew no Scripture to define what had taken place, but later I read that I was a "new creation," that "the old passed away and the new had come." My spirit was now alive and ultimately I had found a Bible that had been given me years before...never touched, never touched. But God knew this day would come, and had arranged for it, in a box in a closet.

It became my plan to read something from the Bible, in private...that I would tell no one about this experience until I really understood what was happening to me. So, it was months before I shared with any member of my family, even with my husband, anything about my encounter with God and what was taking place. And I kept my intention. Every morning after family left the house, I opened this Bible and read. I began with the Psalms because it was the only part of the Bible I knew by name. It was scary at first because while the Psalms are comforting and spiritually stabilizing, they also contain God's view of wicked people and His actions against them. I read through the Psalms and not really knowing the layout of the Bible, I accidentally discovered a Bible verse in Isaiah...so I moved into Isaiah and it became the soil of growth for me. I ran across the birth of Jesus (prophetically, but knew it was Him), and there were Scriptures which I shall never forget. From the moment of my new birth, the Bible moved into my life. It was indeed active and powerful, the sword and the hammer, but also the pillow of comfort. It became my filter of life, the truth above all else. It changed my way of thinking on every subject. It completely rearranged my views of people and of this world and of myself. It exalted Christ for me even from the Old Testament as God's Spirit gave me His blessing of spiritual sight. The Bible challenged every thought I had about life as He worked in my mind.

The Bible said He walks with His children daily. I asked if I could be one of those children with whom He walked. He replied: Follow me!



## My Bible and I

We've traveled together, my Bible and I  
Through all kinds of weather, with smile or with sigh!  
In sorrow or sunshine, in tempest or calm,  
Thy friendship unchanging, my lamp and my psalm.

We've traveled together, my Bible and I,  
When life had grown weary, and death e'en was nigh!  
But all through the darkness of mist or of wrong,  
I found there a solace, a prayer, and a song.

So now who shall part us, my Bible and I?  
Shall "isms or schisms," or "new lights" who try?  
Shall shadow for substance, or stone for good bread,  
supplant thy sound wisdom, give folly instead?

Ah, no, my dear Bible, exponent of light!  
Thou sword of the Spirit, put error to flight!  
And all through life's journey, until my last sigh,  
We'll travel together, my Bible and I.

—Author Unknown



## The Special Knock

(God pursues His lost sheep with powerful love, very powerful love.)

He came to my heart's door, sometimes knocking loudly, other times softly, but I heard His knock. I remember once as a little girl that I felt there was some kind of an encounter with God in a church service I had been taken to. It was new to me and a call to come forward was given and I went forward like a little sheep. Someone said a prayer with me. I don't recall really understanding any of this. It was dark when we were walking home and I remember feeling quiet and alone, and somehow different; it was a beautiful night with shining stars and I seemed to feel something almost physical. But that feeling left by the next day; there was nothing more and my personal move forward was not addressed by any adult in my life so nothing more happened and nothing seemed to come of it. Lots of complications were mine growing up as life went on, some disappointing and difficult, adding to problems I made for myself with poor choices and actions.

Choices were made without any memory of the childhood experience or any thought of God. In my young adult years there were knocks on my heart's door. These were inward in my thoughts. But I never opened the door, and feeling pushed and driven with life itself, determined to experience only those

things that I wanted without interference from anyone, with never even a respectful thought of God, I grew up. But I began to notice that the more I seemed to gain personally, the experiences I thought would be satisfying, the more I had my own way above everything and everybody else, the greater my inner darkness and hopelessness. Lost.

Then one dark day during my life as a young wife and mother, home alone, His voice accompanied His knock and He said to me, "I can help you if you'll let me." Each time I remember this and share it, even now, over sixty years later, I have tears. I can't explain how I knew this was God, but I opened the door with tears of shame and remorse and regret and guilt. That day I met Jesus personally, and we began to walk together. We talked as friends, family, as Father to a prodigal daughter, Savior to one who came home, Master to handmaiden, God very God to one needing His love and mercy, Provider for one whose needs are met, Guide to one who needs direction, and Companion to one who lives with peace and joy in my personal life since I met Jesus. Oh, for the wasted years when I let Him stand outside the door. Choices and decisions would have been very different if I had only listened. But when He brings us to Himself, He hears our regrets with mercy and grace. How gracious that He knocked often and waited. What God would do that? Only Our God! Only Our Father!

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me" (Revelation 3).

The Bible says He loved us while we were yet in sin. I am more than grateful.



## Learning to Pray...

(God takes human praying into His own hands. He teaches us to pray and how to do it. He showed me that to know Him, I must learn to pray and He planned to teach me.)

From the prayer I prayed by my bedside the day God knocked once again at my heart's door (this time I had answered with brokenness and tears), I began to pray. The very next morning when I read the Bible I prayed. Sometimes throughout the days and even the nights I prayed. I confess that my prayers were all about myself and my new life and the entanglements and problems that were large and disturbing that had to be resolved. I never knew Scriptures about prayer. I had no one with whom to pray. My words, however, were from my heart to God whom I knew had forgiven me and was opening a new life before me.

I was reading in the Psalms about mercy and David calling out to God, but some things I did not understand about prayer. Reading the Psalms, I prayed David's prayers. I prayed for what I thought I needed, and for my family, for my husband who was a moral man, a churchman who chose the "right" church for us, whose pastor gave sermons from *Saturday Evening Post* or positive messages from *Readers Digest* or other publications. But many business people were in that church which had influenced John's choice. For a long time my prayers, very sincere, were completely self-engrossed and moved about only in and for my circle of life.

Then, one day, I read or heard about a book on prayer written by O. Hallesby. I never knew who he was, but felt I needed some instruction in the subject of prayer. About the same time, a new friend invited me to ride to Toledo, Ohio, with her so she could shop at a Christian bookstore. I had never been in a Christian bookstore before, knew nothing about Christian writers, so had no idea what to buy, if anything, but she had a large stack, and as she was paying for her choices...I saw a book near the cash register entitled *Absolute Surrender* by Andrew Murray... it was 39 cents. I took it home and read it in one night...I knew what I was reading was connected to me and I loved the writer so asked my friend if we could return to the store and I bought every book by Andrew Murray. They were each only 39 cents. (Those were days of the past.) I did also find a copy of the book entitled *Prayer* that was in my mind and purchased it.

I knew God had opened this all to me, and as I began to read, I began to pray in a different way...I had found teachers... over time many of the old writers became my teachers, and my prayers began to make a difference. God was answering prayers for me...a new day had begun...a life of prayer. Most of the time when He answered my prayers, I was very surprised. He did not do this in answer to my faith, but in response to my desire to know He was real and was indeed God. Two incidents were in the miraculous category...but as I said, I was not a woman of great faith, just a searcher with my whole heart and He knew it and made Himself known to me, out of His mercy. It was all grace.





## Fear Not

(I lived with many fears, powerful fears, so God moved into that part of me. He showed me Himself.)

This is one of the first verses I found as a new believer in the book of Isaiah, Was it any wonder I buried that book in my heart? The Amplified translation had not yet been published. I loved it in the King James and ran to it constantly, needing His words every step of the new path, traveling alone except for Him in those days. It used to amaze me how God always seemed to know what to say and how to say it, like it was just for me. Now I know how and why: He is God!

Fear not (there is nothing to fear),  
For I am with you;  
Do not look around you in terror  
And be not dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen and harden you  
To difficulties, yes, I will help you;  
Yes, I will hold you up and retain  
you with My (victorious) right hand  
of rightness and justice.  
(Isaiah 41 Amplified Bible)



“But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53).

This morning I was thinking about spiritual matters and our Father’s goodness to me. I thought about Jesus as He lived with man on earth and the wonderful way He handled everything with everyone. He was never subtle, always direct, handled truth with love, compassion, gentleness, giving insight and understanding to those who came to Him. He was always approachable to those with issues, broken hearts, discouragement. He was kind to those with timid hearts who felt helpless, those who had questions and needs of all kinds. He was open to children so much so that they felt free to climb on His lap. They heard Him say, “Let the children come to me.” And they came...their mothers felt His welcome. When we think of the New Testament record, He called some men who learned to be strong and bold after they received His power. They became His disciples. He wept over the hearts of people. He listened to the cries of the blind, felt for the father whose son had died, lifted the cripple from his bed. Someone I think of was Zacchaeus, a sinful businessman who stopped to look and listen, so short in stature that he climbed a tree to see Jesus passing by. Zacchaeus felt his loss, and Jesus invited Himself for lunch in his home.

Jesus made of Himself a servant, with a servant’s heart. It seems incredible to think of crucifixion for such a man as Jesus. Children would wonder at this, and when we are childish in our faith and understanding we wonder too, but when we under-

stand the plan of God for man's redemption, when we see how sinful we are and His perfection, when we understand the sacrifice for the world, Jesus was the only One right for the sacrifice. It could only have been Jesus!



Today I sat beneath the trees  
And not a sound I heard.  
No whistling wind, no rustling leaves,  
No chirp or song of bird.  
My heart was stilled, my soul was calmed, my spirit soared  
above.

I reach the Christ, Who shepherds me, Who offers me His  
love.

And in the stillness of this hour,  
I recognize our Father's power,  
And move into that secret place  
He offers me in awesome grace...

Himself.  
He is that stillness in my heart!

“In quietness and in confidence will be your strength” (Isaiah 30:15).

LE/March 20, 2018



## Living on Mercy Court

(Our Father is a God of mercy. He lets us know that and spends our lifetime showing us. He showed me that as He was merciful to me, so He planted mercy in me.)

Did I ever tell you that when God called me to Himself in my darkened bedroom that our earthly address at that time was: ### Mercy Court?

A special address...What took place in my life happened in the right place—a court of mercy! I’ve thought about this many times. While my earthly address is no longer Mercy Court, I’ve lived on “mercy court” every day of my life! I plan never to move, but have invited many others to move there with me and many have. It’s the safest place to live in this world.

**THERE ARE ALTARS ON MERCY COURT:**

Abraham’s lifetime was not measured in miles or distances but in altars. This was my thought when I first began to study his life. (Study it for yourself.) I learned this from Abraham:

An ALTAR marks the spot where God speaks as man listens and responds.

God does the speaking,  
man builds an altar. (Old Testament)

An ALTAR marks the spot where God speaks as man listens and responds.

God does the speaking,  
man bows. Jesus is our ALTAR. (New Testament)

ALTARS CALLED FOR BY OUR ONE TRUE GOD have  
been and always will be erected on MERCY COURT.



I found this little poem many years ago but don't remember where.

I walked a mile with pleasure  
She chattered all the way,  
But I was none the wiser  
For all she had to say.

I walked a mile with SORROW  
And not a word said she.  
But oh, the lessons that I learned  
When sorrow walked with me.

The Bible says there are two kinds of sorrow, the world's sorrow connected to this world, and godly sorrow connected to God's work of repentance in us. The world's sorrow is the result of our own sins and darkness in sowing the wind and reaping the whirlwind. There are tears in this sorrow of self pity, selfishness, losses, and pain resulting from our actions, tears of jealousy and lost competition and grasping and cheating but never really winning, tears of defeat and broken relationships, etc.

The other sorrow, godly sorrow, is a gift from the One Who loves us. It is the sorrow of a repentant heart, made repentant by God Himself as He enables us to see His love and His call to Himself and His power to help and to save. Truly it is a gift of love and these tears cleanse and make clean our minds and hearts. We see Jesus and recognize His redeeming love; these

tears well up from His fountain of hope and forgiveness experienced. These tears are from a heart broken over its sin against God and against others, even those we love. Then we repent.





“But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays, And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves” (Malachi 4).

I looked out my window this November morning. A heavy frost covered everything...a layer of crusty ice. It blighted the last of growing things that had not yet succumbed to the coming winter's sleep of death. The morning sky was heavy gray; a semi-darkness cast a pall over the morning. It looked cold and it was cold and I felt cold.

Sometimes there is a heavy frost somewhat like this that spreads across my heart. For some reason, not always easily identified, an icy spread blights the joy of the Lord as my strength. Looking ahead at the agenda for the day, an awful gray covers it, and I am gripped with darkness. My heart's reflex is a look to the Lord; but His face is blocked by the gray I see, the cold I feel, that cold of dread and dismal foreboding. I feel the blight, the sleep of death in my soul that appears to cover life in a casket of unbelief and darkness. This icy frost has sealed shut my usual joy under the blight of discouragement and dismay.

Time passed while all these feelings visited my morning's beginning. But a short while later I walked past that window, and I saw that the sun had come up, and its rays of warmth had melted the heavy layer of ice. It had become sparkles of water. Seeing the sparkling and bright lifted my spirit, and the gray was gone, replaced by autumn colors of intensity. I thought of the Scripture: “The sun arises with healing in its rays.” Words came to my heart, “Look to the Son, look to the Son.” When I looked at

the Son, song began in my heart, the warmth of His love melted everything that was frozen, cold moved out and warmth moved in, the weight of heaviness was lifted by miracle hands, darkness had vanished as light overcame it, and my Lord Jesus and I entered the new day with my hand in His, gripped by Him.



## God's Spirit at Work

I love how the Lord created our minds somewhat like computers in which information can be stored so the folders can be opened and that which was folded in comes on the screen of our hearts when needed.

Along with this, when He enters our beings, the Holy Spirit takes His liberty to file and delete. Sometimes He calls up stored information that God knows we need. We suddenly find ourselves thinking of a special Scripture, of thoughts expressed by others that have blessed us, taught us, comforting our hearts. Often the Holy Spirit works in us awesome divine thoughts that result in praise and thanksgiving. I have found also that sometimes it is a hymn of prayer or praise that the Holy Spirit places in the audio section of our minds. This has brought great joy to my heart and I am sure the same happens to you.

A few days ago, four lines of a short chorus sounded in my mind. I knew this many years ago, and can't remember when or where.

Back to Calvary, where Jesus died,  
Back to Calvary, there to abide.  
Where for my sins, He was once crucified.  
Let me go back to Calvary. (Isn't this beautiful?)

The Holy Spirit taught me this important consideration:

There are Christians who settle for living within the Christian culture often shaped by the world around us and their opinions...they work hard to live accordingly and measure everything by the rules and regulations of their local church group or Christian friends, etc., instead of Christ Himself, which may or may not be ordered by our Lord. We need to listen to our Leader who has said we are to follow Him!

When we consider living everyday “according to the purpose of God”...we are choosing to live within the will of God to be within the purpose of God...this is like an umbrella over our everyday decisions and choices and everyday under that umbrella we face smaller choices and determinations regarding His purpose. To live according to the purpose of God, both small and great decisions must be made within THE WILL OF GOD!



## **“Behold, I stand at the door and knock” (Revelation 3).**

I shall never forget...

It was God the Father who caused me to see that my rejection of Him, ignoring His knocks at the door of my heart, disdain His gifts of special things and people in my life, His protection during serious threats along the way, His calling to me as I shut the door in His tender face could have been ultimate spiritual suicide. It is a serious matter to turn Him away. His loving kindness pursued like the poet says...the Hound of Heaven chased me and brought truth home to me, and after I opened my heart to Jesus, I looked differently at those who had warned me along the way, whom I had handled with cold disdain and rebuke and scorn. My heart was humbled many years ago with tears, and deep repentance became my friend.

While our Lord wants us always to be considerate, kind, friendly, warm, loving in treatment of those against Him, our human concern is only the surface attempt to reach lost people; it is essential that mankind sees their rejection of the God of the whole earth as spiritual suicide. Some things we say or do may soften hardness and create openness, but God's individual calling to a person is the most important moment of decision in a human life, one that will determine not only His blessing in the present life, but the eternal future. Our personal worlds are affected and influenced as we live out our personhood. For ev-

everyone, final rejection of God is spiritual suicide. There is more at stake than friendly, smiling faces, and warm embraces. The world offers this and people move in it. But when the mercy of God is offered, it is spiritual suicide to turn from it. May our hearts weep over this, as did the heart of Jesus when He looked on the multitudes who were without the Shepherd by their choice. May God's Spirit keep us alert and ready in the hand of the Master as His ambassador, His emissary. May our prayer list written on our hearts have the names of lost people, including lost children.

The Bible says He was sent and sends us. His final word to His disciples told them to GO...and He would GO with them. These words are for me also and you.



One of the great mercies of our Father is to cross our paths with others who know and love Him too. Friendships built with Christ as the center are lasting and nurture our souls. God designs the circles of our lives and brings people in different seasons and times that are exactly according to His plan; and in our early walk, and throughout life, this is of great value. What mercy this is since there are times when we need that connection with others for different reasons, for edification, for strengthening, for prayer. In the very early years learning to walk with Him, learning His ways, waiting for the day when my husband would walk this same road with me, He gave me a spiritual friend, the two of us being both young mothers with unconverted husbands. We often prayed together over the phone, for husbands and children, prayed for others in our circles, shared Scriptures in which we saw something new and enlightening. One morning in my early time with our Father, I found these Scriptures and could not wait to share them with her. I was new in Bible reading and felt God must have had me in mind when this was written.

“Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in His presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored His name. ‘On the day when I act,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘they will be my treasured possessions. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him’” (Malachi 3:16-17).



“For it is God Who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose” (Philippians 2).

I started my walk with God, not unbelieving, but questioning Him and Scripture, sometimes praying that my will be done rather than His; actually, not sure in those early times if I really thought about the will of God and what this would mean. Without really understanding, I temporarily just transferred my old way of life into my new path with God, planning to make my own choices. This state of affairs is usual for a childish trust. A childish trust wants the parent to make everything right as the child sees and feels it...to kiss away the hurt and make sure it never hurts again. A childish trust always believes that happiness is God’s perfect aim for life, like the fairy tales of childhood where everyone lives happily ever after, and all bad characters are lodged in dungeons for ever after. Nothing should disturb or shake up the center of a child-world, according to the child.

But in time, as our Father works to bring maturity and usefulness into our experience, this childish lifestyle must be left behind. We are told that we need to grow up! It is in growing and maturing that many difficult things are permitted to come our way, days of testing and trial, experiences we don’t understand and can’t control so we may know ourselves and know our Father. But along with holding to the old ways, I began to experience lack of peace and a sense that something was not right between the Father and myself. I became convicted of sin. He intends to teach us to trust Him as we learn to follow and obey.



This opens us up to experiencing His loving care, His power, the desired fulfillment of His promises *but on His terms!* As we learn to trust Him, He blesses us with an inner sense that God is with us, and our understanding begins to grow in His Word. He used it to plant me firmly in Truth, His Truth, Christ. Our Father wants the world to see through our lives that Jesus Christ is totally trustworthy, and this does not begin until we leave our childish ways to become mature men and women, filled with His Spirit. What wonderful depths of learning these years were for me. He alone is awesome, trustworthy, and dependable. And our Father arranges our affairs so that the world may watch and see...not how great we are, but how great He is. This is His maturing process!

*The Bible says we begin all things new with a new and cleansed heart that seeks after His will. The Bible says this is the work of God. It cannot be our doing!*



*May I share God's faithful provision all these many years?*

It was in 1974 we moved from a job/salary/lifestyle to that of "raising our own support," trusting God for needs, still raising a family, all personal expenses, and some ministry expense, etc. This dependence lasted through college years for the children and beyond for over forty years.

John went to Heaven in 2004. In 2014, when I resigned from the Hephzibah House Ministry and moved back to Indiana, I reopened the Global Springs Ministry we had established in 1990, during a temporary time we had returned due to John's heart attacks (later being asked to return to HH which we did).

I knew well that this period of time in which I now live, if it was to be in ministry, would need to be supported by others who would enter into a financial and prayer support relationship with me. What I had for income was SS alone, a small amount due to low income for over 40 years to report.

In the year of 2016, an awful thing happened to this old house that I had purchased and repaired. A severe rainstorm with wind caused one side of the basement wall (foundational) to collapse under the house. It was a frightening experience... happened early night, but after dark. Although according to contract my insurance agent was available 24/7, it was not true that night; so from an online search I phoned a company who came to our rescue, jacked up support for the house wall, and covered everything with tarps. Within a few days I was told that the insurance company would not cover anything because I did

not have flood insurance. There were companies who turned the repair job down. Only one company said they would do it, but it was major and the bill was over \$30,000. I began to reason how I would pay for this. So one of my human answers was borrowing from the bank. I went immediately and was told I could borrow it as a lien upon the house, but yes, they would loan it to me, even at my age. So the company for rebuilding the wall was contacted and started as soon as weather permitted.

In my monthly prayer letter, I told my story. Very tearful as I write this because within days money began coming to me to pay for this. I had not asked for money from anyone, but I had begun to pray. It came in small and large amounts and the exact amount of the bill was sent to me personally to pay for this major repair job. It was all His mercy. His mercy that endures forever!

This is early 2020 and I had to write a personal check for a rather large repair bill for the car, due to vandalism. As I wrote it, I felt a thankful heart that I was able to write the check. Since living here and needing a car, I have had a series of car expenses due to thefts...the last one being a broken window to see if there was money somewhere; we live in a drug infested neighborhood. The car is an old one, the insurance will only cover injury for someone else and their car. So ongoing expenses and those that are unplanned and extra God has supplied. His mercy!

Speaking of ministry, while there are many actions that are not costly in money, there are other things that cannot be done without money. My prayer has been that God would work in my heart and mind to be faithful not only to Him but to those who contribute to our ministry; that He would check decisions and plans regarding the use of funds given to Global Springs. While there are donors who give liberally and carefully and wisely from funds they have, there are also those who give sacrificially, often denying themselves to be able to share in Kingdom work. It is my prayer that God would keep us very careful and respectful and honest in the use of funds from others.

It was required in 1974 when we accepted the call from the Hephzibah Ministry to work with them, that we raise our support, including health insurance, and of course all personal expenses. We were given board and room from the ministry.

I want to share the following information for the benefit of those who struggle to see if the promises of God are valid, who may not yet have learned that the mercies of God follow us all the days of our lives, even as He says. We were required to raise \$700 per month for the personal expenses of the four of us. By the sixth month, more than the \$700 was coming in for us, so while we were not asked what to do about the extra, it simply became a part of the Hephzibah House income and the ministry was soon able to pay off two mortgages and other expenses. This existed for over a year when one evening in a board meeting, a new board member (a New England banker), noting income on reports, asked what was being done with the extra money above the \$700. None of the board had ever thought about this and we did not think then or afterwards that this oversight was intentional...it just simply did not occur to them that the enlarged income was not through larger income or general donations, but it was money being donated for Ewald support. When the truth was known, the reaction and corrective move was swift and complete and from that point on we received all that came in for our support.

In the meantime, since we were the directors responsible for all aspects of this ministry, it was most helpful to us to have the mortgages paid off along with other outstanding things. It was an act of the Father to allow this to be done. It was His way. My point of digression in all of this is to emphasize that we are living in a world where money is necessary for living life and doing His ministry in our world, and our Father knows it. While He provides our needs, and is more than able, He is also concerned about our hearts; He is concerned about how we connect with money and how we handle it. He wants us to learn to look to Him for our needs and not to people. He wants us to trust Him

completely to keep His Word, His promises He makes about provisions for life and equipping for ministry. He also wants us to live with biblical dictates about our personal lives, to walk in the Spirit, to be unattached to the world, not to live according to the dictates of the flesh, accountable in every way to Him and to those He calls to co-labor with us in ministry demands. God is faithful and I share this for the encouragement of others who are raising funds for support.

The mercies are well beyond receiving adequate funds to meet personal expenses. There are other mercies to be noted that may be well beyond this in value as we walk with our Father.

1. In His mercy, God practically validated His faithfulness. In His mercy He shows He is faithful.
2. In His mercy, God took care of the Hephzibah ministry and its needs and allowed us to see His hand.
3. In His mercy, God showed us the source of goodness and clarity.
4. In His mercy, God became very personal and real.
5. In His mercy, God showed us that if He could provide necessary funds, He would hear our prayers on other fronts, other battles over forty years with ministry and for a lifetime. We were encouraged to seek Him in situations, knowing He was personally involved.
6. In His mercy, God showed us His mercy and gave us repeatedly His truth: Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy. Over all of these years, this statement of God has proven valuable and true in daily life. Mercy is His to give, ours to receive and give again. What can be said other than what He says: "I am with you to deliver you."



“He determines the number of stars; He gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord and abundant in POWER; His understanding is beyond measure” (Psalm 147).

I was sitting on my porch a few minutes this morning and remembered the face of a young man in a crowd of violent rioters on the news a few days ago. He was making a verbal statement and closed it off with “WE HAVE POWER,” etc. As I thought about this scene, I began to think about “powerful people” in our world, past and present. I realized that it’s what’s behind them that makes them feel powerful. For example, there is the power of education that causes us to learn what we did not know, or to change our minds about what we thought we knew, preparing us for encounters in life, etc.

There is the power of money that enables people to buy and sell what they control, materially, physically. If a chairperson of boards and committees wants success in their endeavor, they look for someone to serve with them who has money. Having money is a very powerful force behind people, as the aura of success.

And there is the power of position, sought by many human beings who want to control others. Often they speak of serving others, but in observation the truth of their talk is in their actions. This power can be controlled by both good and evil motives...a visible power.

These powers are usually headed up by people’s names, but there are more subtle powers at work in our world such as the

power of influence, the power of persuasion, the power of lying, the power of truth, the power of temptation, the power of strength, the power of intimidation...a long list of powers not headed up by a common name, but powers back of which is a source, good or evil, while often unconsidered and unseen. We live and move and have our being among these powers which is why the human mind often seems fickle and vacillating, Powers are at work that grip us. We are affected by them.

But there is a greater power in our world. The Bible says we “live and move and have our being in God”; but because some of the earthly powers are so demanding and life changing, we can easily forget His power and our access to it.

We need to remember daily that the power of God is far greater and superior than any power on planet earth, and when He brings us into His family through Christ, His Son, that power surrounds us and fills us and can be used by us for God’s purposes. This is the power of God we draw from Him in situations and events and circumstances when we pray, and it is His power we must live in if the enemy of God and man is to be defeated. I need to understand this truth from Scripture.

If my prayer life consists only in personal prayers for me, my, and mine, this reveals we have never truly grasped or entered into the power our Father has made available to us as His child; we are still living in the self-centered power of self, the original problem of mankind after the fall in the garden. The Bible describes it in Isaiah as “each one to his own way.” This becomes the norm...we want our own way.

We need to ask our Father, for His sake, to move into our thoughts, to help us discern what powers are controlling our thoughts, motivating our words and actions, causing us to be part of oppositional forces in the work of God to bring all men unto Himself. Questions for myself: what are the powers that intimidate me, that control me, that are the roots of my evaluations and choices? Where do I stand in the battle of good and evil in my world, in my day? Is the power of God at work in me

changing me into the image of Christ, the Christ who trusts and obeys and does those works of the Father? And is the power of God at work through me? These are serious thoughts about powers around us,





Many years ago I was struck by these Scriptures:

“And the Scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,’ and he was called God’s friend” (James 2).

After removing Saul, He made David their king. God testified concerning him: “I have found David son of Jesse, a man after My Own heart; he will do everything I want him to do” (Acts 13).

Immediately I wanted God’s description of me to be the same as theirs. I suspect you want this too.

I am blessed with many friends...with longterm friendships. It was only a few years ago that I lost my two best school friends, from elementary school grades. I have friends who have been my friends for years and years and years. I have friends who lovingly keep in touch with me, who pray for me, who have made contributions to my ministry financial support, who email and phone and send letters. In our friendship we can communicate on all levels, and conversation can pick up after long periods of time as though our contact was yesterday. Our friendship covers mutual concerns and battles of life, as well as joys and blessings from our Father. They share with me and I share with them. It is always delightful to see them face to face, over coffee or tea and coffee cake, hindered now by COVID-19.

In cultivating relationship with God, He has shown Himself to me as Father, Shepherd, Lord, Master, closest friend, Warrior in warfare, Victor in battle, Teacher, Present peace...and early on, when I realized He had me in His heart, I gave mine to Him.

It became my goal to “do everything He wanted me to do.”  
You did this too, I am sure.



“Indeed God speaks once, even twice, yet no one notices it. In a dream, a vision of the night, when sound sleep falls on men, while they slumber in their beds. Then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction” (Job 33).

When God speaks, men...

Ignore Him and block out His voice. They disregard Him.

They postpone consideration of what was heard...

They consider and understand but reject, respond with “no”...

They consider and understand but postpone obedience...

OR THEY CONSIDER AND UNDERSTAND, TRUST AND OBEY.



Know that the Lord is God.  
It is He who made us,  
and not we ourselves.  
we are His:  
we are His people,  
the sheep of His pasture.  
(Psalm 100, Amplified Bible)

Early on, I was a learner reading and studying not only the Bible, but Christian books and biographies of Christians I heard about. And I was learning to pray. So as I saw what I saw; characteristics of God began to form in my mind. God is never confused, never fearful, never intimidated, never surprised, never alarmed, never defeated, always on top of things, always in charge, always victorious, always knows past, present, and future, always present, always powerful, always approachable, always faithful, always true, always forgiving, always merciful, always gracious, always kind and loving, always showing Himself to and in the lives of people, always giving, always listening, always caring about people in trouble, always seeing the tears of the forgotten, the poor, and the insignificant in the world, always seeking lost people.

All of these moved from knowledge in my mind to personal experiences in my heart and life. After walking with Him over sixty years, a most awesome characteristic I know with full assurance...He never changes. The Bible says He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. I tell you with delight, this is true!



Just to share the wonderful kinds of teaching from my early teachers whom I have mentioned. (Incidentally, there were many others whose writings were used by God in teaching me to pray.) You can see for yourself the powerful influence these writings have on a person just learning to pray. The books of these two writers, the first Christian writers I had ever read, now in Heaven, are still available if you are interested. I found that the subject of prayer had great focus on writers of long ago. Because of that, prayer became important to me and I prayed, stumbling and bumbling, but God listened because He saw my longing to know Him. He knew I needed teachers and gave them to me.

O. Hallesby: “When you enter your secret chamber, take plenty of time before you begin to speak. Let quietude wield its influence upon you. Let the fact that you are alone assert itself. Give your soul time to get released from the many outward things. Give God time to play the prelude to prayer for the benefit of your distracted soul.”

Andrew Murray: “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God’ (Acts 16).

“Let all lovers of souls, and all workers in the service of the gospel, take courage. Time spent in prayer will yield more than that given to work. Prayer alone gives work its worth and its success. Prayer opens the way for God Himself to do His work in us and through us. Let our chief work, as God’s messengers, be intercession; in it we secure the presence and power of God to go with us.”



“Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us, you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea” (Micah 7).

“Repent then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord” (Acts 3).

#### PEACEFUL LIVING:

Offering and accepting forgiveness for the PAST and then choosing not to remember what was there.

Acknowledging His Presence for TODAY, sharing with Him as our best friend...listening to His voice. “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” That’s His promise; that’s His Word.

Surrendering all our TOMORROWS to God who never changes. Leave the future in His hands, the only One who knows the end from the beginning.



A truly awesome change takes place as we learn to trust our Father. We experience a calm and peaceful heart. This is true when the world's news spreads fear and insecurity for us in our everyday life, when bad news about those we love, for whom we desire contentment and the blessings of life for their personal homes and families move in seemingly opposite directions. Someone said recently that the world is like a volcano as it smolders and spreads sparks and smoke. I think there is some truth in this. Apprehension readily moves into our hearts and minds if we decide to swim in this pool of thought.

I have loved, loved, loved Isa. 26:3: "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you."

Since the first book I read in the Bible was Isaiah, I found it early in my journey, when I was just awakening to the fact of two different worlds and pathways, when I had no person to be my teacher and helper. It took a while for me to know why, why is this true?

**BECAUSE OUR FATHER REIGNS!** In the process I learned that Christ was sent from the Father. He was anointed to do what He did. He was assigned the role of world Messiah; because Jesus Christ has the final word; because even in the midst of shattering news, our anchors hold because He holds us...our anchors are in Him. Knowing He is God opened to me the world of peace. It came to me that in the announcement of His birth, the Father announced "peace on earth" and His power holds the world, even when the volcano smolders. He is unchangeable.

His power can never be broken and He is Lord.

The other day I reread this statement: “The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety.” —George Mueller (don’t you just love this!)





This was very helpful to me in my early years with Christ:

Memory can be the handmaid of hope and can kindle the courage needed for today, or it can be the threshold of fear and the crippler of life. God stands in the middle of this and He can be the control center. Past, present, and future are all connected in our heart and mind, and have much to do with the soul's condition.

A Bible statement: "Remember not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth" (Isa. 43:18-19 OT).

"Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth into those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13-14 NT).

Some of our memories have been made by others; we had nothing to say about them.

I have some of these.

Some of our memories exist because we made them.

David's prayer: "Remember not the sins of my youth—according to Your steadfast love, remember me, for Your goodness sake, O Lord" (Psa. 25:7).

My own personal choices: "What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of?" (Romans 6:20).

I have some of these.

We do not grow by regrets, but we can learn wisdom. We may not forget all our mistakes but organize them as learning truths for the future.

My most wonderful memory: conversion Matt. 11:28 (1958)

Following, becoming a servant/disciple Matt. 4:19

Staying, settling, abiding in Christ (John 15:4).

All of this leads to the recognition of His mercy, which the Holy Spirit files carefully in our memory box.

His mercy follows us all the days of our lives, even as He promises!



Men and nations keep re-organizing themselves without God, looking for a way of life or a system that works. We can't seem to accept the fact that nothing works right without God, and never will, no matter how often we work at it or how hard we try or changes we make. Every human heart needs a home base...a center!

#### **HOMELESS HEARTS:**

Our country at this time has more homeless people than ever before in history. I began to notice them when I lived in NYC, individuals and whole families on the streets, under bridges, in tunnels; and now, living here in Indianapolis, I see them. They are in my thoughts often and in my prayers as I realize my personal blessing of having a place to come home to, a place to stay, with many comforts. I think about them and pray. Safety and comfort are mine with warm blankets and a bed for rest, food in the cupboards, helpful things to make life functional and easier, an address to call my own, some simple but beautiful things are mine just to enjoy and appreciate. When it is dark, I turn on light. When it is raining, I am sheltered. When I am thirsty, I head for the supply of water. One simple thing when I think about them is how often on my way home from somewhere I anticipate a cup of coffee or tea and just being home. I feel badly that they can't do that...they are never on their way home since they have none, and not the little joy of a cup of coffee or tea.

One day recently, two words lodged in my mind. I began to see that people who do not know God as Father, the Lord Jesus as their Shepherd, His Spirit as our Comforter are spiritually

homeless. Away from God, our hearts are restless and unsatisfied without moorings, without safety, without comforts, no place to rest when weary, no food for the soul, nothing truly functional and secure. Without God there is no blanket of His warm love, no resting place of trust and peace, no secure place to call my own. The spiritually homeless have no spiritual cupboard to open and discover good things; they are homeless with no treasures of light, just darkness. When it is dark, it is truly dark. When they thirst, they have an endless experience of trying to satisfy thirst.

Homelessness is pain. Spiritual homelessness is pain in the soul.



One day I read this Scripture:

“IF ONLY my people would listen to me, if Israel would only follow my ways, how quickly I would subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes!” (Psalm 81).

Shortly after that I read this Scripture:

“IF YOU KNEW the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water” (John 4).

It was during this personal teaching of the Spirit of God that I began to take notice of all the Scriptures that began with or used the word ‘IF’, scores of them. And with all of these the implication is that there is a choice to be made, a determination to listen, a challenge to obey, and the need to trust. God is saying to us in essence: “IF YOU WILL DO, THEN I WILL DO!”

This simply says to me that the word “IF” puts the issues of life in my lap. The “ifs” of Scripture make a profound study if we want to be peaceful, fruitful, and honoring to God. But I also found that the “IF” can bring our Father’s strength and power to our rescue...when we move to obey, He enables. He is a dear and caring and equipping Father who loves us and remembers our weakness and sinful hearts.

As a new Bible student, and having started in Isaiah, I quickly found Isaiah 11:9: “The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord.”

Because I understood the prophecy of the birth of Jesus, I found myself wondering when this would be...when would every person on this planet know about Jesus? When would the

ravages and complications of nature come under that knowledge? I was just seeing the world with the new sight of conversion, the gift of God.

Well, it started in me...I desired to be filled with the knowledge of the Lord. That knowledge began to change my life and my circles of life. He began to show me Himself and has never stopped. After all these years I know the full experience of the truth of this Scripture will only be accomplished when Jesus has come again, when He sets up His Earthly throne, and when everyone shall know Him and love and worship Him. Jesus is the harmony of life for all those who abide in Him. What a day that shall be, when all the earth is full of the knowledge of the Lord! Meanwhile, Lord Jesus, fill me with knowledge of yourself, let it be true for me. Let it be true for us.



### **A Commonplace Life**

“A commonplace life,” we say, and we sigh;  
Yet why should we sigh as we say?  
The commonplace sun in the commonplace sky  
Makes lovely the commonplace day.  
The moon and the stars, they are commonplace things,  
The flower that blooms, and the robin that sings;  
Yet sad were the world, and unhappy our lot,  
If flowers all failed and the sunshine came not!  
And God, who considers each separate soul,  
From commonplace lives makes a beautiful whole.

—J. Sidlow Baxter

Being of the commonplace variety, I love this poem. During the current time many are expressing their lament of “doing nothing” and feeling very unproductive because of being unable to live what seemed to them to be a normal and fruitful life in the past. For many, the feeling of doing nothing important is a common thing. There are many Christians who feel insignificant when comparing their lives to others they know or hear about.

One of the Scriptures that I think of with this poem is in Acts 4:12-13 in which it makes the point that we love to hear: “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under Heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” There is no more important statement for the life of a human being than this statement. It was given by two men to a crowd, Peter and John. The Scripture goes on to say that the crowd, seeing the

courage of these two men, realized that they were “unschooled, ordinary men” and were astonished; their conclusion in evaluating these two men? They had been with Jesus!

God made us for Himself, and equips us with His favors, and uses us for His purposes. It is a great honor to be used of God in any way He chooses. When we live in the plan of God, there is always significant value...nothing is ever just commonplace in being a part of God’s plan and purpose. Even the sparrow has His attention, and there are thousands upon thousands of them, all just doing the same thing! But the sparrow is special enough that He included the sparrow in His Word! He loves it that we love Him and His eye is on us too, even during this pandemic, common as we are! The secret is being with Jesus! (2020)





## Prayer Principles Learned Over Time

Learning the principles of prayer is like learning to talk. An infant is programmed to talk but is unable. So he cries to make his wants and wishes known. In time, however, the infant moves from the crying stage to the asking stage. His asking may be one word, even a word not clear until he hears and practices sounds and tones, and finally, the connection between thought/mind and words begin to come together for him. He begins to talk. It may be that in his adult expression of thought and mind his speech may even be called eloquent and/or masterful. Often as infant Christians, we cannot find right words to pray and sometimes in life, the needs are great and we cry.

I believe that as human beings we are programmed to pray, because God created that in us, even as He did a worship center. This is why some people can say prayers who are not indwelt by God's Holy Spirit. The first true prayer we pray for forgiveness in repentance and desire for God is placed in our hearts and minds by God Himself. From that time on, that open line of communion with God/Father/Creator is watched over, guided, taught and matured by God Himself.

There are different kinds of prayers. I would label the first kind as request praying. This is the kind of prayer that can come even from one who is not born of God's Spirit. This is usually the most often when we first come to Christ because we come

having seen and understood something, feeling need and other emotions God uses to turn us to Himself. This prayer of request is usually at first wrapped around ourselves or our personal world. But as we grow in our relationship with God we begin to leave life's issues with Him. We become thankful for things we know are from His hand without our having actually requested them. Request praying never stops as long as we live because while His blessings are new every morning, so are life's experiences, some unexpected and difficult and even unthinkable. But the requests change.

We move into the prayer of intercession almost without noticing this is happening because God has given us new minds and new hearts, and His Spirit calls our attention to the needs of others, and to His plans and desires for our world of people. We grow in this as we mature in our understanding of God's kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven, and as our hearts become mourning hearts for the plight of others who are sometimes reaping the results of sin's bondages. At times intercessions are for fellow believers who are struggling for various reasons in the daily course of life in a fallen world. The scope of intercession also enlarges and should if it is a healthy communion with our Father.

After walking with God, feeding on His Word, absorbing His personal work in us and seeing how He works in our lives and the lives of others in our world, we realize our minds become different than they were before we knew God in a personal way. We begin to see God in everything and contemplate His grace and mercy. At this time, our prayers become those of communion with God, holding fellowship with Him. They come into our consciousness from the depths of our minds and hearts, unsolicited and with surprising joy. They come from God's Spirit working in us because God desires this kind of relationship with His children. Night and day, a most blessed experience, ever growing and intensifying.

Beyond these there is another kind of praying. It is battle

praying, spiritual warfare. This praying results from our beginning to recognize the enemy with his power to do evil, to steal, kill, destroy who is on the move. We sight him at work through insight from God. Our Father enables us to recognize his activity and in our spirit calls us to pray, to watch and pray. He calls us to this because our Lord is involved in conflict and asks us to move with Him into this battle for the souls of men, for the victory in circumstances where the enemy is dividing, leading in hurtful and abusive human behavior he has incited. The Bible talks about evil principalities and powers, those establishments of Satan's demonic hosts, and states clearly that we must be in our prayer rooms to battle these enemies. This kind of praying we learn by necessity because God has brought us into His kingdom, a kingdom always battling with the kingdom of darkness...good and evil. Prayer bringing the power of God into these battles is the only way of victory. As we grow in Christ, so grows our prayer lives.



All the petitions in The Lord's Prayer, prayed by people around the world, those who know the Lord and serve Him and those who don't, are of awesome significance. One particular petition struck me this morning.

For what we are asking?

“May Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven” (Matthew 6).

God is the royal figure in Heaven, and all Heaven revolves around His will. His will is absolute! His is absolute authority in purpose and power. We know our sinful world pits its will against His will on a constant basis, bringing crises and disasters in history past and time present. Those of us who know this truth offer this petition with sincerity and humility.

But for this to happen, His will on earth as it is in Heaven, implies without question that every life on earth personally and individually, must carry full desire and obedience in His kingdom. Until this happens, His kingdom remains to come worldwide. But in our personal world, His kingdom can and must rule my heart and yours also. Jesus is King and is our King.

May He establish His kingdom in us; may we love and worship the King, doing His will. May His kingdom rule in us, with worship and daily abandonment to the King, May our prayer be: “I bow before you, Lord and King. Hold my life in your reign of grace. Embrace me when there are tears, hold me fast in the slightest rebellion, in even the weakest revolt. I lay my heart here on the altar of Thy kingdom as I bow at your throne of mercy. Thy will be done!”



This Scripture is another of the spiritual gems from Isaiah in my early years of getting to know and share Christ with those who did not know Him. In reading books from the Old Testament, the books of Kings, the prophecies, always feeling in my heart and mind what darkness covered the world in those days, this Scripture made great sense to me because Jesus is the light of the world, the light of life. Reading this chapter I was quite sure Jesus Christ was in the Old Testament. I found Him everywhere.

Arise (from spiritual depression to a new life),  
shine (be radiant with the glory and brilliance  
of the Lord), for your light has come,  
and the glory and brilliance of the Lord has  
risen upon you. For in fact, darkness will cover  
the earth, and deep darkness will cover the  
peoples. But the Lord will rise upon you  
and His glory and brilliance will be seen on you.

(Isaiah 60 Amplified Bible)



The Call of God is implemented by God Himself:

Called not only to follow Christ, but to bring others with you...how will this happen? Only through prayer.

Called to receive guidance from God...how will this happen? Only through prayer.

Called to serve family, to labor productively in a vocation, to be a good neighbor, to be part of the Body of Christ in a local church...how can we do all of this? Only through prayer.

Called to bear the burdens of others...sometimes countless others...how can we do this? Only through prayer.

Called in Corinthians as Scripture says: "We make it our goal to please Him"...how will this happen? Only through prayer.

Called to bear fruit...how will this happen? Only through prayer.

Called to a continual heart of mercy and compassion...how will this happen? Only through prayer.

Called to overcome the power of enemy? How will this happen? Only through prayer.

Called to fulfill the ministry God has opened to us? How is this possible? Only through prayer.

Called to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh...how can this be done? Only through prayer.

How will it be possible to move on when things appear too hard to handle? Only through prayer.

Prayer, that intimate time with the Father sets the house in order, fills the cabinets with supplies, cleans out the cobwebs of our soul, lights up even the hallways, builds a fire in the fire-

place, warms the heart and mind with comfort while dressing us in battle armor, enables us to read His blueprint and understand the strategy as years move along. We are never alone, always equipped and ready, and the banner over our life is His love. This is prayer.



“If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and I will forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

WATCH and PRAY! Over the last couple years, in increasing intensity, God appears to be connecting His people with others who desire to pray, from individuals to groups. God is moving. It is His call. Already He has millions around His globe connecting together for purposes of intercession. Many Christians are noticing and commenting about this; it comes under one of those “Behold I am doing a new thing” and when we think about it, there is reason to consider that our Father has something in mind that is worldwide in His plans. Is He planning a worldwide outreach for His church, for His people, and this united prayer precedes a revival beyond anything that has ever happened in history giving new life to the Body of Christ, for His redemptive purposes? Is He intending to begin a world-wide awakening for lost people, broken and wounded, dead to Him and suffering because of it, preparing His church to co-labor with Him? Has He called us to prayer for this?

Or knowing what is ahead for His people, that may usher in pain and suffering we have never before experienced, is He preparing us? Is He preparing us for His soon return to rapture the church? Maybe all of the above? What is God doing? He instructs us to WATCH AND PRAY. Shall we walk quietly, with listening hearts carefully to obey Him?

Let's do it together...WATCH AND PRAY!





People cry for different reasons. Some cry for sadness, some for gladness.

The Bible says God will wipe away all tears. He began that for me the day I met Him at the door.

For days after that and after years and years, there are still many times, He wipes away my tears.

And when I stand before Him, what could possibly be my personal reaction...wondering if I can bear to look into His face....and quite sure there will be tears. What could I possibly say? There are no words that come to me even in advance, no words at all, only tears.



Many people have had great influence on my life as speakers and teachers and writers (world renowned people) but also day by day people who walked with me, prayed for me, and from whom I learned an endless list of vital helps along my way. Here are names you will probably recognize:

Andrew Murray (head of the list)

A. B. Simpson

F. B. Meyer

Philip Keller

Robert M. McCheyne

J. H. Jowett

Jessie Penn-Lewis

Hannah Hurnard

Isabel Kuhn

Many other women whose books nourished me...and scores of the old ones, all in Heaven, of course. Being an avid reader and researcher, I no longer even remember the names of some.

But I do remember the faces of those I met and came to love and learn from and respect. Remember I had 40 years living in a ministry setting and hearing great and awesome messages truly from God. Many of these years were at a conference center with speakers from England and Australia, as well as the United States, some from Africa and various islands and South America, etc., the best of their field came to the Heights. What a feast every summer.

Remember also I had 40 years of pastors and teachers and special people in ministry coming to Calvary Baptist Church in

New York City...and a favorite speaker was and is always Pastor David Epstein from Calvary Baptist Church in NYC.

And of course Elisabeth Eliot who stayed often at Hephzibah House with whom I became friends. She and I enjoyed a Christ-centered relationship.

I live in Indianapolis now. All of these were in the past, and it is a very different life here as I listen to men who love our Lord and are laboring in their assigned field. These are often young men who need teaching and molding by the Holy Spirit, even in their pulpits. I miss the deep teaching of men and women who have walked a lifetime with God...so I've pulled out my old books again and am re-reading them for the THOUSANDTH time while God is still patient and teaches me. This is the year of COVID-19...I thank Him for the library in my mind and heart!

God's supply of people ministering to me in my lifetime has been so great that I should be perfect by this time, but sadly, that is not true. How merciful He has been to me with His loving kindness and forgiveness. His blessing endures forever.



THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD TO Zerubbabel (and to me and you):

“Not by might, nor by power,  
but by My Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty.  
Zechariah 4  
Amplified Bible



“So Moses thought, I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up. When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, ‘Moses! Moses!’ And Moses said, ‘Here I am’” (Exodus 3).

God knows how to get our attention!

Moses saw and watched and decided...

Moses talked to himself (as we sometimes do).

Moses moved toward...not away from.

God was watching and waiting on Moses, checking his reaction and response.

God got personal.

God used his name, more than once.

Moses immediately responded, identifying himself and his location.

I’ve always loved that God does not waste time being subtle, that He is omnipresent, that He knows and uses our names, that He does not wait for us to come to Him, but He comes to us, that when He has a plan and wants us in it He knows how to get that. I think about the fact that 40 years had passed while Moses took care of sheep, lived a quiet life in a desert. God had already trained Moses for the job He had in mind...the final training was to teach him quiet ways and how to let God be God. That is a lesson hard for all of us to learn.



The Bible says: “For God has not given you a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 2).

What did He NOT give us? A SPIRIT OF FEAR

What did He give us? A SPIRIT OF POWER, OF LOVE, OF A SOUND MIND.

God has much to say to us in His Word about fear, because He knows all the possibilities of fear that we face in our world. In this wonderful Scripture, we read that a spirit of fear has not come from Him...because He is God Almighty. He knows we need not fear when we are His. What He fills our hearts and mind with is a powerful truth. So He says to us, “I’m giving you my love...I have wrapped you in it, you are mine and I am God...and I’m giving you a mind that can comprehend this, a sound mind...a sound mind is a sound mind because it hears the sound of God, who He is and what He says and does...complete, final, and unchangeable.” He says, “Trust Me, trust My judgment, trust My faithfulness, trust my outcome, trust yourself to Me and walk in peace, knowing that I am the powerful One, and while you may walk through rivers, they will be waters you can swim in; you may walk through fires but they shall not even scorch you and while you may see an enemy at hand, remember I see that enemy too, and I have committed myself to you forever...forever is forever! You have nothing to fear because I am God!”



## **The Fragrance of the Cross in Everyday Life**

When Jesus Christ is formed in us, others will see Him, and recognize the aroma of His Presence. The abiding life in Christ makes it real.

Our world is a dysfunctional world and everyone in it feels it...the godly and the ungodly. If we do not see or obey the truth, we ourselves operate on a dysfunctional, human level, even as followers of Christ. Our Lord reveals the true and right way and enables us with His power to live and move and have our being in it as we are in God. He embraces us for this for His sake that those in our personal worlds would seek after Jesus Christ.

The way of the Cross personally will be planned by our Lord and if we walk in it, the world will be challenged by it. They may like it or not like it. The same is true for believers in the body of Christ...many do not like or choose the way of the cross. However, if there is no death there can be no new life. When self dies, the resurrected life of Christ is the new, powerful, effective, ministry life in us. If Christ is not living his resurrected life in us...we may be busy and active in the middle of churches and organizations...but there can be no eternal fruit for all we do, because only the spirit bears eternal fruit. The Bible calls it "the fruit of the Spirit." While Jesus went to the cross to die for us... that our sins be forgiven... he also opened the way for a Spirit life in us...open to the Father and fruitful in the world...John

7:37-39. It is this Holy Spirit who is the resurrected life of Christ in His followers...it was true for His disciples and it is true for us today in our time. 2 Cor. 2:14-16-17

(Early findings for my ministry (2 Cor. 4)

A lifestyle of altars, of sacrifices. The results?

The aroma of Christ





The Lord your God is with you,  
the mighty warrior who saves.  
He will take delight in you.  
In his love he will no longer rebuke you.  
But will rejoice over you with singing.

ZEPHANIAH 3:17

This Scripture was on the wall, very visible, high above the choir loft in the First Alliance Church where we attended for many years when we served together in New York City. Incredible blessing to read this every Sunday as we entered and as we listened to the anthems of choirs.

The Lord your God is with you

(The God who is present)

The Mighty Warrior who saves

(The God who fights our battles and saves us)

He will take great delight in you

(The God who is deeply involved and joyful in us)

In His love He will no longer rebuke you.

(The God who is for us, not against us.)

But will rejoice over you with singing.

(The God who sings His joy.)



“Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up” (Luke 18).

Lack of prayer says:

I have better ideas than God.

I know more than God.

I understand better than God.

I can do more than God.

I am more insightful than God.

I am more powerful than God.

I do not need God.



What God says and what He does not say is of eternal value. Over the years God's Word has been a part of my life and hopefully of yours. I've made a list of things I've never read/or heard God say (there are others):

1. It's too big for Me to handle!
2. I never knew that.
3. Sorry, that's beyond me. And I don't have time.
4. I am done! I just don't love you anymore!
5. I don't want to hear it!
6. How would I know?
7. My plan didn't work.
8. There's just not enough.
9. I ran out.
10. I just couldn't do it!
11. It was more than I could bear.
12. Just leave, leave me alone!
13. "Let them eat cake."
14. I feel empty.
15. My cupboard is bare.
16. It's beyond me!
17. I have enough problems of My own. I don't want to hear yours.
18. I looked and looked, but just couldn't find it.
19. I've done all I'm going to do...you are on your own.
20. So, now you come home...what do you want?
21. You broke all the rules in the book...now you pay!

22. That's the last time, no more, it's over!
23. So you're in pain? What did you expect?
24. I told you so. You made your choice. I'm tired of the whole thing.
25. Be still! I don't want to hear "I'm sorry" again.
26. I understand...everyone has to "sow a little wild oats."
27. I really don't like crossing you.
28. I've nothing more to say.
29. Sorry I made you wait!
30. So how do you feel about that?
31. What do you think? What's your opinion?
32. What on earth am I going to do?

One major thing God has said (there are others):

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).



From day one in my walk with God, the Holy Spirit worked in my thought life... He “renewed my mind” and some time later I discovered that this was a Bible verse...that true conversion always involves a mind renewal.

His Word says: Think on these things.

Faith, love, and hope are elements and results of our daily obedience. So also is spiritual power and fruit. This is the life that pleases God and can be found only in the abiding life in Christ Jesus. Christ is our life...Col. 3.

The whole world lies in the lap of the evil one, 1 John 5:19.

To have been a person of the world, removed from his lap, and placed in a new pathway to walk with Christ is a new beginning in life. Only God can do it.

Jesus came as God to make His Father known.

The Holy Spirit came as God to make Jesus known.

God is with man to make Himself known through His Son, Jesus Christ, and the work of His Holy Spirit. He asks us to make Him known to a world that does not know Him. I intend to do this as this Triune God indwells and teaches me, arranges circumstances for me to share, equips me with His valuable information, uses me as His mouthpiece, and lets the world know the Savior.

The heart is that control center of our being where three things operate...thoughts, desires, and the will. It is God’s intention to cleanse the heart and abide there. As He abides, He works in these three areas. We can be kept cleansed by Christ moment by moment, yielding to His voice. The result is a life that pleases Him.



## **First Responders**

My first experience with this phrase that I recall was during the 9/11 world disaster. We lived in NYC at that time. The news on all channels and stations included the phrase “first responders” over and over. It referred to the first people on the scene... people trained for emergencies such as police and firemen, etc. The handling of what had happened fell into their hands, and to do their job required heroic efforts of commitment and selflessness. For many, being first responders cost them their lives.

We as Christians should see ourselves as “first responders.” Our world has experienced disastrous events since the first attack took place in the garden of Eden. There have been centuries of attacks heading toward a final showdown from a foreign enemy, a battle for complete victory, and the ending of all wars, and the beginning of the new world order with Jesus Christ. As His followers, we follow our Warrior Captain, we move into His battles for people’s lives, and we should see ourselves as His **FIRST RESPONDERS**. Whatever it costs, whatever commitment and selflessness is called for...even our lives, we are His **FIRST RESPONDERS**. Think this through!

God’s grace goes before me.

God’s grace encircles me in all my todays.

God’s grace comes after me, while covering all my yesterdays.

Once he knows what God is doing, Satan plans and assigns his forces to implement and to do evil. If we follow the Scriptures we will see God’s enemy moving in his plan since the garden of Eden to the present day. While he cannot know God’s

plan in advance, since Satan is not omnipotent nor omniscient, God can know his. Our God has the advantage!

Altars alter life! Building altars daily is the greatest worship man can do. Abraham's life can be told by following his altars.

Some church buildings are like the "altar to an unknown god" that Paul found in Rome. The one true God was unknown. This explains the biblical statement to be made by Christ: "Depart from me, I never knew you."

Jer. 31:3 "I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee."

Is. 46:4 "I have made and I will bear."

(I have created and I will carry.)

Be careful to portray God in His true nature—HOLY, POWERFUL, AND MIGHTY. To do otherwise gives the picture of a god who is weak, indecisive, and puny...OUR GOD IS GOD VERY GOD!

When we pray "YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENTER THE HOLY OF HOLIES."



Dated Feb. 1, 1965 (7th year following Christ)

Needs of my life:

1. More adoration of Jesus Christ
2. More humility
3. Greater passion for souls
4. Greater power in prayer
5. More earnest love for God's Word
6. Sealed, consecrated lips
7. God-glorifying use of time
8. Broken heart over my sinfulness

Interesting...here in 2021, if I were to make a listing of the needs of my life the list would read the same.





**To share the loving care of my Father in years past:**

Taken from the final chapter (for Hephzibah Ministry): 2013  
(reprint from my Hephzibah Book)

It seems incredible that I am here, the one adding to this Hephzibah History Book...what privilege has been mine. An explanation is in order and will bring our hearts and minds together in the final accounting (on my part), of God's faithfulness to the Hephzibah Ministry. So, let me begin...

The Hephzibah Book has been written much like life is lived, one segment at a time. Sometime over years, the happenings of life revolves around certain people and circumstances...with unexpected events continuing on toward what God has initiated and ordained. True of this book.

In celebration of Hephzibah's 100 years of ministry, the original book was written...then Chapter 8 was added covering the years of the unexpected return of the Ewalds for another nine years...after which they were replaced with new people who were here such a short time due to God's re-arrangement of men's plans with His own.

It is interesting how God moves, certainly different than we would have planned had we been sovereign instead of our Father. John Ewald and John Eaves (the director installed for such a short time, while we were thinking a very long term)...died within months of each other, both in 2004.

It was after John Ewald went home to Heaven that the Hephzibah Board of Trustees, in a phone call from Dr. Hal Guffey, asked me if I would be willing to return to Hephzibah House

and serve until new directors were found for Hephzibah Ministries. It was hard to believe that this invitation was extended to me. Having said goodbye twice (with tears) to the Hephzibah Ministry, never thinking I would return again, I could hardly believe it. Since John and I had settled into Indianapolis, and I into ministry there with students and discipleship training classes... women's prison work, etc., I prayed much to know if this was from God. The invitation came in late October, and I said yes... and returned to Hephzibah House in January of 2005. I came with one suitcase thinking I would be here probably a month or so, etc... but I am writing this in June, 2013...after eight and a half additional years. During this time, I had to sell our house in Indianapolis, because the two international students living there with us had graduated, two other people there temporarily had moved on, and the house was now empty and no longer needed. The college right across the fence bought it, removed the house, and it is now a part of their campus.

This time here without John has been different than the years we served together. John, being especially gifted in administration and business had filled all that space while I had so many wonderful opportunities to teach and serve in ministry for Hephzibah House throughout the city of NY. But now, my assigned director responsibility covered both these areas. God began to show me how to do this. While I have been here, He has given wonderful servant-heart people to the Hephzibah Ministry, from whom I have learned many things, including the ways of the COMPUTER WORLD...and together we have served the Hephzibah Ministry and our Father, buying up all kinds of opportunities to serve His purposes with international students, people needs of all kinds, serving with other boards...being used to initiate prayer ministries...and simply more years of watching God work His miracles in lives of people and circumstances to do His will. The world is changing quickly...God never changes but remains steadfast in His character and ways. He shows us how, along the way, to become useful to Him in His passion for

building the Kingdom of God. The years for me have served to give me even greater passion in my own heart for His Kingdom to come and will to be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

From the day I returned, I recognized that the spiritual warfare of God's enemy and ours is intensifying...but I also learned that GOD IS ABLE.

We have a strong and subtle foe whose purposes are dark,  
With centuries of practice, he aims straight toward his mark.

In league with him are hosts of fallen angels he'll command  
to capture in his awesome power and bondage in our land.

While his methods used may vary, he attacks with deadly power.  
In angel light and lion roar, he knows this is his hour.

He plans his violent strategy, both local and abroad.  
He attacks in open challenge...the perfect will of God.

Centuries have come and gone, with history's pages past,  
Our Lord has won the victory and His victory will last  
FOREVER! (April, 2020)

I want to update you with those outreaches and responsibilities given to this ministry in past years.

During recent years, changes took place in the Sing Sing Prison ministry. The dear man who had served as our team leader for over sixty years, Bjarne Nyborg, finally felt unable to continue any longer...at 92... What a heritage he left us and the men he loved at Sing Sing. Other changes have taken place as people had to move along for various reasons. There are ten people now on the team...our leader is Dr. Richard Mateyka, dentist by profession, a preacher and gifted pianist God uses in our chapel services and we are still privileged to minister the fourth Sunday of the month. God is supplying musicians, communicators, and

blessing our time with the men. Recently we were given the opportunity to conduct discipleship classes during the afternoons of the same days we are there in the morning for their chapel worship. Our prayer is that God will build trained godly men who will be filled with His Spirit, bearing fruit in the prison so that there will be thousands of others come to Christ...a revival and an awakening. This is our prayer not only for Sing Sing but for the prisons of the world.

In early Spring I attended a wonderful Christ Institute Conference and met a dear chaplain and his wife (chaplain of four prisons in New Jersey). He and the speaker knew each other because the speaker had been at his prison for Easter in recent years. While there he wrote a little poem for the prisoners and quoted it for us in the course of his presentation.

I decided we should have one for our men at Sing Sing so I wrote one for them. I quoted it for them when our team was there the last Sunday of April, 2013, and I think they were pleased. The next time I speak for our chapel service, I will take the biblical principles of this little rhyme and teach them. Following is the Sing Sing poem.

Christ is risen in the prison  
He dwells within the cells.  
He walks within the halls  
with every child in whom He dwells.  
Though some days seem dark and dreary  
making hearts and minds feel weary,  
Those who know Him hear the ring  
OF CHRIST'S LOVE SONG TO SING SING!

(This poem was written for the men of Sing Sing by Lois Ewald, of Hephzibah House Ministry, April, 2013)

One of the newer objectives for me during the past three years has been involvement in the Children's Prayer Movement building awesome momentum in other countries. There are

those in the city of New York earnestly praying and working to see it develop here and in this country. The following is the presentation I was able to make at a recent Pastor's Prayer Summit to encourage their participation in this movement for the children of their congregations.

The Children's Prayer Movement at the Pastors Prayer Summit:

The recent violent attack on children must cause the followers of Christ to clearly see the unsafe vulnerability of children. The killing of the 20 little ones just before Christmas, in Newtown, Connecticut, was so horrible that most of us wept as we thought about it. Violence against children has happened since the beginning of time...mass killer, Pharaoh...mass killer Herod...and in our day it is legal to murder babies in the womb (God's protective shelter for an unborn child) but we give it a medical name, abortion, sometimes done in a most violent way.

When we think of our contemporary world, we have child abuse, physical and sexual, child sex traffic, rejected and abandoned children, especially by biological fathers, and some mothers also. They are subjected to emotional violence which will cripple them for life...and we have mass killers today, rampant in 2012.

Children are the most vulnerable life in today's world.

We adults are grateful for others who pray for us, but to be able to pray ourselves and know that God is listening and will answer gives us the foundation for stability and security in life.

It is truly wonderful when parents, friends, families, teachers pray for our children...but our children need to know for themselves:

1. God is their Creator.
  2. God is in charge of the world.
  3. God loves them personally.
  4. God wants them to know Him personally, as their Father.
  5. God wants them to pray directly to Him...He hears them.
- Our involvement and ministry with international students

has increased and continues to do so, under the coordination of Ghislain Ligan, himself a student from Benin. He works continually to care for and make Christ known with scores of students...many go in and out of Hephzibah House for events of all kinds. This has been a most enjoyable ministry.

A new ministry we began at Hephzibah House is teaching English For Immigrants...while this is still new, and we are learning, there are those coming to us for help in this area. Wil-liemae Perry coordinates this for Hephzibah House.

John and Judy McFarland have been on our staff for the past three years and one of the ministries they are most involved with is with veterans. Since both John and Judy are themselves in entertainment, God often gives them opportunities to share Christ in their personal worlds. Both John and Judy have become members of the Sing Sing Ministry Team and rarely miss a fourth Sunday with the men. They are also involved in the new discipleship program of Sing Sing.

And what could be said for the New Year's Eve Scripture Distribution Outreach, which we picked up again in 2005, upon return. After supper together, our team goes out with the number of Scriptures for the new year, distributing these among the crowd gathering for the Times Square Gala Celebration. This past year, for the first time, God graciously brought people to us with comments of having received before in past years and the fruit of that in their lives and their families...blessing us.

During the past few years we have worked with women in a fellowship we call The King's Daughters...many women have been blessed in being a part of this...even as we have in sharing and teaching. Speaking of which, all these years, God has opened doors for teaching and training with many groups of people...Hephzibah ministry has had opportunities arranged by God to fulfill its calling and commitment...none are greater than in the area of prayer...may God keep Hephzibah on its knees before Him.



## Changes

Change upon change keep coming these days.  
Causing struggle within as I learn new ways  
to live differently, daily in all that I do...  
I thank you, my Father, that YOU are still YOU!

Please know, gracious Father, I would complain not  
as you make reality with what you have taught.  
It was not meant as theory, but reason for trust.  
As we walk on together, MY LEANING IS "MUST."

And as I grow older, sometimes my heart aches  
Over losses and changes, relationship breaks.  
Yet your goodness and mercy have taken me through.  
Sometimes although weeping, I better know YOU.

Will I feel at home, Lord, in this new place?  
Like I did in the past...all those years when your grace  
Gave me family, and friends, and joyful full years  
Of rich meaning and happenings spent with my peers?

One thing I am sure as changes I see,  
My past is a record of Your kindness toward me.  
Your Presence was with me, O giver of grace.  
The major change coming?  
I WILL LOOK IN YOUR FACE!

Written today after 40 years with Hephzibah House Ministries in New York City and Great Barrington, Massachusetts, moving to Indianapolis, Indiana, August, 2014.





“He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him” (John 1).

“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 11).

WHEN WE TRULY KNOW GOD, WE MOVE INTO A WAITING STANCE.

Two writers from whom I have greatly benefited in my personal walk with Christ in the matter of waiting upon the Lord are Rev. Andrew Murray and Rev. J. Sidlow Baxter. The points in this list below are from these two men and myself. As our prayer life grows, so does our learning that He is God and we are not. WAITING UPON HIM produces the connection of trust and hope and the attitude and actions on this list. All are positions of faith in Him.

KNOWING HIM TRULY, WE WAIT UPON HIM:

1. Waiting in silence for Him to speak, listening ears and hearts
2. Expecting all things from His hand
3. Unquestioning, obedient heart for His will alone
4. Our senses alive, alert, watching daily at His posts
5. And yet quiet in spirit, without panic and stress
6. One Master, only and always
7. Separated to God alone, as servant and soldier, watching for the signal, listening for commands

8. Dressed in uniform and ready for battlefield activity
9. Daily strength renewed for the flight, mounting up above the world's noise and traps and dismal scenes
10. Running without weariness, and walking without weakness and fainting

RECOGNIZING OUR FATHER IS IN OUR WORLD, WE  
KNOW HIM, AND WE ARE WAITING UPON HIM.



One of the greatest blessings in our lives was involvement in the ministry of Hephzibah House, NYC, and Hephzibah Heights, MA. It was a definite calling from God, no mistake about it; and when it came to us, it came as a surprise and a decisive change in our personal world. There were three things that stand out in my memory. We had two children, one a young teenager, and one barely three. One Sunday morning, as we were sitting in a church service, I was struggling in my mind about taking these two children to grow up in NYC. God asked me a question. “What did the mother of Moses do with her child?” My answer was that she and her husband built a little ark and laid him in it, and placed the ark in the Nile River. God said to me, “I am the ark. Leave your children with me. Place them in your river of faith.” I knew it was God.

At the time John and I and our family lived in a farmhouse with some antiques we loved, a little acreage, a garden for produce we both enjoyed working, a rose garden for pleasure, acres for play and picnics, quietness...peace. We thought of this and what we knew of New York City. One of the ways God spoke to me was in a poem from *Streams in the Desert*. Many call it dialogue. Awesome dialogue our Father and I had...He is most persuasive!

We got rid of house and acreage, cars, furniture, pets; we set aside relationships with family dear to our hearts, began looking to our Father for funds to use for our family needs, and with our hands in His, we followed after Him with whole hearts and some teary times. Now, #3. The big question: Were we ever sorry?

Was it a mistake? Did God provide? Looking back on those forty years, did we regret the move? A THOUSAND TIMES NO! We learned His promises were more than written Bible verses. We learned He does give above and beyond all we could ask or think. We learned firsthand that His mercy endures forever!



“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you” (Isaiah 43:2).

Recently, online, I looked at Fremont, Ohio, and the Sandusky River. The river is 133 miles long through northern Ohio, and runs into Lake Erie. The description says it is beautiful with wonderful areas for picnics and enjoyable recreation. I copied part of a picture (below the dam) of it to share here. And it is beautiful! Another photo of it shows a huge man-made control factor of the water. While it has always been beautiful, the

control center did not exist when we lived across the road from this river. The river was a place where our family fished in the summer...enjoyed river sounds, saw little animals whose lives depended on this river; and in the winter, the river right across the road from us became a wonderful ice skating pond. John would build a huge fire at the side of the road. We carried a picnic table across and benches, made hot chocolate for the whole world, and spent hours in the winter skating long distances up and down this beautiful river.

Winters in northern Ohio can be very cold for long durations of time, and while the ice thickens and becomes a safe place for ice skating, it once was a threat of power. We saw this our first winter. In the spring, as the ice melted, water coming from melting ice increased its flow and often caused the ice to buckle from underneath. As the river flowed on, ice moved ice. The river became an awesome picture of nature's powerful drive and force which nothing could stop. It would often move outside of its banks and even into South River Road, our only road into the town. We had an ice-flow. When this happened, it would temporarily change our everyday lives, but we were snug and warm and safe and contented in our large old Victorian farmhouse. Happy girls...no school...happy John...no temporary responsibility other than phone conversations. Happy me in the joy of family!

One year, however, was very different. The temperatures had been excessively cold for a long time and the miles of river water were deeply frozen. Spring burst forth with sudden high temperatures and the ice responded with quick melting. As the water moved along melted ice created much more water and the ice flow began in a very powerful, tumultuous move. It could be heard for miles as huge blocks of ice...churning and bumping, cracking each other went on for hours. Within 48 hours the farmers who owned the house we lived in became concerned that some of the huge blocks of ice could actually come across the road into our isolated yard—which they did—and could

come close to the house. Watching out our front window we could actually see fish jumping in our front yard. And water from the river with no place to go had moved across the road into fields. Our house sat on a small hill, and water began to encircle our place. So, by phone, we were instructed to get some things together we needed and the husband and wife (farmers) would come after us across fields behind us in a huge tractor pulling a wagon for our family. We hurried to do what we were told, and within minutes they were at our back door and we began to load a few things into this wagon that would help us with our baby son and our three daughters, young children. We did this in a hurry and into the wagon on bales of hay we seated our children, the farmer's wife, and John, with me holding the baby.

It was kind of an exciting adventure for us as we started out over the back fields headed toward their land that adjoined the land of the farm we lived on, and our children felt that; but as we rode further we could see that ahead of us was a stretch of water that was moving along. The tractor was big and heavy and the hay wagon was several feet high and our farmer friend driving the tractor was very skilled and knew what he was doing so we went right into this stretch of water. So far so good; however, about the middle of the stretch John and I and the farm lady became aware that our wagon was now beginning to float because the water was high and moving. You may be sure that while I had prayed before this trip was begun, I was inwardly praying to our Father. Later as we talked, both John and I acknowledged to ourselves that we would have been unable to save our children or ourselves if the wagon had tipped over.

Without any conversation, John climbed over the back of the trailer, hanging on to the middle of the end. The wife of the farmer, a heavy person, crawled to the back and took his empty seat. The tractor moved on with John's weight holding it steady until we finally realized the wagon wheels had touched down again on soil. He climbed back into the wagon with the chill of the icy waters he had encountered as he hung onto the wagon for

some yards of flooding. Not a word was spoken until our tractor driver navigated us across their fields and into their driveway where we unloaded, and later worked to make John warm again.

Then I recalled Scripture I had read early that morning. Some of you know that as a new Christian, God and I became bosom friends from the book of Isaiah. I never knew to start in the New Testament, so for my early months and some years, Isaiah was my daily spiritual food. That very morning, before all of this was even a thought, I had read the statement of God:

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you” (Isaiah 43).

Little did I know that He was speaking His plan, His intentional mercy to me for that very day.

As I write this, it is with tears, of course. This experience was one of the major mercies of our Father in my lifetime. There was mercy on the part of the farmer couple who came after us at their own risk; there was mercy in John’s heart as he climbed out into the icy waters to attempt saving his family; and there was mercy from our Father who saw our circumstances, never left us alone, came to our rescue, and saved the lives of all of us...8 people...I thought to myself...like the 8 people in the ark of safety when the flood came. Held in Him.





“Oh give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, ‘His steadfast love endures forever.’ Let the house of Aaron say, ‘His steadfast love endures forever.’ Let those who fear the Lord say, ‘His steadfast love endures forever.’ Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free.”

Composed some years ago on an early Sunday morning: Tuesday afternoon, an appointment is set up for a second mammogram and perhaps an ultrasound for something suspicious found by a doctor.

Father, what will Tuesday bring?  
Will I be able that day to sing  
songs of joy to Christ, my King?  
Father, will Tuesday’s voice bring care?  
Will I fly to the One who hears my prayer?  
Will He hand to me a cross to bear?  
Father, what will Tuesday say?  
Will what I hear reshape my day?  
Will my heart simply trust His way?  
Father, what will Tuesday show?  
Well, this bright morning, one thing I know,  
Jesus is with me, with Him I go.  
And He holds me fast!

I kept my appointment with unsettling questions but also that work of faith inspired by the Holy Spirit, and the second

mammogram was done...the doctor still not satisfied so he gave the ultrasound personally with the tech present. Their consensus? A cyst, with advice to let this alone for another test next year. Of course this was a great relief to my heart and mind... another evidence of the grace and mercy of my Father and His care for me. A thankful woman...His mercy endures forever. (le 9/16/81)

His love endures forever!



Today I sat beneath the trees  
And not a sound I heard.  
No whistling wind, no rustling leaves,  
No chirp or song of bird.  
My heart was stilled, my soul was calmed, my spirit soared  
above  
To reach this One who shepherds me, Who offers me His  
love.

And in the stillness of this hour,  
I recognize our Father's power  
And move into that secret place  
He's made for me, His gift of grace...

HIMSELF  
He is that stillness in my heart!

LE/March 20, 2018



Personal Note: (2019)

In my spiritual journey with Christ, begun in 1958, and involving over sixty years of ministry and service to others, there has been growth and understanding in ways of knowing and obeying God for which I thank Him. But none of these have grown more than my experience in PRAYER. From the basic cry of instinct to God as Creator and Father in the beginning, PRAYER has really taken over in my life. It means more to me than any other spiritual activity and experience except for that personal heart connection of our Father/God. It was in the midst of ministry in the mid-eighties that the statement of Jesus (John 15:5) “WITHOUT ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING” was placed like a red flashing light in my mind and heart by the Holy Spirit. I reasoned long over the word, “nothing.” After that, prayer has become the beginning and the middle and the end of days, nights, lifetime experiences, all decision making, experiences, sorrows, and trials, the understanding of His Word, the experience of His Presence, relationships with people...and certainly all opportunities He opens for me to serve Him and His people, and a lost world. Even seeing Truth and holding a vision of lost men and women, the whole world, is included in the nothing He referred to. WITHOUT CHRIST I CAN DO NOTHING!



Give me an old book, Lord...

The phrase “journal of mercies” is written in my heart. I was reminded again this morning of this, that it was a practice of Frances Ridley Havergal, composer of many revered hymns sung by the church, to keep such a journal yearly. I think this was a wonderful practice.

So, it is January, 2020. It was my suggestion to the Bible class meeting in my home, along with an empty writing book for their use, that over this year we each personally make a “journal of mercies.” I think doing this has many spiritual benefits for ourselves, but also praises our Father, the God of mercy and comfort. So I am doing this.

Just this morning I realized that one of His mercies to me was His guidance to writers I benefited from especially during my early walk with Him, writers of past years who helped me as I began my new lifestyle. I never knew other Christians to walk with for quite a while.

I came to Christ at 28...I am now 89. This morning these words filled my heart, as I once again read from a torn page of *Streams in the Desert*. It is an old copy I found set aside by the person selling books in the little book room of the Hephzibah Heights Bible Conference that used to be in Monterey, MA. Over its years, many people came and went. Often when someone went to Heaven, their books were given to this bookstore for give-aways. I noted this copy had originally been marked by the very old bookroom in Hephzibah House, New York City. It had been a well used book, literally falling apart. It was on the

give-away pile for the whole summer and no one wanted it. So finally it became mine, and year after year I read from this old book. Many pages were completely loose when I picked it up the first time; now, after nearly 40 additional years it is really falling apart. What a blessing this book has been to me in its content, but also in knowing it was used and worn by others ahead of me on their journey. These were my thoughts early this morning.

Give me an old book, Lord, one read with tears that mark the pages, tears that mix with my own as God shows me Himself, and I bow my heart in understanding and obedience. Some were tears of sorrow over my rebel spirit that produced pain for me and others I love; some were tears of struggle over His will versus my own; some with tears of thankfulness and deep gratitude for His forgiveness and His loving grip on my mind and heart. My tears are joining the tears of others who have walked this road ahead of me, someone else who loved this old book.

Give me an old book, Lord, that opens itself to certain pages, pages that fall out because someone else found truths and comforts to be food for the soul and went there often, so often that the book was broken. These pages deeply mattered to them and now to me. Corners gone, pages brittle and broken with age that hold truth I embrace and follow. Let it fall open for me (2020).

Give me an old book, Lord, that I too have come to love and cherish in my walk with You. I see those markings made by another, indelibly marked. I came to know without searching their location on the pages, and I go there like a sheep following the sheep ahead. You were speaking to their heart and they knew it. Now it is my turn, and You speak to my heart and I know it too. You were feeding manna to that hungry heart; now You are feeding manna to my hungry heart, years and years later. This is possible, Father, because Your words are eternal even as You are eternal, with welcoming love to know and follow after You. It was their heart, now it is mine.

Give me an old book, Lord, one that You inspired to the pen of someone following hard after You, one who loved You, and

loved Your living Word. This writing is clear and trustworthy because there is no contradiction with who You are and say and do. It rings clear to me, meets me, holds me, and draws me ever closer to You as it drew someone else before me who wept through its pages along their pathway. An old book, Lord...give me an old book.

The Bible says that the intent of God is to renew our minds. How well He does this. He moves into our thinking with His mind. He changes everything.



## Bible Teaching

My role as a Bible teacher began shortly after my walk with Christ began, because there were immediate, unarranged opportunities as I began to walk in my personal circles as a woman who was following Christ, just learning spiritual truths and how to pray for others and their needs. At the time God is doing new things, His children don't often see it as it is nor the scope of it; but as time passes with a look back, His move was very visible. More and more women began coming to me with their problems, indicating verbally that they needed to know God in a personal way, expressing spiritual hunger. I remember asking a group of them to meet me in the church we attended (church buildings used to be open) which they did and we all prayed together around the front of the church auditorium at an altar. I began to have women phone and ask to come to my house to talk about spiritual issues, a big farm house in the country across the road from a beautiful river. A friend of mine, who was also a believer, had begun working with Child Evangelism Fellowship, so for the summer we set up that she would meet with the kids outside while inside I taught a Bible class to their mothers and any other women who wanted to come. Fortunately this was a very large house with sliding doors, because this group of women grew and grew, and out of this there were many times spent with individual women, invitations to speak to women in other churches (especially Lutheran women), the first Bible course I



ever taught was the Book of Exodus...the life of Moses. What a study that was for me as I worked hard, seriously preparing to teach. I was so captured by the Old Testament that my thinking and teaching moved through that part of Scripture. God was doing a wonderful work in the lives of these women and in their homes and families, but He was also doing a major work in me. I never knew until I taught it, that the story of Exodus...the life of Moses, is a wonderful facsimile or parallel of coming to Christ, being set free, learning to listen and obey, etc., etc. God knew and this became real and special in His power and love...it led me to the New Testament and the life of Jesus Christ and all kinds of spiritual lessons. We lived in Fremont, Ohio, for about ten years...it was my birthplace into the kingdom of God, and my anointing to teach (before I knew there was such a thing) and prayer opened to me there because I knew nothing and yet felt the responsibility of many, many women in that town. I learned desperate praying because it was all a new way of life for me and I felt weak and inadequate for what God had moved me into for His purposes. For the rest of our years in that town I taught Bible classes everywhere.

It is incredible what God does. Many, many years later, I was invited to speak at a church in that town. This had been arranged by one of the women who had come to Christ in that class. That church had grown from a very small older congregation to very large, and word was passed around that I would be there. Many of the women I knew in the sixties had won their husbands to Christ and out of these singles and couples, some became spiritual leaders in this church, a congregation who loved our Lord Jesus, served Him with their whole hearts, and lived transformed lives in Christ. It was dear of the Lord Jesus to let me see this picture of God enlarging His kingdom on earth... and even those days spent with the children reaped awesome results in our Father's plan for a town.



I had an unusual experience as I was leaving Sing Sing Prison with my team after our Christmas Sunday in 2017. As the team walked up the little incline that takes us from the vehicle stop to the building where we check in and out, I suddenly felt that I was nearing a blackout...there were two successive waves of this, so upon entering the building where we would be checked out, I asked one of the team to sit down with me for a few minutes and explained. Another member of our team purchased a bottle of water for me to drink. In about ten minutes, I felt all was well and wondered what that was! It seemed to have no importance, so I did not mention it to my daughter when reaching her house. I planned to stay with her for a few more days.

On Wednesday evening in their house it happened again but this time I mentioned it. Very quickly I was on my way to the emergency room of their local (and very fine) hospital. Nothing was discovered, but it was recommended that I have a physical, which I did in two days. To make a long story short, it was discovered that I had a heart issue which resulted in a pace-maker. It was also discovered that I had cancer in the thyroid resulting in thyroid removal...major sleep apnea...blood clots, blood pressure issues, and some little things that go along with these. These were discovered one at a time...so instead of returning to Indiana in January, the trip was made in June.

Don't laugh, but as each new thing was found, I had the idea that I might soon be making the trip to Heaven, so decided I needed to get organized with that in mind. I had three books in my mind/heart so I got busy with those, and explored what

would be my limitations when I returned to Indiana. It was a lovely trip home, greeted by dear family...although saying good-bye to dear ones in PA by this time was most difficult.

Once I got back to Indiana, God helped me get organized to do the things that were in my heart, working with my neighborhood children, prisons, nursing homes, several great opportunities, etc. It has been an incredible journey, and I am putting this together for the birthday book I want to share with my circle of friends and ministry people here (90 is the number)...losing my hearing in a major way, and developing increasing issues with feet and leg neuropathy...had cataract surgery this past year. I THINK OF THE SCRIPTURE IN ECCLESIASTES 12, THE FIRST 8 VERSES FROM THE AMPLIFIED TRANSLATION... YOU REALLY SHOULD READ THESE IF YOU HAVEN'T... AWESOME!

But I am also thinking of Romans 8:11:

“AND IF THE SPIRIT OF HIM WHO RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD IS LIVING IN YOU, HE WHO RAISED CHRIST FROM THE DEAD WILL ALSO GIVE LIFE TO YOUR MORTAL BODIES BECAUSE OF HIS SPIRIT WHO LIVES IN YOU.”

I believe the Spirit is giving life to me in my mortal body because He lives in me, and this will take place until our Father/Creator calls me Home. I work at being organized every day, to be ready for the journey...mainly I just “abide in Christ”...and get His directions!



How God used His Word in my life...some of the Scriptures:

The first Scriptures I read as a new Christian were the Psalms. At first they were confusing since I knew nothing about who wrote them and their circumstances and I knew very little about God Himself, but I did not stop reading, thinking that if I was ever to know Him personally, I would know Him by reading the Bible.

Much of what I read in the beginning was simply with the aim of knowing about God, about the Bible, about Jesus, etc. I think I saw a verse written somewhere from the Book of Isaiah the reason I began reading in Isaiah, but some of those Scriptures spoke to me deeply.

1. I read the promise of a coming Son in Isa. 7 and in Isa. 9 the description of that Son.
2. A nervous and insecure walk for me, and I realized I needed to follow God alone from Isa. 30:7 and verse 15 spoke to me...verse 20/21 gave me an assurance that God was with me and verses after that described my life before then...rebellion and following my own ways. Amazing!
3. I read Isaiah verse by verse...not with great understanding but beginning to see how God worked with people. When I arrived at Chapter 40 and read verse 31, I began to see the love and care of God and drew closer to Him. In Isa. 63:10 and in several verses...I began to understand that I was to be a witness and He forms us for that (verse 21), and that chapter began to mold my thoughts

about Him and about my walk with Him in this world with others.

4. Isa. 53 is the chapter of the cross... I had heard about the cross, but did not understand why it was necessary and what it accomplished... Isa. 59 was a powerful chapter in my life. It was incredible how it spoke to me.
5. I began to see prayer when I read about watchmen on the walls...I understood. Isa. 62:6.
6. In Isa. 66:1-2...I read verses that sealed my connection with Him and placed in me that longing to be the one He would regard...would listen to: a contrite spirit who trembles at His WORD. All in the book of Isaiah God was using to begin my life with Him.

By now, I had begun to read some Christian books and I was greatly helped in putting Scriptures together in their rightful place and meaning. I learned differences between Old and New Testament. (Incredible how I acquired the first Christian book I ever read...*Absolute Surrender*).

From that book I saw that Scripture God gave was to give understanding, was to be obeyed and with obedience came further understanding, peace, joy, and I began to share the Bible with others by simply sharing what God was doing in my life with the Bible. It affected lots of people who were spiritually hungry, many of whom were religious people, but had not been born of God's Spirit.

I searched the Scriptures about everything, praying over them, looking for verses that would help me know what to do about many things, and God brought verses to me that were promises...about people, about situations, circumstances, church life, soul winning, getting along with people. In a short time I discovered that God had something to give me for every need of my life.

And He still does and I still search the Scriptures.

7. On coming to NYC for ministry...what did He give me?

In concern about leaving aging parents behind, what did He give me? Psa. 45.

8. In concern about taking a 3 year old and a 14 year old, what did He give me? From Exodus, a reminder of the mother of Moses placing the son she loved in a basket, pushing it in the river...He told me to place all those I love in the basket of His love and push it into His river of grace and faithfulness.
9. And what did He give me about teaching? Col. 1: 25-29. How am I to do this?: He gave me John 7:37-39.
10. And now, what does He give me now? Psa. 92:12-15 and Isa. 46:3-4.

His Word, the Bible, became immediately for me a LAMP TO MY FEET AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH. AND VERY IMPORTANTLY, I CONNECTED ALL OF THIS WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO BECAME TO ME PERSONALLY WHO HE IS FOR WHY JESUS SENT HIM. HE IS STILL THAT FOR ME!

I was given Scripture by our Father in my early years when I was asked to teach an adult SS Class of men and women, much older and not really into the Bible. I taught from the Bible and was criticized by Sunday school superintendent and pastor. I was tempted to despair and give up but read JEREMIAH 1:6-8...I did not give up but the class was taken from me for refusing to teach denominational material, not from Scripture. The rest of the story about this large group of people is a very sad story.

Classes over many years have often heard me teach from JOB 22:21-30...I found it by accident but felt it to be a message to anyone who needs Christ...and to those who work with people who need Christ...it is the whole plan and story for both teacher and students.

One of my very favorite Scriptures is JEREMIAH 17:7-8... God's promise to the person who trusts in Him. Awesome Scripture.

JOHN 7:37-39 One Easter Sunday morning after teaching

a Sunday school class (in the 60s), I came into the sanctuary for the service feeling my teaching was so poorly done that it would make no difference in anyone's life. My heart was heavy and the Holy Spirit spoke this Bible reference to me. I was totally unaware what I would find but looked it up. As I read it that Sunday morning, I knew God was showing me His plan and involvement in my teaching...and with tears, sitting in that pew, I asked the Lord to do for me what I read...that river in my innermost being flowing to the world around me. Nothing I did in teaching or speaking or witnessing after that was ever the same, to this very day. I saw the difference between my own work of the flesh...the natural man, and the work of His Spirit. Difference between night and day...it was the missing power.



## The I Found It Campaign of NYC and Prayer

The longer I walked with Christ, the more aware I became of His love and care for the human race, and His power to rule and over rule. He is omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent.

What was New York City like by the 1970s? High crime, nearly bankrupt, filled with public wickedness of all kinds, etc. (read clips from the New York Times article by David Brooks)...

At the same time, God was implementing His plan for the city.

WHERE SIN ABOUND, GRACE ALSO ABOUND  
(Rom.5:20).

We can count on this! We just need to get in on it!

In the 70s God began to work in unusual ways...but first His usual:

1. He prepared the hearts and minds of His servants.
2. He called and moved them into His plan.
3. He makes no mistakes, although His servants do.
4. God built His prayer foundation.
5. GOD TOOK CHARGE.
6. We had hindrances of all kinds.
7. No door to door in NYC permitted
8. No media time for sale at any price
9. No entry into many places for public or private events
10. But God ruled and over-ruled.



11. He raised up INTERCESSORS.
12. He gave His creative ideas.
13. He gave money.
14. He worked in miraculous ways.

Results? Brought THE CHURCH TOGETHER.

Brought Christians together in workplaces, etc.

He began His dealing with crime in the city.

He began to clean out Times Square.

He worked in hearts and minds and His people were trained...

**there were thousands of people who came to Christ...** churches grew...it was the breaking of strongholds and the beginning of new and needed growth and spiritual life in the city of NY.



I was very privileged to be a part of the worship service, Sunday morning, February 23, 2020, in Calvary Baptist Church, NYC...the last morning worship service to be held in that historic building that has story upon story of God's work in hearts and minds over 90 years...only our Father knows all these stories of eternal significance. I personally felt the presence of our Father. One part of it I may never forget. The choir sang a gospel song I had never heard before entitled *Sing Amen*. These are the words:

We're all on a journey, and we're called to walk by faith.

There'll always be the mountains and valleys in our way.

But right here in this moment may our strength be renewed, as we recall what God has done and how we've seen Him move.

If there's anybody here who's found Him faithful, anybody here who knows He's able, say Amen.

It there's anybody here who's seen His power, anybody here brought through the fire, say amen,

Anybody here found joy in the midst of sorrow, peace in the storm, hope for tomorrow, and you've seen it time and time again, just say amen.

Sometimes in the darkness it gets hard to see, but be bold and courageous, and follow where He leads.

Greater is the One who's in us than he who's in the world, so child of God, remember the battle is the Lord's.

If there's anybody here who's found Him faithful, anybody here who knows He's able, say amen.

If there's anybody here who's seen His power, anybody here brought through the fire, say amen.

Anybody here found joy in the midst of sorrow, peace in the storm, hope for tomorrow, and you've seen it time and time again, just say amen.

Just stand and testify of the greatness of God in our lives.

If there's anybody here who's found Him faithful, anybody here who knows He's able, say amen.

If there's anybody here who's seen His power, anybody here brought through the fire, say amen.

Anybody here found joy in the midst of sorrow, peace in the storm, hope for tomorrow, and you've seen it time and time again, just say amen.

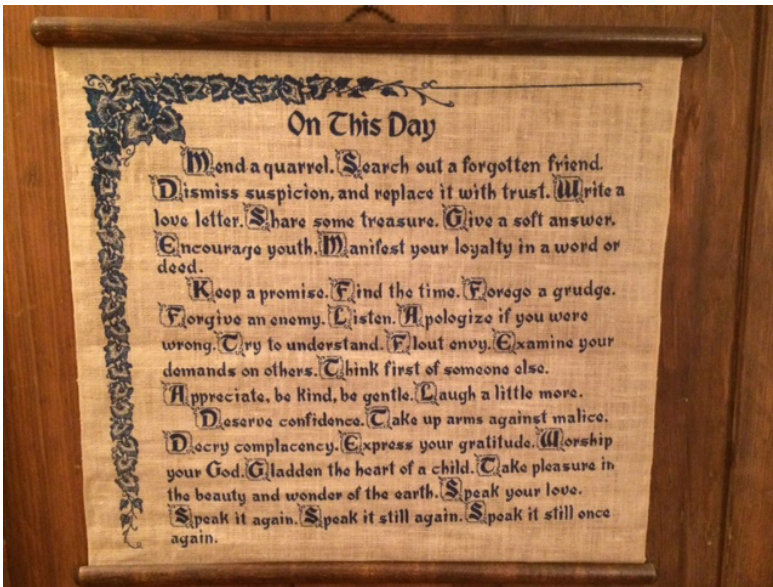
Just say amen. Just say amen.

Before their song was finished, one by one, people in the congregation stood to their feet. Many were weeping silently, many heads were bowed in worship. When the choir finished singing, there was an awesome silence before God. It was truly a moment of worship, of standing in His presence...no words to describe it. I think I shall never forget it.



I often wondered who hung this little sign in the dining room at Hephzibah Heights. It was noticed by nearly everyone. I actually saw people copying its contents.

It's an awesome reminder of the brevity of life and ways to make happiness:





To summarize the blessings of the 60+ years with our Father, in discipleship ministry with Christ Jesus, God brought His messages to me along the way...helping me on my journey of mercy and grace. And please forgive what may seem a lack of order, but it is hard to write a lifetime and put it all in right order. The forty things on this list are those things God taught me, things I came to know from experience, things that rest in my heart. I am praying about these as I share.

1. The Bible never talks of self-fulfillment, only of being filled with Christ and being filled with the Spirit. It is in this filling that we become the person God intends in our creation.
2. "I run in the paths of your commands, for you have set my heart free" (Psa. 119:32).
3. The society of this world lives in the hot things of lusts, the awesome fevers of competition and jealousies, gripped by burning desires of greed and materialism. I recognize this because I once lived there with them.
4. Jesus Christ is everything. He is love when I hate, strength when I am weak, sufficient when I am empty, courageous when I am cowardly, bold when I am timid, gracious when I am selfish. I have only to live the abiding life for His person and character to overrule mine.
5. Much of the life of faith consists of letting things alone. (A. B. Simpson)
6. The nearer I live to God in Christ, the more loving, caring, gentle, sensitive I will be to others. On my own, I

can become increasingly intolerant, demanding, and self-righteous. The disciple, John, even after two years of being with Jesus, wanted to call down fire from Heaven against others...but as time and the inner work of God continued, he became the Apostle of Love. THERE IS HOPE FOR US

7. Learned very early: There is preparation for ministry found in Isa. 6 and it is always God's way to prepare. His question from Heaven: "Who will go for us?" **Go for us** is the final commission Jesus gave His followers. Isaiah says: "I SAW THE LORD...SITTING UPON A THRONE (HIGH POSITION OF SOVEREIGNTY AND POWER)" after which he said: "I AM UNCLEAN, I AM UNDONE," RECOGNIZING HIS COMPLETE UNRIGHTEOUSNESS BUT WAITING TO RECEIVE AND SERVE). It was on this basis that Isaiah presented himself to the Lord with "SEND ME." There is no ministry fruitful apart from this preparation.
8. Never offer a cheap grace. The world will offer this as their substitute for God's grace. In it there is no recognition of the sovereignty and authority of God. In cheap grace we need never fear Him or His response to our willful disobedience. We say He is on call at any time for any want or whim I have and He is my "servant"...rather than my being His to command. Cheap grace costs me nothing and contradicts our Father's GRACE.
9. Costly grace is the sanctuary of God...it is fully operating within the call of God, and the preparation. Matt. 11:28-30: "Come unto me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
10. "Then Jesus, beholding him, loved him, and said, Come, take up the Cross, and follow me" (Mark 10:21).

What evidence of love is this that I should bear a Cross?  
To pick it up would mean for me that I will suffer loss.  
What evidence of love is this that I should follow Him?  
Where does He plan to take me? My heart desire grows dim.  
But when He turns His face toward me, it holds such awe-  
some power that I respond upon my knees, "I'm yours, Lord,  
from this hour."

11. Natural love may very well attract us to Jesus, to make us feel fascination, but it will never be enough to make us disciples. (Oswald Chambers)
12. A large cause of a weak faith is ignorance, but a second cause is lack of obedience to what we already know and understand.
13. We come weeping in conversion, hoping in supplication, rejoicing in praise, and delighting in service. (C. H. Spurgeon)
14. Living in the Spirit will always lead us to the cross assigned us by Jesus...fruit bearing, burden bearing, seed bearing and brand bearing (from Galatians 5 and 6), the work of the cross.
15. Three calls from Christ: The first is, "Come to me" (Matt. 11:28). Then, "Come, follow me" (Matt. 4:19). After that, "Abide in me" (John 15:4); dear and precious invitational calls coming from our Creator, Father/God, Lord!
16. St. Augustine: "HE WHO HAS CHRIST HAS EVERYTHING. HE WHO HAS EVERYTHING BUT DOES NOT HAVE CHRIST, HAS NOTHING. AND HE WHO HAS EVERYTHING PLUS CHRIST HAS NOTHING MORE THAN HE WHO HAS CHRIST ALONE."
17. A missionary is a person "in mission." Every child of God has "mission" inspiring his heart. God wants His child to share the Lord Jesus with every person who will listen. But his ordained "call" from God is personal and with purpose as God directs him as to time, place, and specifics. All "mission" has kingdom purpose and global signif-

- icance in God's plan.
18. The soul has a longing cry after God. It is created and placed by God Himself. The Spirit turns that cry into songs of worship when man moves into a right relationship with His Creator.
  19. I think when our Father knows the time is right to draw us near to our Home-going, He begins to give us His thoughts of Heaven and longing, but until then there is work He wants completed on earth through His children. Will you and I be willing to "stand in the gap" between Heaven and Earth? When it is time for Heaven He will take us there, but until then, Jesus is building His kingdom. He calls us!
  20. When Jesus invites us to COME, we do so initially for mercy and forgiveness. We come incessantly for help. He invites us to COME AND STAY so we can really know Him and walk together. When He calls, we COME HOME.
  21. St. Augustine: PREACH THE GOSPEL ALWAYS AND WHEN NECESSARY, USE WORDS.
  22. Satan trembles when he sees...the weakest saint upon his (her) knees. (Anon.)
  23. "Human love does not consist merely in outward expression, but in the hidden purpose of the heart, and yet, if there be no outward expression the spring will dry up." F. B. Meyer
  24. Chorus composed by Beatrice Bush Bixler as a theme for a retreat held at Hephzibah House one year:  
Lord Jesus, I'm your servant, you may count on me.  
When you speak, my heart will listen, you may count on me.  
Where you lead me I will follow, wherever that may be.  
Blessed Savior, I'm your servant, you may count on me!
  25. Horatious Bonar:  
Fill up the hours with what will last;  
Buy up the moments as they go.



The life above, when this is past  
Is ripened fruit of life below.

26. Abraham Lincoln: "The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time."

Jesus: "Do not be anxious about tomorrow."

27. C.T.Studd: "Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of Hell

28. DISORGANIZATION TRAVELS ALONG WITH PRO-CRASTINATION; HAND IN HAND TOGETHER THEY MOVE TOWARD THE "DEADLY RESULT PIT." THIS IS TRUE FOR LIFE IN GENERAL...MOST ASSUREDLY TRUE FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRY.

29. Life is like the trackless sea. Without working instruments a ship and all aboard will be lost. In life, the Word of God is the necessary instrument. The lack of its use is revealed clearly in the awesome lost condition of the human race both in history and in contemporary times. Lord, keep me connected to You and Your Word.

30. In the inner sanctuary of our soul, there are two beings: self and God. Many things take place...it is the seat of authority and government as well as the positional place of the beings. It is a place of obedience and seeking. The atmosphere of this sanctuary is filled with discord, tensions, enmities, antagonism, unbelief, sorrow, discontentment, etc, or it is filled with peace and rest, adoration and fellowship with the Divine being. It is a place of dialogue. Jesus calls this the abiding place. It is a place of victory or loss, the throne room of the soul. We need to take a long searching look into this sanctuary of the soul...who dwells there?

31. Sometimes I hear me pleading what I think God needs to do, forgetting that our God is God and sees the matter through.

He waits for me to let Him still my restless heart and will,

Then holds me close and says to me, “My daughter, just sit still.”  
(le 2013)

32. Verses He gave me for my 80th birthday: “You whom I have upheld since you were conceived, and have carried since your birth. Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you” (Isa. 46:3-4).

33. Understanding is the gateway to the heart.

34. Gal. 4:7 “God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your heart.” He offers the abiding life:

Abiding is accepting my position in which He has placed me. Abiding is consenting to be kept in that place and position. Abiding is surrendering to the Vine to hold me as His branch. Abiding is receiving His life to fill me for fruit bearing.

All of it is GRACE...the calling, the drawing, the connecting, the holding, and the fruit bearing (Col. 2:6-7).

35. St Patrick’s invocation as he entered upon his work for the conversion of Ireland:

“May the strength of God pilot me. May the power of God preserve me. May the wisdom of God instruct me. May the eye of God view me. May the ear of God hear me. May the Word of God make me eloquent. May the hand of God protect me. May the way of God direct me. May the shield of God defend me. Christ be with me. Christ on my right hand. Christ on my left hand. Christ in the hearts of all to whom I speak. Christ in the mouths of all who speak to me. Christ in the eyes of all who see me. Christ in the ears of all who hear me.”

36. He placed me in a little cage,

Away from gardens fair.

But I must sing the sweetest songs

because He put me there,

Not beat my wings against the cage

If it’s my Maker’s will.

But raise my song to Heaven’s gate

and sing the louder still!

—Lettie B. Cowman

37. A very favorite of mine:

I said to a man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied, "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light... and safer than a known way!" M.L. Haskin

38. Chorus: (Anon.)

In times like these, we need a Savior.

In times like these, we need an anchor.

Be very sure, be very sure,

Your anchor holds and grips the solid Rock.

This Rock is Jesus, yes, He's the One.

This Rock is Jesus, the only One.

Be very sure, be very sure

Your anchor holds, and grips the solid Rock.

39. Just A Weaver (B. M. Franklin)

My life is but a weaving, between my God and me

I do not choose the colors. He worketh steadily.

Ofttimes He weaveth sorrow, and I in foolish pride  
forget He sees the upper and I the underside.

Not 'til the loom is silent, and the shuttles cease to fly

Will God unroll the canvas and explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful in the skillful weaver's hand

As threads of gold and silver in the pattern he has planned.

40. "By day the Lord directs his love, at night His song is with me...a prayer to the God of my life" (Psa. 42:8).

I will stop this list at 40, the number of years I was privileged to serve the Hephzibah Ministry.

And is not all of this clear, visible, journey-mercies recorded for our Father's praise? HIS MERCY ENDURES FOREVER!  
Amen, yes, it is so!



## **Giving His Angels Charge...**

I doubt that any of us know how many times God has rescued us physically from danger...but we do know that He says He “will give His angels charge” over us. There were many times when we lived in NYC that God made Himself known. I’ll share one: Not keeping my mind on the subway journey I was making, I stepped off at a stop and realized it was not the right one, but actually a closed one which meant that people could get on and off there but there was no ticket agent or lighted station room. Few lights...the platform was dark. As I stood waiting for the next train I could get back on, I looked across the sets of tracks and noticed a man watching me. When he went to the stairs on his side, I had that sick feeling he was crossing over the street above coming to where I was standing on the opposite platform. Of course, I began to pray, sensing danger.

When I heard footsteps on the stairs I knew it was him... and my sight of him verified my fear. He came to the turnstyle and put in his token; but as he endeavored to walk through, the gate would not open. He kicked it, rattled it, cursed it...looked around to make sure I was still the only person standing beyond the high bars through which he could not enter. In my heart I was crying out to our Father; for what seemed like forever, this man was out of control. In the distance I could hear a train and I asked the Father to hold him back until I boarded. Yes, it was the subway train and it stopped and the doors opened. A few

people got off...I got on and as the subway doors closed, the man I mentioned walked through the turnstyle...but too late to board the train.

Only our Father knew his intention, knew his heart, but He had sent His angels to have charge over me, and I knew it. Many inner tears...never forgotten. Awesome!



## The Amplified Bible

It was in 1958 the New Testament section was published under the title of The Amplified Bible...this was the year I was converted to Christ. Being so out of touch with spiritual matters, I knew nothing about translations, but as shared before, I found a new Bible in a closet box that had never been touched. It was in the King James translation. For my first few years, I never knew Bibles came in different translations, which would have been very helpful to me because in about a year or so, I began sharing things I was learning with other women, struggling to know and share Truth, but with unfamiliar English terms.

And this was mostly from the Old Testament. I taught the book of Exodus for many months from the King James.

Not only did the Holy Spirit help me teach this but barely into it, He showed me that this Exodus story had all the markings of conversion. I learned this along with a large class of women to whom this was happening as it had happened for me. God was with us.

I don't remember how I discovered the Amplified Bible but it was only the second kind of Bible I read, and it was so helpful to me. Over a few years, a part of the Old Testament was completed and then the other...so the whole of the Amplified Bible was available. It deepened and widened my understanding, as its title says...it amplifies. What a gift to my life, to my walk with Christ. There were verses I loved from the King James, but dear-

ly loved in the Amplified. The mind is the center of thinking and choosing and determining...the heart is the center of loving and commitment and joy and delight.

“EXAMINE ME, O LORD, AND TRY ME; TEST MY HEART AND MY MIND” (Psalm 26:2).



Scriptures God planted in my heart long ago: Scriptures I love!

“Then Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you {as My representatives}” (John 20:21 Amplified Bible).

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed and commissioned me to bring good news to the humble and afflicted; He has sent me to bind up {the wounds of} the brokenhearted, to proclaim release {from confinement and condemnation} to the {physical and spiritual} captives and freedom to prisoners.

“To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance and retribution of our God; To comfort all who mourn.

“To grant to those who mourn in Zion the following: To give them a turban instead of dust {on their heads... a sign of mourning}, the oil of joy instead of mourning, the garment {expressive} of praise instead of a disheartened spirit. So they will be called the trees of righteousness {strong and right standing with God}; the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

“Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins. They will raise up and restore the former desolations; And they will renew the ruined cities, the desolations {deserted settlements} of many generations” (Isaiah 61 Amplified Bible).





“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3).

Over many years, God enabled me to see that the trials and struggles of life are used by Him for His purposes, some in this life while some have eternal value. The mercy of God enabled me to see some purposes of trials in the lives of others gone before me. Many are the strong Christians who lived before our time and influenced the world, those who were made strong by the trials and struggles they endured. I think of those whose books I have read, with their testimonies of God’s allowances of suffering...some with tears, inspiring, encouraging, teaching, some used in many devotional messages covering their days of pain and struggle, who did not see the results while in this temporal life. But we see them and it makes a difference for us. I think of those who lost everything they could have had in this world, those who have been killed or imprisoned for the sake of the gospel, those who lived years in beds with broken health, in bodies that no longer were helpful to them. What can be said about those whom God used to record for us many books of our Bibles who died deaths as martyrs...their deaths of violence.... such as those “torn asunder” as entertainment for Roman citizens.

I think of people whose spouses or children were buried in the soil of other countries because they obeyed the call of God to missions and ministry away from families and comfort zones. In

God's mercy to me, He shows me the fruit, the purpose, the results of trials and losses. He has allowed me to see the big picture from the other side in their commitment to follow Jesus because He is worth it all, worthy of sacrifice.

This ministers to me because it prepares me for the cost our Lord said might come to all of us to simply trust and obey. May I not only see it, but embrace the cross and follow with my whole heart.



When I began to read the Bible as a new follower of Christ, I began in the book of Psalms, primarily because I knew little or nothing about the Bible and never knew what to read. I read from the King James Bible which I found packed away in a closet. I still have that same Bible. Some of the Psalms are marked. These will bless you as you read them for yourself: Some may be your favorites. I remember reading some Psalms over and over and over to make sure I understood what I was reading. Some I read with tears, many tears.

Psalm 1

Psalm 19

Psalm 23

Psalm 34

Psalm 51

Psalm 67

(At the side of this I wrote: 4 Signs of converted men:

Knowledge, praise, joy, and fruitfulness.)

Psalm 86

Psalm 91

Psalm 107    Psalm 119    Psalm 139



“You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book” (Psalm 56:8).

I discovered David was a man of many sorrows for various reasons...many sorrows of his own making, many just in the course of life and the actions and consequences of others, even some from those he loved. Many of his sorrows were from sinful actions he chose to take, many had to do with repentance and needing a cleansed heart. All these sorrows were painful and produced tears, many tears. Note that David said God kept track of his sorrows, and collected his tears in a bottle. Early in my spiritual journey I discovered what David said and wept even more at the very thought that God was that personal, and that he truly knew and cared and kept a record and had my tears in a bottle. Even as I write this, some of those early feelings are remembered with tears. Those tears softened the soil of a hard heart, and washed away the blackness of sin's marks, mine.

Some of these tears are exchanged along the way for kingdom sorrows and kingdom tears. In thinking about these tears, they do many things. Some water the dry, death-parched places in our world. Some soften the soil of hardness in sinner's hearts around me for whom I pray. Some soften the soil in minds of people I teach, with whom I share, for the sake of truth and righteousness. Some are shared with the tears of others with whom I walk and carry part of their burdens, some with sufferers the world over, some perhaps with His when He looks upon those

choosing paths of destruction, those imprisoned with sins that were nailed to the cross but not forsaken, remaining as bondages, hurting others and themselves. It is a spiritual matter, as He gathers those tears in his bottle.

The Bible calls Him “the God of all comfort.”



I discovered this many, many years ago. I don't remember ever reading it or listening to an audio of it ( given me by a dear friend), without tears. This was given as a Puritan prayer by the One who wrote the prayers and meditations of their hearts.

Whoever put this on this prayer knew our Lord Jesus intimately. This was my thought the first time I read it and is still today, after hundreds of reading times later, I am of that persuasion. With tears I say to the Father, "These are the words of my heart, O Lord."

### THE VALLEY OF VISION

LORD, HIGH AND HOLY, MEEK AND LOWLY,  
Thou hast brought me to the valley of vision,  
where I live in the depths but see thee in the heights;  
hemmed in by mountains of sin I behold thy glory.

Let me learn by paradox  
that the way down is the way up,  
that to be low is to be high,  
that the broken heart is the healed heart,  
that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit,  
that the repenting soul is the victorious soul,  
that to have nothing is to possess all,  
that to bear the cross is to wear the crown,  
that to give is to receive,  
that the valley is the place of vision.

Lord, in the daytime stars can be seen from deepest wells,  
and the deeper the wells the brighter thy stars shine;

Let me find thy light in my darkness,  
thy life in my death,  
thy joy in my sorrow,  
thy grace in my sin,  
thy riches in my poverty  
thy glory in my valley.



“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.”

It is easier to think of what we can do rather than what we can pray. Doing is easier than praying. It is within our human make-up to think of doing, it even seems to some people more important than praying, which explains why we plan what to do and then ask God to bless it. This is human perspective.

But then there is the supernatural. May we look at it. The enemy of God places doing before praying into human thinking because he can defeat our doing but is unable to defeat God. The enemy does not fear what we do, but of what God does. Activity that is the result of human ideas, human plans, human actions does not occupy the attention of the enemy. However, he calls out his dominions of darkness when God steps up to the plate.

Our personal prayer life is the plan of God for His children. Prayer begins in our response to the opening of God’s Spirit as He awakens our dead spirit and makes us alive in Christ. It is God’s desire to keep this prayer line open because through it He talks to us about many things in our lives and in our circles; He causes us to see and understand things; He enjoins us to fellowship with Him, to be people in communion with Him for our growth and development and fruit bearing role in His kingdom. He uses our prayer line with Him to defeat our personal sin inclinations. He guides our steps into His plans for our service to Him and to His church. He gives discernment and insights that are necessary for our personal lives, but also to discover and move into our role in His kingdom; He makes us One with

Himself and His church, He opens our minds and hearts to His church around the world and calls us to pray for people, places, events, etc., and draws us into the prayer life of His church.

This is kingdom praying and has tremendous power glorifying God in His saving of people's souls around the world. He draws His intercessors to prayer that brings down God's anointing power on His servants and the use of His Word. God rules the world through the intercessions of His people. He enables them to detect and discern the work of the enemy, and pray for his sound defeat and removal. Satan is conquered by our Lord because of our prayers. God makes His power available to those who pray, so that walls come down, wickedness is put to an end, hidden things become visible, nations and world leaders come under God's power and purpose. The prayers of the church are continually enlarged by God Himself, or they are self-centered, only for one another, only for earthly significance. The church is the kingdom of God on earth, whose foundation is Christ Jesus alone, Who is continually building it as His throne of authority and power in our present world.

Let us pray that He will work in us to become men and women, boys and girls, who pray kingdom prayers. May we entreat our Lord to give us enlarged hearts. May we ask our Father to give us the same world vision that He has. Let us begin now. (le, 2019)





## The Mercy of God

In His mercy, a neighbor sought to help my mother with 3 small children, plus her young nephew, and an alcoholic husband. The neighbor invited her to church, and eventually my mother became a follower of Christ, bringing Christ into our family, into her husband's family and into her birth family. Many came to Him over the years. The mercy of God...

I was a despondent and rebellious child and grew in desire for things and for a control position of everything and everybody. Looking back, I thank God to have escaped the alcoholism that enveloped my father's family, a long line of ancestors. That enveloped my father and brother. Because I hated it, I refused drinks. God's mercy kept me from "going too far," from choices that could have destroyed me. The mercy of God...

In His mercy, even though her life was hard, God gave strength and help to our mother in a path painful and struggling. He kept her faithful to her calling, and taught her how to pray. He helped her understand His Word, and it was her simple life that caused others to consider Him, and her prayer life when alcoholic chains began to break. The mercy of God...

Mercy that even though her life was very hard, God gave strength and help enabling her to walk in a path painful and struggling. He kept her faithful as she grew in understanding of spiritual things. It was her simple life and sharing Christ that caused others to consider Him, and her prayer life when the al-

coholic chains began to break. The mercy of God...

We were extremely poor when I was a child, but God provided food and clothing and helped me to attend school. God helped me through school, a hard experience. I was the poor kid in the class, ashamed of appearance and standing. I could never be a part of anything that cost money. School was not a happy place, but God enabled me to graduate from high school and find jobs with a high school education. The mercy of God...

As a child, I was taken to church on Sundays, but that only added to my frustration and anger in life, so that by the time I grew into adulthood, I felt disdain for Christianity as I understood it then and wanted to escape from all of it. In my mind, I believed that God existed (no trouble believing what little I knew about the Bible to be true), but in my anger and feeling of rebellion, I wanted no part of it. I wanted the world and what it held for me. Looking back, I can see that God's mercy followed me during all those days of my life and kept me in boundaries that I did not recognize at the time. The mercy of God...

During those years, God's mercy was covering me, but I hurt many, many people, defied the very idea of authority, and had personal goals that were selfish and wicked. He is a God of mercy and dogged my steps. I was never happy or free or contented, and of course, extremely depressed. Now I think those feelings of depression were His mercies extended, which I came to understand as I began walking with God, causing me to seek truth and peace. In His mercy He drew me to know Him. My mother was praying. The mercy of God...

And when I finally turned to the One who patiently waited for me, He gave me a powerful and lasting hunger to read, study and understand His Word and in doing so, truths I began to understand became foundational for my life. I began to recognize the mind of Christ, and desire it, to be given a new life, as His Spirit indwelt my own. In His mercy, old things did pass away and everything became new. In His mercy, a new creation. The whole story is a story of God's mercy. The mercy of God...

Beyond all of this, years and years of blessings beyond count. To be allowed to become one of His servants, to live these years as a disciple of Christ, privileges beyond imagining, experiences I would never have dreamed possible...just to know Him is incredible, to be able to serve Him...beyond words. The mercy of God...



## **Be Still, My Soul...**

As citizens of this world, we hear many “voices.” The voice of the enemy...the voices of the worldlings around us...the voices of fellow travelers...the voices of what we read and view...the voices of family...the voices of friends and acquaintances.

LOUDEST OF ALL...MY OWN INNER VOICE AS IT EXPRESSES IMAGINATIONS, SELF FEELINGS OF DESIRE AND SELF-ADULATION OR SELF-DEPRECIATION...MY OWN THOUGHTS, PLANS, WORDS. THIS IS THE MOST DIFFICULT VOICE TO **STILL...TO QUIET.**

It is God Who fills the quiet space when we are still. He opens our hearts and minds with His voice. The Word of God will always be spoken to us by the Spirit of God and is the ground work for our prayers and intercessions. His voice begins and I recognize it. Jesus said His sheep would know Him and would hear His voice and obey Him. His voice begins and I run with is. When God speaks, we find strength, encouragement hope, shelter, peace, everything our hearts long for.

What He asks us to do is: **BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD.**

### **Be Still, My Soul**

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.

Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.

Leave to thy God to order and provide;

In every change, He faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heav'nly Friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake  
To guide the future, as He has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
His voice Who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,  
And all is darkened in the vale of tears,  
Then shalt thou better know His love, His heart,  
Who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears.  
Be still, my soul: thy Jesus can repay  
From His own fullness all He takes away.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord.  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Be still, my soul: begin the song of praise  
On earth, believing, to Thy Lord on high;  
Acknowledge Him in all thy words and ways,  
So shall He view thee with a well-pleased eye.  
Be still, my soul: the Sun of life divine  
Through passing clouds shall but more brightly shine.



There came a time when God showed me the work of His Holy Spirit first giving understanding regarding God's forgiveness, then becoming the One now indwelling my own human spirit. Very quickly, I realized He was causing me to love and understand the Bible. The Holy Spirit became my teacher and showed me that my desire to be like Christ Jesus came from His work in me. As this became my prayer, it was the Holy Spirit who set the cross before me, showing the way of the cross. He declared this was the only way to follow Him. The Holy Spirit became guide and director. Life was never the same for me when I realized this truth. Two favorite hymns in my early walk of faith:

### **Breathe on Me, Breath of God**

Text: Edwin Hatch, 1835-1889

Music: Robert Jackson, 1842-1914

Breathe on me, breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what thou dost love,  
And do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, breath of God,  
Until my heart is pure,  
Until with thee I will one will,  
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God ,  
Till I am wholly thine,  
Till all this earthly part of me,  
Glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, breath of God,  
So shall I never die,  
But live with thee, the perfect life  
Of thine eternity.

### **Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart**

By George Croly (1854)

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move.  
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,  
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.  
Hast Thou not bid me love Thee, God and King?  
All, all Thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.  
I see Thy cross; there teach my heart to cling:  
Oh, let me seek Thee, and, oh, let me find!  
Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;  
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,  
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;  
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.  
Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,  
One holy passion filling all my frame;  
The kindling of the heav'n-descended Dove,  
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.



## Day by Day...

It would be impossible to share what this hymn meant to us. John and I sang it often together...many times by request. Carefully read the words. Neither of us would have changed even one day of our experiences in life for another...all the years learning to be married, learning to be parents, learning to walk with God, learning what ministry was and meant, learning to depend upon our Father, learning to let Him lead and guide, and provide... this hymn says it all. I know you must love it too.

### Day by Day

Day by day, and with each passing moment,  
Strength I find, to meet my trials here;  
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,  
I've no cause for worry or for fear.  
He Whose heart is kind beyond all measure  
Gives unto each day what He deems best—  
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,  
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

Every day, the Lord Himself is near me  
With a special mercy for each hour;  
All my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me,  
He Whose Name is Counselor and Pow'r.



The protection of His child and treasure  
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;  
“As thy days, thy strength shall be in measure,”  
This the pledge to me He made.

Help me then in every tribulation  
So to trust Thy promises, O Lord,  
That I lose not faith’s sweet consolation  
Offered me within Thy holy Word.  
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,  
E’er to take, as from a father’s hand,  
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,  
Till I reach the promised land.



## How Firm the Foundation Was Being Made

When I came to Christ, my mind was full of information accumulated over years from what others believed and said, what I saw practiced, what made the news, what friends believed, what people I did not like believed, what I heard other countries believed and did, none of it seeming real, helpful, or worth much in living life. Much of it was dark and negative, binding and crippling, and better just to be ignored. This is what I chose to do.

However, when God began to transform my mind, I remembered lots of this stuff, and said to Him: “I am not telling anyone about my decision to become a Christian because I do not want to hear what they think or believe. But from now on, I ask you to be my teacher, to ‘guide me into all truth’ (which I did not know then was Scripture); and if you help me understand and learn and obey you, I will do that. I just want you to be my teacher.” It was some time after that the Bible said to me: “This is my beloved Son, LISTEN TO HIM” (Matt. 17:5), and I knew God was cleaning out the old files, and placing in the new.

God took me up on that. Whatever came to me after that either settled in my mind as truth or not truth. The Bible, Christian books, verbal messages, yes, and music...the hymns became a great source of teaching for me. For instance, who could carefully read the words of *How Firm A Foundation* and not sense God’s power and might, His wisdom and strength, and His de-

sire to be truth to us. While a hymn may not be Scripture itself, the impressions and power of Scripture is present and used by the Holy Spirit to show us the truth and the way. We learn to recognize Him.

### **How Firm a Foundation**

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
You who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?

In every condition, in sickness, in health,  
In poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth,  
At home and abroad, on the land, on the sea,  
As days may demand, shall thy strength ever be.

“Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid.  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.”

“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.”

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply.  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.”

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!”



### **Safe in the Arms of Jesus**

Safe in the arms of Jesus,  
Safe on His gentle breast;  
There by His love o'ershaded,  
Sweetly my soul shall rest.  
Hark! 'tis the voice of angels  
Borne in a song to me,  
Over the fields of glory,  
Over the jasper sea.

Safe in the arms of Jesus,  
Safe from corroding care,  
Safe from the world's temptations;  
Sin cannot harm me there.  
Free from the blight of sorrow,  
Free from my doubts and fears;  
Only a few more trials,  
Only a few more tears!

Jesus, my heart's dear Refuge,  
Jesus has died for me;  
Firm on the Rock of Ages  
Ever my trust shall be.  
Here let me wait with patience,  
Wait till the night is o'er;  
Wait till I see the morning  
Break on the golden shore.

— Frances J. Crosby

It is said that Fanny Crosby wrote this hymn in just twenty minutes for a composer friend, Wm. Howard Doan, who stopped at her house on his way to the train station. He asked her for a song to introduce to a children's Sunday school convention. He had 40 minutes to catch the train. He played a melody on the piano that had been in his heart. The story is that she finished and folded a paper with her written words, put it in an envelope saying he could read the words on the train. The words are sound and true.

The song has been used for many events including when the American President Ulysses S. Grant was interred. If you have time to listen to George Beverly Shea sing this song online...or YouTube, you will be glad you did.

The lyrics are personal as they point out our safest place is in the arms of Jesus. Something I read soon after moving into ministry in NYC in the 70s was this statement by Hudson Taylor: "Safety is not found in the absence of danger, but in the presence of God." How could I ever forget that!

Once on a walk with my dad when I was a very little girl, a ferocious dog bounded out of the fenced yard and over the gate to the sidewalk. He attacked us. My father's pant legs were torn and his legs bleeding as he fought off this dog. And where was I all this time? Lifted up into his arms and held close and safe. I have not forgotten that either. le



In learning what it meant to love the Father and worship the Son and walk in the Spirit, I discovered the control center of human beings was human thought, our human mind. As a new Christian I decided to just be nice and do good things. However, I soon found being nice was not always easy and doing good things not always easy, personally profitable, or desired. Inner struggle began, and the Holy Spirit began to show me why. It was simply not in me...this was many years ago, and it seems God has found it often necessary to remind me and make this point again in my life. It is “Christ in me”...the hope...

This morning the refrain of some lines in the classical song, The Lord’s Prayer, persisted in my mind. Over and over came this:

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen! (And Amen means: SO LET IT BE!)

Kingdom authority is big, with big implications...

It was the struggle in Heaven...who would occupy the throne?

It became the struggle for earth...who will occupy the throne?

It is the struggle of every human life...who occupies the throne?

The problem is clearly defined in: “HE CAME INTO THE WORLD BUT THE WORLD DID NOT KNOW HIM” (John 1).

This became a major clarification the first time I read it when

I saw that all human dilemma, all the world's disasters and tragedies were caused by this fact:

THE WORLD DOES NOT KNOW GOD.

As a new follower God led me to Acts 17: 22-34. Often I read these words and grew in knowing God, very God, "in whom we live and move and have our being." Seeing Him with this understanding caused me to say to Him... "You are King! Occupy your throne in my life, O God! Occupy your throne in my personal world, in our present world, and in the world to come!"

I had much to learn.



### **I Surrender All**

All to Jesus I surrender,  
All to Him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust Him,  
In His presence daily live.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Humbly at His feet I bow;  
Worldly pleasures all forsaken,  
Take me, Jesus, take me now.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;  
Let me feel the Holy Spirit,  
Truly know that Thou art mine.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Lord, I give myself to Thee;  
Fill me with Thy love and power,  
Let Thy blessing fall on me.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Now I feel the sacred flame;  
Oh, the joy of full salvation!  
Glory, glory, to His Name!

(Refrain)

I surrender all,  
I surrender all;  
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,  
I surrender all.





## Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Mark 10:28 “Peter said to him, ‘We have left everything to follow you!’”

I think Peter thought this was true, but it was not yet true... Peter was still Peter with his pride and arrogance and self reliance... True, he had left his fishing nets and other outward things, but the cross had yet to be applied to his inner being.

Luke 9:18-36

What is the purpose of the cross in the life of Christ’s followers?

1. Death to all that separates us from living the resurrected life
2. Living life in His power brings His life in our circumstances
3. Death breaks the hold of this world
4. Death breaks the hold of my own self-life
5. Death breaks the hold of sin and Satan

Taking the cross is a crisis in our spiritual lives because:

1. The cross is a place of pain
2. The cross is a place of humiliation
3. The cross is a place that cuts through human and divine
4. The cross is a place of isolation because we take it alone
5. The cross is the place of death.

### Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Jesus, I my cross have taken  
All to leave and follow Thee  
Destitute, despised, forsaken  
Thou from hence my all shall be  
Perish every fond ambition  
All I've sought or hoped or known  
Yet how rich is my condition!  
God and heaven are still my own

Man may trouble and distress me  
Twill but drive me to Thy breast  
Life with trials hard may press me  
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest  
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me  
While Thy love is left to me  
Oh, twere not in joy to charm me  
Were that joy unmixed with Thee

Soul, then know thy full salvation  
Rise o'er sin and fear and care  
Joy to find in every station  
Something still to do or bear  
Think what Spirit dwells within thee  
Think what Father's smiles are thine  
Think that Jesus died to win thee  
Child of heaven, canst thou repine?

Let the world despise and leave me  
They have left my Savior, too.  
Human hearts and looks deceive me  
Thou art not, like them, untrue.  
O while Thou dost smile upon me  
God of wisdom, love, and might  
Foes may hate and friends disown me  
Show Thy face and all is bright.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure  
Come disaster, scorn and pain  
In Thy service, pain is pleasure  
With Thy favor, loss is gain  
I have called Thee Abba Father  
I have stayed my heart on Thee  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather  
All must work for good to me

Haste thee on from grace to glory  
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer  
Heaven's eternal days before thee  
God's own hand shall guide us there  
Soon shall close thy earthly mission  
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days  
Hope shall change to glad fruition  
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.



There is singing up in Heaven such as we have never known,  
As choirs of angels sing His praises bowed before His Throne.  
All praise and laud and honor they sing to Heaven's King,  
To Him their adoration in anthems soundly ring.

But there's a song they do not know, a song they cannot sing.  
It's sung with tears by those like me whose hearts to Him we  
bring.

Its words are sung with broken hearts for all our sins forgiven,  
The words of those who wonder that they have a place in Heav-  
en.

(1e Jan. 2020)



## Jesus Christ, the Rock of Ages

I was a new Christian, invited to visit a country church with a new friend for some kind of evening service. I never knew some of the songs that were sung then, but somewhere along the way I had heard *Rock of Ages*. I had no idea what the words meant. That evening the congregation sang this old hymn. I stood with the rest of the people to sing. At the very first line, “Rock of Ages, cleft for me”...the Holy Spirit said to me, “Jesus is the Rock of ages and on the cross He was cleft for you.” My heart filled full with understanding and devotion for Him bringing tears.

Now to some of you this might be no big deal, but for me, it was one of many times God taught me something in a way I have never forgotten. Even now, after all these years, when I remember this simple but profound experience, my heart has tears. And after all these years, that Rock of Ages has become my foundation, my shelter, my hiding place.

Old chorus of a hymn:

Oh, Jesus is the Rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land.

Oh, Jesus is the Rock in a weary land...a shelter in the time of storm.

### Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy wounded side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure,  
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labor of my hands  
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;  
Could my tears forever flow,  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to Thy cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress;  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly;  
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When my eyes shall close in death,  
When I rise to worlds unknown,  
And behold Thee on Thy throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee.



## **“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”**

My husband, John, was told in his mid-forties, after some mild swelling and discomfort in his fingers, that he had arthritis. He took some over-the-counter pain meds when they ached, and felt it was not bad, and quite bearable. It is a good thing that the future is unknown, because it was not until we moved into the Hephzibah Ministry in NYC that pain became severe in one of his knees, mild in the other. When he went to Mayo Clinic for his first knee replacement, it was there he was informed that he had rheumatoid arthritis...and also that it was chronic...the following year he had the second knee replaced. This was followed by neck surgery, spinal surgery, surgery on both hands...over fifteen surgeries over the years...and his last seven years were wheelchair living. Of course some years before that he had to set aside his trumpet because his fingers were too crippled and crooked to play the trumpet.

John loved to sing and he could sing well. The two of us often sang during our conferences at Hephzibah Heights and for some meetings at Hephzibah House.

Not long before John's knee broke, while he was standing in the Heights Kitchen and we were talking about a menu, he sang for the last time in a Heights meeting. He sang a solo, and the song he sang was an old spiritual: “I Want Jesus To Walk With Me.” I have a DVD with it and others we sang together. This was one of his favorites to sing. From 1997 until he went to Heaven in 2004, Jesus did walk with John.

## **I Want Jesus To Walk With Me**

I want Jesus to walk with me.  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me.  
In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me.  
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.





### **Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

(Refrain)

Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see:  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!



## Telling the One Who Cares...

I understand children who do mean things seemingly for no reason. Part of it is that sinful human nature with which all of us are born...it is the reason God, our Creator, gave the world His law, and no nation can be successful without law and order because of our sinful ways. But beyond that, there is an anger that grows and fastens itself in the hearts of children over things they are seeing and experiencing in the adult world they are born into, things that hurt and dismay and destroy. Adults have these feelings too, but adults act and insist and perhaps bring change. Children do not have that option.

When I was a little girl I often heard my mother sing the song, "I Must Tell Jesus." However, being angry and broken inside myself, it did not occur to me to listen to the words, to hear her heart. But after coming to Christ, and a heart change for myself, I understood why she loved this song. Jesus is the One to tell...I found that out when I bowed before Him. He's the One!

The Bible says we are to cast all our care on Him because He cares for us.

### **I Must Tell Jesus**

I must tell Jesus all of my trials;  
I cannot bear these burdens alone;  
In my distress He kindly will help me;  
He ever loves and cares for His own.

I must tell Jesus all of my troubles;  
He's a kind, compassionate friend;  
If I but ask Him, He will deliver,  
Make of my troubles quickly an end.

Tempted and tried, I need a great Savior,  
One who can help my burdens to bear;  
I must tell Jesus, I must tell Jesus;  
He all my cares and sorrows will share.

O how the world to evil allures me!  
O how my heart is tempted to sin!  
I must tell Jesus, and He will help me  
Over the world the vict'ry to win.

(Refrain)

I must tell Jesus  
I must tell Jesus  
I cannot bear these burdens alone  
I must tell Jesus,  
I must tell Jesus  
Jesus can help me, Jesus alone.



I wrote this near the end of 2020, the year of the Pandemic, the fourth year of political unrest in our country, to an extreme I have ever seen in all my past years, resulting in an election believed by both parties to be marked with fraud and cheating... the rhetoric of public policy by politicians who are powerful in our nation frightening in its division of the American people to create the sense of civil threat and perhaps civil lawlessness in ways that frighten the average citizens of our country. People have turned to me with their comments of fears and I have prayed much about all of this. I just finished teaching a Bible Class course entitled: IF THE FOUNDATIONS ARE BEING DESTROYED, WHAT CAN THE RIGHTEOUS DO? A few days ago, the following words came to me as I wrote them down. I was also reminded of the hymn: "Lead On, O King Eternal." That is the prayer of my heart in this 90th year of my life.

March on, O serious Christian, it's true the time seems long...  
But God has said, "Keep marching, tomorrow comes the song!"

Don't fear your new tomorrows, don't linger in the past...  
Hope comes to us while marching, our hearts and minds held fast!

His pillar cloud is covering, look up and you will see...  
His fiery cloud lights up the night and guides to victory!  
March on, O joining Christian, we're marching not with dread,

Our fearless warrior, Jesus, is marching on ahead.

Our Father says, “Keep marching, there’s nothing you need fear, I’m always marching with you, as promised, always near.”

March on, O serious Christian, it’s true the march seems long...But God has said, “Keep marching, tomorrow comes the song!”

Le, 12/20



When I began my spiritual journey in the Old Testament, it was not long before I ran into Abraham. It was a life-changing encounter with Him as I read and re-read the biblical history of father Abraham. One thing that made a deep impression that has actually been an array of teaching from God's Spirit, were the altars he built. It seemed that all along his journey, he built an altar. Even now when I think of him, I think of him as "Abraham, the man of many altars." In time I came to see that his life was one of worship and surrender.

I also came to see this is God's calling for every person who wants a true walk with Him. As I came to understand surrender, and gave myself to it, I recognized altar building, knew it was personal, and involved heart and mind, total being.

In time, of course, I discovered an old song, feeling it was written just for me.

### **Is Your All On The Altar?**

You have longed for sweet peace,  
And for faith to increase,  
And have earnestly, fervently prayed;  
But you cannot have rest,  
Or be perfectly blest,  
Until all on the altar is laid.

Would you walk with the Lord,  
In the light of His word,  
And have peace and contentment always?

You must do His sweet will,  
To be free from all ill,  
On the altar your all you must lay.

Oh, we never can know  
What the Lord will bestow  
Of the blessings for which we have prayed,  
Till our body and soul  
He doth fully control,  
And our all on the altar is laid.

Who can tell all the love  
He will send from above,  
And how happy our hearts will be made;  
Of the fellowship sweet  
We shall share at His feet,  
When our all on the altar is laid.

(Refrain)

Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?  
Your heart does the Spirit control?  
You can only be blest,  
And have peace and sweet rest,  
As you yield Him your body and soul.



## Abide With Me (John 15)

I love this old hymn. I learned it when I was a little girl in school. It was one of two hymns the music teacher taught us in music class, this hymn and *Nearer My God to Thee*. I remember liking to sing this in school, wondering who God was and having some lofty, cloud-like thoughts of God. I remember thinking it probably had something to do with dying but was not sure about that subject either.

Soon after purchasing *Absolute Surrender* by Andrew Murray, I returned to the Christian bookstore and bought everything in it by Andrew Murray and he became my first teacher, my human teacher. One of his books is *Abide in Christ*. Even as I read that book, I had a great desire to abide in Christ, and asked God to show me what that involved and help me with it. A sincere heart always gets answers from God...and over time, He taught me what I asked. He showed me that I could not abide in Christ without a prayer life, without obedience, and without His Word. No other biblical truth made such a difference in my spiritual life...and does so today.

When I am in Heaven, I expect to meet some of the people God used to teach me spiritual truths; Andrew Murray is near the top of the list. What a blessed woman I have been because of the mercy and grace of Christ Jesus.



### **Abide with Me**

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see—  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour;  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.



We're on our way to Heaven,  
On the Happy Day Express.  
The letters on the engine are J E S U S.  
The conductor shouts, "All aboard!"  
We gladly answer, "YES!"  
We're on our way to Heaven,  
On the Happy Day Express!!!!!!!!!!

Remember this little chorus children used to sing? The lovely picture you see opposite is an actual photo taken by a friend and co-laborer, Amy Ladas, in December, 2020. She said she took it thinking of my love for trains and train travel. I am using it with her permission.

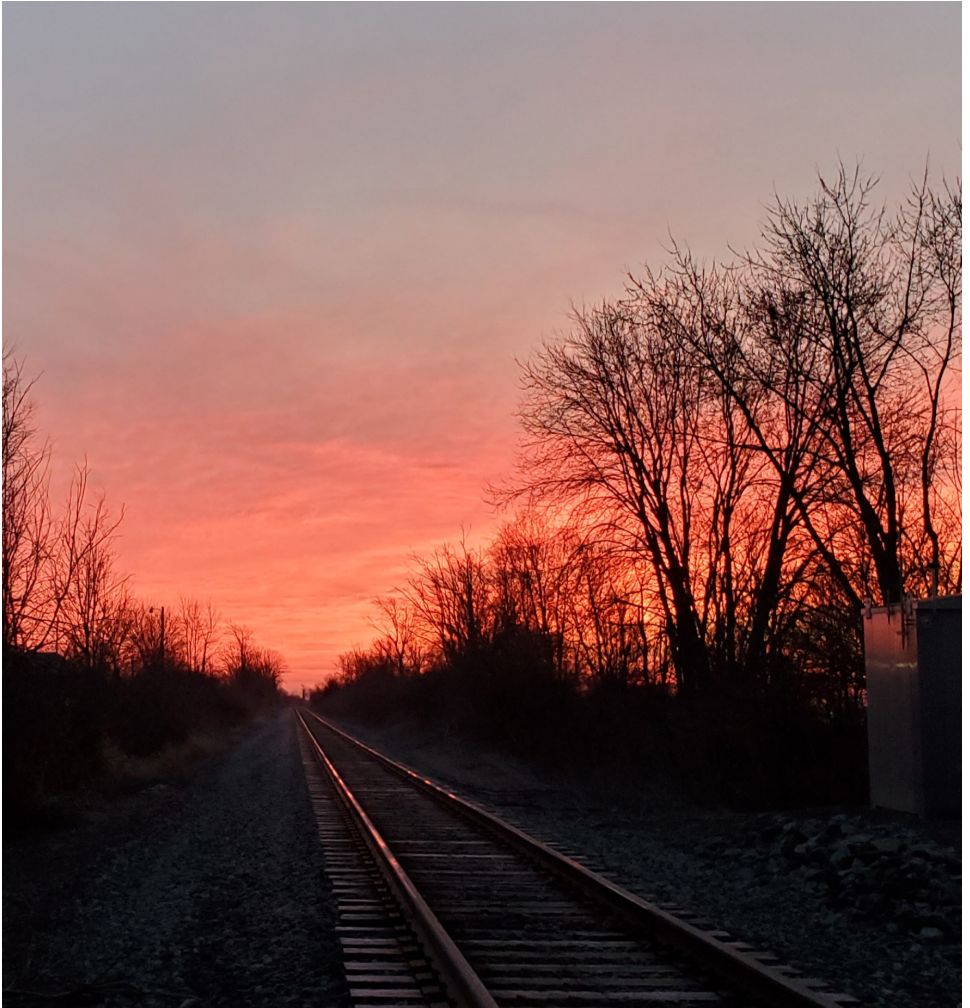
But an added note. This track is the actual track the train takes when it travels east from Indianapolis to NYC, the train I have taken scores of times in my journey for sharing Christ in Sing Sing Prison, New York.

It is also a picture of my spiritual journey in my heart and mind...traveling this track with Jesus from my 28th year to my 90th year. I'm sure you know the destination!

There is room on this train for everyone in the world. Come aboard and join me on the Happy Day Express! While we travel along, I will share my birthday cake which you saw on the front cover.

Those of you who know me, know I love to travel by train and have been privileged to do so often in my lifetime. And so I'm sure you can see why I love this photo taken by my friend, Amy Ladas, and shared with me. I love it as a photo, but also because it reminds me of my life...I feel sure of life "on track" with our Father who makes no mistakes and does all things well. I trust you are on this train with me...watching for you at our future destination.

—Lois Ewald, 2021



Lois Ewald came to Christ in her late twenties. These pages hold a tiny record of God's grace operating in her life. Many blessings are too personal to make public, and no book could contain all of them. His gift of life, then of eternal life, of family, of ministry under His authority and provision, of circles of friends and loved ones, of blessings upon blessings, all these years has made me aware of Him, of the major fact that HE IS GOD and I am not; it has been all GRACE, HIS GRACE.

Ninety years, the tale is told.  
Ninety years, and I am old!  
Ninety years, in His embrace,  
Ninety years of awesome grace.  
Ninety years, a little sorrow.  
Ninety years, He holds tomorrow.  
Ninety years I've lived to see  
Ninety years, God's care for me.

(le, 2021)