

ALONE WITH JESUS

HOW I START EACH DAY

A Month
Of Daily
Devotions
That
Are Good
For Life

MYCHAL MASSIE

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PREFACE

'Alone With Jesus' is a collection of daily devotions born out of my quiet time with Jesus over my past thirty-six years as a born again Christian and ordained minister.

The devotions are intended to help you see and live a life of Christ in your daily lives.

They are drawn from my thoughts and experiences in purposing to live and share a Christ centered life.

They are not based upon the life of one who has not disappointed my Lord. Rather they are based upon the fact that through Christ we can have victory.

It is my sincere prayer that this collection of devotions will help each who reads them to be strengthened in their walk with Christ. It is also my prayer that these will serve as a guide to those who do not know Christ as Savior, to accept Him through faith for the forgiveness of sins unto salvation.

All of the scripture verses are taken from the King James Version of the bible.

I pray you will know the grace, peace, and comfort of God the Father through Jesus Christ His Son, and that His Holy Spirit will dwell richly in you guiding you in your daily life. Amen.

THE GREAT SHEPHERD

Earlier today I was reflecting upon the 23rd Psalm; especially the fourth verse, which reads: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

We did not publicize it, but earlier this year I suffered a serious illness that had me bedridden for approximately seven weeks, but God was faithful. The tests for cancer were negative; yet despite that good news, it was deemed a certainty that I would need surgery to correct the problem. However, just days before the scheduled surgery date, that too was found to be unnecessary.

My days of illness during that period were long and painful. But the one constant that I had through it all was that God was faithful. I knew that God would never break His precious promises, most specifically His promise: "...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:5; KJV)

I share this to say that sometimes we go through trials and tribulations because God is getting our attention; sometimes we go through same for God to show forth His majesty; sometimes things we go through are just the realities of life, and of course there are times the trials and tribulations are a combination of all three. But the one constant is that God never changes and God never leaves us.

What a comfort to know that we have a Heavenly Father who is so full of grace, mercy, and love. What a comfort to know that as Christians and thus the children of God, we can say with confidence that "Yea, though I walk through the valley or the shadow of death," we need not fear.

Do you know Jesus as your Lord, Savior, and Shepherd? I share with you that there is no greater comfort in the midst of whatever trial

or tribulation we face, than knowing without question that: The Lord is your/our Shepherd.

READ: Psalms 23 (KJV)

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

During our church bible study one Thursday evening, a woman made a profound observation. She said: "we spend a lot of time preparing for our future, but not the future that truly counts."

She was right. We take great pains to make sure we have prepared for our children's college. We work hard and save wisely to prepare for our retirement years. We plan for future vacations and future items to purchase. But how many ignore the only future that really counts?

If only we spent the time preparing as meticulously for our eternal future as we do preparing for a future here on earth that is not guaranteed. Everything we have here on earth, will stay here when we die. Therefore, it should be of more concern that not one of us knows when our life here on earth will end.

I'm reminded of a friend who choked to death on the steak he was eating alone at home. I assure you that when he sat down to that dinner, he had no idea he would be called home before he finished it.

The most important future we can prepare for is our eternal future. Will we spend it with the Lord in heaven or spend it in hell?

Read: (All scripture is taken from King James Version of the Bible)
Proverbs 27:1

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.

James 4:14

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Hebrews 9:27

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.

THE MOST IMPORTANT IMPROVEMENT

There is a false narrative that goes: *"Try to improve by 1 percent every day. Within a year you will have improved by 365 percent."*

It is a false narrative because it supposes the secular narrative that our life on earth is all that matters.

The most important "improvement" so to speak, a person can make is to know without question whether they will spend eternity in heaven with God or eternity in hell. Any so-called "improvement" apart from that, lasts only as long as you are alive, if that.

Think about this, my friends; if you were to die this exact minute, can you say with certainty whether you will spend eternity in heaven or hell? Life isn't guaranteed. You could die in an instant. I'm asking you this question as your friend.

There is one way to heaven. Despite what you may have heard and despite if you choose to believe too the contrary; Jesus Christ is the only way to eternal life in heaven. Apart from Him, one will have eternal life in hell.

READ:

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

GOD'S PROMISES ARE WITHOUT EQUAL

The promises of God are without equal and can never be broken. Even when it appears to us in our human minds that God has abandoned us, the truth is, that we are most likely dismayed because He is not doing what we want, the way we want, and when we want it.

God cannot lie and God does not deceive or toy with us. Yes, there will always be the dark days of trial and of the stretching of our faith. But faith isn't always about having things go as we desire. I have learned that many are the times that faith is more about believing God is God and that He will never leave His children nor forsake us.

Let us lift our voices high and proclaim that God is our helper and we shall not fear.

READ:

Hebrews 13:5-6

5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

THE PRESCRIPTION FOR PEACE

Certain things are simply the realities of life. They are the trials of life and cannot be avoided. Among these are sickness, family crisis, financial troubles, and the unexpected and inexplicable loss of loved ones.

The secular world will offer many remedies to overcome the pain, sense of loss, and feelings of helplessness associated with the trials of life. The secular world will tell us to read self-help books and attend group therapy; the secular world will tell us to take a pill, a drink, and/or that if we turn to physical activities we can overcome. The secular world will tell us if we believe in ourselves and believe in the power of positive thoughts we'll get through and overcome.

The problem with the secular world's advice is that it doesn't work and it is fleeting when it does work. The secular world's advice is nothing more than a placebo for those who have not committed their lives to Christ. Unfortunately many believers in Christ turn to secular placebos before they turn to Christ. We dismiss the fact that we as believers have the only true "Comforter."

The Apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 4:4 to "Rejoice in the Lord always..." Philippians 4:4-7 gives us the believer's prescription for peace during difficult times. If we believe we are saved and will spend eternity in heaven as a result of our accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior; then why would we not believe God will give us peace as we go through the trials of life?

READ:

Philippians 4:4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

6 Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

MAKING BETTER ADULTS

Many parents tell me each week how worried they are about the future for their children. But, if they are really concerned about their children's future, their first step should be to answer the following questions.

- 1) Do you take your children to church at least every Sunday?
- 2) If you attend church regularly, are you a family of churchgoers or a family that goes to church to worship God?

Read Proverbs 22:6, and ask yourself if you are truly "Training up your child" in a way that pleases God.

READ:

Proverbs 22:6: Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS AFTER WE DIE?

When you die, what will happen to you? Whether you believe it or not, accept it or not, both heaven and hell are real places. Whether your eternity is spent in heaven with Christ or it is spent in hell with all who rejected Him, is solely predicated upon the single most important decision you can make while you are alive.

What is that decision you ask? The decision is whether or not to accept Christ as your Savior.

God cannot be fooled, conned, or deceived. Where you spend eternity is not a joke nor a trick question. It is real and the decision is exclusively yours. Each person, as an individual must determine whether it will be "Hell No" or "Hell Yes."

I decided on an August afternoon, 36 years ago, to say "Hell No" and accept Christ's offer of salvation for forgiveness of my sins that kept me separated from God.

SO, I ask you the question again. When you die what do you think happens? When you die where will you spend eternity? (John 3:1-21; Romans 10:9,10,13; Ephesians 2:8,9; Hebrews 10:31; Hebrews 11:6; KJV)

READ:

John 3:1-21

1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

COMPANY ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

In the Gospel of Luke, the beloved Doctor shares the poignant account of Cleopas and another person walking together on the road to Emmaus following the resurrection of Christ.

We're told that as they walked along discussing the events that they had just witnessed, i.e., the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord, a man unrecognized to either person enjoined them. We know the rest of the account; how as the man walked with them he questioned them regarding that which they discussed and the reason for their sadness. We are told by Luke that the man listened intently and then Himself shared the scriptures pertaining to what they had just witnessed beginning with Moses and all of the prophets. We know the man feigned his intention to continue beyond the village of Emmaus, but that Cleopas and the other disciple insisted he stay and have dinner with them in their home. And that it was after they had finished dining that their eyes were opened and they knew it was the Resurrected Lord who was in their presence.

Here is my point. Sometimes we are going along so caught up in the events of life that we lose ourselves in our circumstances. We become so consumed by circumstances that we do not recognize Jesus is walking with us as we journey through the troubling moments.

It goes further to say that even when a fellow believer shares with us the word of God we are still too consumed by our situation(s) that we fail to recognize that Christ, Himself is ministering to us through them. And then there comes that moment of clarity or spiritual awakening, when we realize that Jesus was with us all the time. He was not only with us, but He was listening to us as we explained what we were going through.

We have the great Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has promised that He would never leave us nor forsake us. It is up to us to not just believe that He is true but we must also recognize those moments that He is walking with us listening to us explain our circumstances, right up until the moment that He removes the fog from our eyes and we experience “The Answer” to our problems.

That my friends is called taking our problems to Christ in prayer and sharing our thoughts, feelings, concerns, and even our doubts to Him in prayer. As we do that we will find that He is right there, walking beside us as we travel our Emmaus Road.

READ:

Luke 24

1 Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

8 And they remembered his words,

9 And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.

10 It was Mary Magdalene and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.

11 And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

12 Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

16 But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

17 And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

19 And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

22 Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;

23 And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.

24 And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

28 And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

29 But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

30 And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.

31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

33 And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

34 Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

35 And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.

36 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

38 And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.

41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

43 And he took it, and did eat before them.

44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

50 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

53 And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

A MICROWAVE GENERATION

We've heard it said, that we live in a microwave generation and as such we want everything given to us in a few minutes. That is not just true about food, news, and customer service; it is also, sadly true when it comes to the understanding of many with respect to God and the timing of His answers to prayer.

We want our prayers answered and we want them answered in the immediacy of our dictates. And when God doesn't respond as we have decided He must, we often will take things into our own hands. And it goes without saying that is a formula for disaster.

We see that when Sarah tired of waiting for God and decided to take the matter of having a child into her own hands. The world is troubled today by the consequences of her impatience and the decision to take things into her own hands. The world today is troubled by the progeny of Ishmael.

Joseph waited 13 years, Abraham waited 25 years, and Moses waited 40 years before seeing the specific promises God made to them fulfilled. But they never ceased to believe God would keep His promise.

We must always remember that while we are waiting for God to answer our prayers, many times he is preparing us to receive the blessing of His answer to our prayers. It is important to also keep in mind that there are times that God's answer to our prayers, is not answering them as we want and/or believe they should be answered.

Faith is not just believing God will answer our prayers the way we want them answered, but "faith" is also believing God knows what is best for us even when our prayers are not answered as we wanted.

READ:

Psalms 27:14

Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart. Wait, I say, on the Lord.

Psalms 62:5

My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him.

GOD HELPS THOSE WHO CANNOT HELP THEMSELVES

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word “Insidious” as: 1) a: awaiting a chance to entrap : treacherous; b: harmful but enticing : seductive: 2) a: having a gradual and cumulative effect : subtle; b: of a disease : developing so gradually as to be well established before becoming apparent.

Specific to the word “insidious” there is a bromide that has become so subtly entrenched in Christian dogma that it is now largely accepted as factual by many believers and unbelievers alike. Many preachers and so-called bible teachers state the saying as if they were quoting one of the Psalms of David. And tragically no few people have been led astray because of it.

The bromide I am referring to is: “God helps those who help themselves.” This is a fabrication of the devil. Were the Israelites able to help themselves during the 400 hundred years they were slaves in Egypt, before God brought forth Moses? Were the Israelites able to help themselves in any way to cross the Red Sea or was that miracle singularly of the Lord? How many of the people Jesus healed who were blind, afflicted with palsy, leprosy, withered arms, possessed by demons, etc. were able to do one thing to help themselves? Was Lazarus able to help himself after he was pronounced dead and placed inside a sepulcher? Was the offering of sacrifices by the priests for forgiveness of sin able to save one’s soul? The answer all of these questions is emphatically “No.”

But herein is the insidious and serpentine character of Satan, which reveals the vulnerability of man. The cruel and misleading trick is to lead us to the belief that we can and are supposed to rely upon our works and that in so doing God decides we’ve worked hard enough to be worthy of His help.

The truth is that God helps us/those who cannot help themselves because it is at that point we are relying upon Him not ourselves. Daniel didn't rely upon himself as he approached the lion's den. (Daniel 6:16-24) Nor did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, rely upon themselves as they were led to the fiery furnace. (Daniel 3:17) What self-effort did Malchus put forth to reattach his ear after Peter had severed it with his sword? (John 18:10-11)

Believing that God gives special dispensation to the exclusion of others we deem unworthy because they do not perform according to our standards is an insidious lie of the enemy. And it is such, not least of which because it subtly prescribes that our own works can save us.

We are not saved by good works or hard work; we are saved by grace through faith and Godly good works is the fruit of Spirit of God who indwells us as the Children of God.

READ:

Ephesians 2:8-10

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

ENJOYING THE SEASONS GOD HAS GIVEN ME

I live in Orlando, Florida, and one of the things people who are not from Florida tell me is that they cannot imagine living in an area that is the same year round. They say that seeing the seasons change is important to them.

I explain that they are wrong, that there are very distinct seasonal changes in Florida and each one is beautiful. I admit that my wife and I have enjoyed the spectacular and resplendent beauty of New England during the fall foliage change but we do not enjoy same enough to relocate there from Florida.

It is the same with the ministry God has called me to and the spiritual gifts He has given me to perform same. I genuinely appreciate the wonder of the various ministries many fellow servants have been called to by the Lord.

There are times when I'm awestruck by what I witness or by what I am informed of, regarding how the ministry of another is used to the glory of God.

And therein lies the wonder of God. He has given unto all who are born-again, spiritual gifts and specific areas of ministry.

I have no desire to be a missionary nor do I desire the ministries that others may have. My desire is to serve the Lord to the best of my ability by His leading and grace in the area He has called me.

The work that others are doing in ministry is beautiful but I am where the Lord wants me and I count myself blessed beyond measure that He called me to what I do.

READ:

Ephesians 4:11-16

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

RIPPLES IN THE POND OF LIFE

As I watched the ripples I had created on the small pond of water, I observed something that I had somehow not taken notice of before.

I could toss something into the pond not far from me and the ripples would expand outward stopping as they hit the other bank. Because of the shape of the small pond and the location I had positioned myself, I watched as perfectly concentric arcs move outward to gently slap the other side a short distance away.

For some reason, the ripples crossing to the other side brought to my mind the words of the Apostle Paul to Timothy as Paul awaited his martyrdom.

The ripples are like our lives. If we are rightly positioned with our Lord Jesus Christ, the concentric arcs of our life spread outward increasing in width as they move forward until they gently kiss the other shore.

But unlike the ripples I observed, our life should leave something behind when we reach the other shore. We should leave a legacy of service to the Lord. We should leave a legacy of service perhaps as a prayer warrior, or a good friend, as a beloved spouse and parent, or as someone who was very quietly always there to assist someone in need or a legacy in countless other ways.

But the greatest legacy of all that we can leave is that when we reach that final shore – we have for the moment left family, friends, and even strangers who we will see us again in glory. And in turn, they will have left behind for a moment those they have led to Christ and so on as the concentric ripples of service to the Lord go. And we do this by sharing the message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Those who have accepted Christ as Savior are left here on earth to tell others about the great gift we have received through faith. Are you sharing with others the difference Christ has made in your life and encouraging them to by faith receive the same gift?

READ:

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spoke unto them saying, All authority is given unto me in heaven and earth.

19 Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age.

2 Corinthians 5:19-21

19 To wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them, and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now, then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we beg you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21 For he hath made Him, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might be the righteousness of God in Him.

IS YOUR TREASURE ETERNALLY SAFE?

Many years ago I was sitting in the private office of the then reigning boxing champion of the world. Sitting with us were also various members of his team.

As with nearly all boxing champions, the gentleman had worked his way up from nothing. He was proud of his accomplishments and he was never at a loss to let people know it.

So it was on that particular day. As we were all laughing and talking he referenced his wealth. He had literally paid with his blood to reach the pinnacle of his profession and the wealth it provided him was staggering. But I viewed it differently, and I said so.

My response to my champion friend was that everything he had was going to go to someone else when he died. I said that his wife could marry another man when he died and that man could reap all of the benefits of his wealth that he had paid in blood to gain. I also said to him that I had been to many funerals, but I had never been to one that had a big panel truck in the funeral procession that was carrying the earthly wealth to the grave with the deceased person.

My friend has worked hard to accomplish his dream but he cannot take his dream with him to the grave.

The last I spoke to my friend he had not accepted Christ as his Savior, which means if he still has not made that decision the best he will ever experience is right here on earth. When he dies, his eternity will not include the glamor, glitz, and paparazzi he still today enjoys.

The old saying that you cannot take it with you is true beyond any shadow of doubt. My friend shed blood to get to where

he is, but does that really matter if when we die our eternity is spent in hell.

Above all else that we do in this life, we must make sure of where we spend eternity. We do not know the day and time when our passing will occur, which makes it even more important to make sure of our salvation while we have the opportunity. Because as the scripture says: "And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Hebrews 9:27)

READ:

Matthew 6:19-21

19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal,

20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal;

21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Luke 12: 19-21

19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease. Eat, drink, and be merry.

20 But God said unto him, Thou fool; this night thy soul shall be required of thee; then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

THE CHRIST SIDE

Those familiar with the movie “The Blind Side,” will recall that at the beginning of the movie the main character, Michael Oher, is homeless and taken in by the Tuohy family on a cold, rainy evening. The movie is based upon the true story of a family who God used to make a difference in a young man’s life.

The movie reminded me of a similar instance that happened in our home many years ago. One afternoon as I bounded through the door of our house I discovered a strange man sitting in one of the high-back leather chairs in our living room, with a dolly and three or four large plastic trash bags filled to bursting, positioned around him. Even more surprising than that, was I got the immediate impression that I was the only one surprised. Not even our dog and cats seemed to find it unusual.

I said hello to the stranger seated in our living room and made a beeline in search of my wife and son. I found them in our son’s bedroom, whereupon I inquired about the obvious. I said, there was a strange man sitting in “my” living room and would someone mind telling me what was going on.

My wife explained that the gentleman had attended high school with her, and had been a brilliant architect who fell upon hard times that led to him being homeless and emotionally injured. She and our son were driving down the highway and saw him walking on the other side and she felt the Lord was telling her to turn around and pick him up.

The short part of a long story was the joy we ultimately experienced watching this gentleman being moderately restored to his old self. But equally if not more importantly was what it did for our young son.

He saw his parents living their faith in Jesus Christ right before his eyes. We weren't just Christians who went to church, we were a family who lived our faith. My wife's homeless friend stayed with us for nearly a month as I recall. In that short time we came to love him. He came to trust us and he would actually read to our son and they played with our son's Lego Blocks together.

He would not be the last needy person who would share our home. Over the years we shared our home with several men from various prisons in which I ministered. I also recall a young woman from New Jersey who was reunited with her parents because of staying with us.

You see, I had been wrong, it wasn't "my" living room, it wasn't even my house; it was God's living room and God's house that He had given to us to use for His glory. He used what He had provided for us to provide for those less fortunate just as He cared for the birds of the air.

READ:

Matthew 6:25-34

²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

²⁷ Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

²⁸ And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

²⁹ And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

³⁰ Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

³⁴ Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

TURNING BAD THOUGHTS INTO GOOD THOUGHTS

If you are like me there have been times when another driver cuts you off or does something erratic while driving that really frosts you. Even more infuriating is when the offending driver displays their intelligence quotient with hand gestures.

I admit that there are times when I have thought to myself unpleasant things about such individuals and even fantasized about how nice it would be have something happen to them that "I deemed" them deserving for their actions.

But not long ago as I was enroute to meet a friend, I passed through an intersection where a horrific accident had taken place only a short time before I passed by. I pulled into the shopping center across the street from the accident and observed the damage.

Someone on a motorcycle had tee-boned a minivan. The motorcycle was obliterated and the minivan's side airbags had deployed. There was a child's seat in the back of the minivan that was tilted askew from the force of the impact.

It was clear that whether one of two riders, whomever was on the motorcycle either had not survived or they were not going to survive. As I sat watching the somber vigil of the emergency responders and the state police preparing to do accident reconstruction, I prayed for the families of all involved. I hoped that the people in the minivan had escaped injury and my heart ached thinking about what it would be like for the police officer(s) who have to notify first of kin for the motorcyclist(s) and whether they were married and/or had children.

Then I recalled the times I had thought evil thoughts of someone who offended me while driving. I thought about how I would feel if I wished something bad to happen to a

driver who had cut me off and then was hit by another vehicle and both were severely injured or killed. I thought about how it would make me feel to think that in the last moments they were alive or the last moment before they were injured that I was wishing bad things about them.

The scriptures tell us not to think evil of one another. The Old Testament prophet Zechariah said: "And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbor;..." because the Lord hates such things. (See: Zechariah 8:17)

When Jesus was offended He prayed for them saying: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34) Should not follow His example?

We have to make a conscious decision to not return evil for evil. It is easy to wish evil upon someone who offends us, but it is Christ-like to pray for that person.

READ:

Matthew 5:44-48

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

WALKING ABOVE THE STORMS

There is an interesting correlation between Jesus walking on the water in Matthew 14:25-26, and the Ark built by Noah floating above “the flood.” The most obvious was that they were both on top of the water and not in the water.

The scriptures tell us “Jesus was walking on the sea.” The Ark was essentially a giant shoebox that was designed not to float away from “the flood” but to float on top of “the flood.” In brief, as the water rose the Ark rose on top of same and as the water receded the Ark lowered until it came to rest upon Mount Ararat. (See: Genesis 8:4)

Here is my point. God has not made man to suffer beneath the storms of life, but through Christ Jesus, we are able to ride above the storms of life.

It doesn't mean that we will not experience the storms of life, but it does mean that we are able to live above them. Difficult times are a guarantee in this life but the abiding presence of our Lord is promise from Him who cannot lie and who has promised to never leave us nor forsake us.

It is for this reason that we should not worry over hard times but rather we should give thanks unto the Lord during hard times because we know we are not alone. The world wonders how Christians can endure the hardships and severe health issues, etc. and do so in a way that is different from those who do not know Christ.

The reason is because we have an abiding Savior who lifts us above the storms of life. Which means we may be tossed around but we will never drown for He is with us.

READ:

Deuteronomy 31:6-8

⁶ Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

⁷ And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the Lord hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.

⁸ And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

WE TALK ABOUT WHAT IS IMPORTANT

One Saturday, I spent the afternoon with a dear friend I had not seen or talked to in probably five years. Before I moved to Florida he and I were always together. So it was that when I walked into one of our favorite restaurants one evening not long ago and saw him there, we picked up where we had left off – with one exception.

A short time later that evening, my friend shared with me that he was going to church. This immediately caught my attention and couple weeks later we had the first opportunity for the two of us to spend a few hours catching up.

He shared what God was doing in his life and how much better his life was, and what had led to his change. He shared that in the Lord, he had found victory over poor impulse control when it came to “seeing it, wanting it, and then buying it.” My friend shared personal areas in his life that God had made a difference. I shared what the Lord had done and was doing in my life since we last spoke years ago. While our conversation covered everything from timepieces to politics to food it always came back around to the Lord.

Here is my point. People always talk about what is important to them. We cannot wait to tell our friends about a new restaurant, or whatever. New car, new book, now movie, new store or a new cigar – we talk about it.

But how many of our friends do we tell what the Lord is doing for us? How many of our friends fully understand what it means to be Christian and why we gave our lives to Jesus?

If Christ is important to us we will talk about Him. We will share what He means to us and why. And we won't just share about Him to other believers.

The bottom line is that we talk about what is important to us and we aren't ashamed to do so. Why are so many ashamed to boldly share about their relationship with Christ Jesus? Is it because they are ashamed of Him? The scriptures tell us: "For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when he shall come in His own glory..." (See: Luke 9:26 KJV)

If Christ is your Savior don't be ashamed to let others know. Look for opportunities to share your faith. We should be more eager to speak of Christ in our life, than we are to speak of the great price on new tires for our SUV.

READ:

Luke 8:39-40

39 Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee, And he went his way and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.

40 And it came to pass, that, when Jesus had returned, the people gladly received him; for they were all waiting for him.

WHAT DO THEY SEE?

If we claim to be Christians what about us had changed? When old friends see us for the first time after we've "supposedly" accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior, do they see something different about us?

What sets us apart as Christians? Is it a strict dogmatic, legalistic view of everything or is it something else? It should be more than just not doing what everyone else is doing. There should be a ready evidence of a transformed life.

Maybe it is that we do not curse any more. Maybe it is that we stopped drinking. Those are good things if applicable, but our lives in Christ should be more than rigid religiosity.

Our lives should evidence the attributes of Christ and the Holy Spirit abiding in us. Our lives should outwardly and inwardly exhibit the "Fruit of the Spirit." We should be truth tellers; our love for our brethren should be tangible and our disaffection for willful sinfulness should be readily apparent by the way in which we comport ourselves. The demeanor of Christ should be our demeanor.

That certainly doesn't mean we should labor to project what will very quickly be identified as a lack of genuineness. Jesus never pretended to be what He wasn't and neither should we.

If the "Fruit of God's Spirit" abides in us, the light of Christ shows forth vividly in our actions. If it doesn't, chances we are carnal Christians or even worse yet, Satan has fooled us into believing we are saved through faith in Jesus Christ when in fact the person has not accepted Christ as Savior at all.

When people look at us do they see a man/woman or child of Christ or do they see something else?

READ:

Galatians 5:18-26

18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts,

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

IF YOU DON'T BRING IT TO CHURCH – YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT USING IT AT HOME

When I hear a minister say: “if you have your bibles” turn to wherever in the scriptures, I feel steam coming from my ears.

I confess that this is a pet peeve for me, because it reveals so very much about the individuals and also it ultimately reveals much about the minister.

I wouldn't go to church without my pants on and I wouldn't go to church in freezing weather in a tee-shirt and trousers any more than I would go to church in the middle of summer wearing a heavy winter coat.

My complaint is if a person doesn't bother to bring their bible to church it is probably a given they are not bothering to open their bibles when they aren't in church. And for a minister of God to not set the expectation that everyone has their bible is, for me, like a teacher establishing the understanding that homework is optional; you can do it if you feel like it.

Reading and studying God's word is spending time with the Lord and it is learning about the Lord. It is about building a relationship with the Lord.

There is no more tragic empty relationship than one in which the husband and wife no longer communicate or only communicate when they feel they have to. It goes without saying that such relationships are highly susceptible to infidelity and other severe relational problems brought about by neglect. Not least of which is not understanding the other person, not being sensitive to what is important to them.

The only way we get to know our spouses and loved ones is to get to know them by spending time with them. It is an undeniable fact that we cannot grow close to a loved one without growing close to them, i.e., making time to do it. And the only reason we spend time with our spouses or loved

ones is because they are important to us. If they are not, we don't. We may pretend on that occasion we are expected to behave like all is well, but the truth is that's just a pretense and it usually only serves to further erode an already bad situation.

It is no different with our relationship with God. Is He important enough to us that we have time set aside every day that we spend with Him in praying, reading, and studying His word? Do we feel as if we have missed time with the person we love most if we do not spend time with the God daily?

We can fool ourselves into thinking that everything is okay by going days without spending private time with the Lord or not spending any time with Him at all. But just as that inattentiveness and disregard for a spouse leads to a broken relationship, so too is it with our Lord.

When we do it long enough we go to dinner with our spouse and find we have nothing to say to one another. We eat in silence and then drive back home in silence. Not spending time each day, building our relationship with our God leads very quickly to a broken relationship; one in which we only talk when we need or want something. And we can be assured that isn't a relationship at all.

I'm reminded of one of my favorite Christian songs sung by Christian vocalist Larnelle Harris. It's called "I Miss My Time With You" and in the second verse he sings: "I miss my time with you; those moments together; I need to be with you each day; and it hurts Me when you say; You're too busy."

READ:

Psalm 119:9-16

9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

11 Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee.

12 Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.

13 With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.

14 I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.

15 I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.

16 I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

STARTING SLOW BUT FINISHING STRONG

I was recently speaking with a young lady who competes in marathons. I spoke with her two days before her race and immediately following her race.

In our conversation before the race she, her brother, and we talked about her “per mile” times and that she was improving her time. As we concluded our conversation after her race, the thought came to me in marathons you start slow and finish strong. And it immediately came to me that’s the way it should be with our lives.

We are conceived in sin, born in sin, and while we are born to die, God, through the sacrificial death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ, made it possible for us not to die as sinners.

Regardless of what the world preaches, without Christ in our lives we are driven and motivated by sin. We may feel superior because we believe ourselves to be moral but morality alone does not save us, whereas the fruit of the Spirit is Godly morality.

We start our lives slow steeped in sin as sinners and prayerfully at some point in our lives we realize that we cannot save our own souls and we turn to Jesus for salvation. And we finish our lives strong in Christ.

But one doesn’t become strong in the faith without the training that comes through adversity and spending time every day with God. Reading the bible, studying the bible, and faithfully attending a Christ-centered church gives us the “spiritual carbohydrates” needed for the endurance of life that lies in front of us.

Just as my friend cannot hope to finish, much less compete in marathons without strenuous training and strict attention to

the special dietary needs of a long distance runner, neither can we hope to walk with the Lord in a victorious way without spiritual training and a spiritual diet.

Every athlete who strives to excel will speak about the joy of the pain that comes from training in preparation to compete. They will tell you the actual competition is the easier part; it's the training and discipline that they enjoy most. It may seem counter-intuitive in thought but the facts are simple; you cannot finish strong if you do not prepare.

If our desire is to live a life of victory in Christ Jesus and to be used by Him, we must ask God to please give the hunger and thirst for Him that is synonymous with training. When we stand face-to-face before the Lord it is not for a medal, but to hear Him say: "Well done, good and faithful servant." (See: Matthew 25:23)

READ:

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

24 Know ye not that they who run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown, but we, an incorruptible.

26 I, therefore, so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the the air;

1 Timothy 4:8

8 For bodily exercise profiteth little, but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

PUTTING GOD IN BOXES

Have you ever thought of the boxes we place God in? I once had a bitter, angry man shrug off my offer to pray with him regarding his health concern. He had placed God in a box and sealed the lid to same with a sealant comprised of anger.

I've had other people tell me that they do not need prayer because at that moment they foolishly believed all was well. Both examples I've cited are examples of placing God in a box and, yes, we can all site countless other examples. But let's focus on these two.

The realities of life are that with rare exception we are all going to suffer illness, some more severe than others. Many of us have probably experienced a sick person or the family/friend(s) of a gravely ill person who has become bitter because God did not do as they wanted.

But that is a flawed perspective of God. He is not our "big guy" in the sky that we can ignore until we want Him to do something, i.e., meet a need. If my child's friend demanded (or even requested), that I give them an automobile because their's broke down, I would be under no obligation to oblige; especially if his entire life leading up to that moment, he had spoken to me only occasionally and then only because it was expected of him. And he had told jokes about me, abused my friends, and used my name as a curse word.

If my son approached me for a new automobile I might give him a new one, I might give him an old one that I occasionally used to see how he took care of it. I might delay his request even if I did not immediately reveal the reason. It could be because I was already planning to purchase one at a later time that was superior to anything he had thought or reasoned.

But that would be for my son. Even if the other boy in this example were a fine young man, I might not feel obliged to do provide for him, as I would feel obliged to do for my son. However, if the young man came to me honestly and truthfully, and explained his need and his plan for going forward asking if I would help him honor his true intentions I would do whatever I could within the limits of my resources.

The other example I cited is perhaps the saddest because the person(s) doesn't realize that at the very moment they deem their situation to "not need prayer" for the protection of the Lord is the moment that they have foolishly abandoned Him.

That person has either consciously or unconsciously ascribed to the notion that they are "de facto god." With no ability to see or know the next moment much less know 24 hours into the future they believe themselves to have no need for concern, ergo, no need for God and/or prayer.

I have been an ordained minister for thirty-plus years and I do not have enough fingers and toes to count the number of people who felt the same way virtually moments before they were injured, suffered catastrophic health event, and in no few instances died.

What you and I should ask God the Holy Spirit to always keep in our minds is that we not omniscient. Only God is. We must also realize that for those of us who are the children of God when He sees fit not to answer our prayers as we want, that doesn't mean He doesn't love us or that He doesn't care about us. It means God is God and His reasons while not always known to us, His reasons are always in our best interest in accordance with His will and in a way that will bring glory, honor, and praise to Him.

READ:

Isaiah 55:8-12

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

11 So shall my word be that goeth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

12 For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the fields shall clap their hand.

THE BATTLE FOR CONTROL OF OUR THOUGHTS

Not long ago as I was driving home, a thought seemingly just popped into my mind and I immediately knew wasn't my thought and I immediately asked God the Holy Spirit to remove the thought. This wasn't the first time in my years as a Christian that this has happened and to my shame I confess that there have been times in the past that I not only entertained the sinful thoughts but I acted upon them.

None of us are immune to such thoughts. Sometimes they are about getting some measure of revenge, other times they may be impure, they may be constructing a conversation in our minds whereby when we see a person we have a grudge against we verbally eviscerate them. The thoughts may be about how to get the upper hand through less than honest methods. Sometimes the thought(s) can be simply how much we dislike a person or how inferior a co-worker is compared to ourselves. The possibilities are endless.

Through the years as I have grown and matured as a Christian I have come to realize that not all of those thoughts are mine; many times the enemy puts a thought into our minds knowing that we will take ownership of it instead of realizing we are being attacked and turn the thought(s) over to God asking the Holy Spirit to remove the thought from our minds.

The key here is that we as Christians must understand the nature of the invisible spiritual battle we have going on around us. And we must also grow to understand that the enemy wants us to feel guilty and feel as though we will never have victory of a particular sin that we seem to always struggle with. Maybe it is lying, maybe it's watching things on computer or television that we know we should not be viewing. We must understand that the soul purpose of Satan

and his minions is to separate us from God. And the most efficacious means of doing that is through our thoughts.

Keep in mind, King David's sin was not seeing Bathsheba bathing; his sin was obsessing over what he had seen to the point of lusting after her. It was then that his thoughts turned to his desire to possess her; which was followed by the tragic consequences of his actions. Had he sought asked God to remove the very first thoughts he had after spying her, his life would have been a lot different.

But even in the aftermath of David's great sins with Bathsheba, which included covetousness, lust of the heart, adultery, lies, thievery, and murder, God forgave David when he confessed and repented of his evil deeds. God revealed His great love for him and even though David did not go unpunished, God still called David a man after His own heart.

My friends, do not be discouraged or distraught by sinful thoughts. Understand the nature of the battle we are in, understand the objective of the enemies of our faith, and ask God to help you to take each thought captive and turn it over to Him to remove.

READ:

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4 (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds),

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

ENTER INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

My wife and her three girlfriends go on a trip somewhere about four times a year. Logistically it is easiest to pick her and another friend up at our house last. The collective giddiness the four of them exhibit as I am putting their luggage in the one girlfriend's SUV, that they typically take, is infectious. I am always left smiling as they head off on their adventure.

When she returns I ask how their trip was and if she is glad to be back home. Her answer without fail is always the same, I couldn't wait to get back.

Conversely, that is the way I feel about our church. I look forward to our midweek bible study and Sunday morning worship service as eagerly as I look forward to seeing my wife after our time apart.

I look forward to hearing what God has done for individuals in our church. I look forward to hearing about what my brothers and sisters in Christ have done during the week. I look forward to encouraging a brother/sister who needs same. I look forward to watching the children and remembering when I would hold my now adult son, who is taller than I am, in my arms as we sang hymns. I look forward to giving my tithes, worshipping the Lord with hymns and our pastoral prayers. I look forward to hearing what our pastor is preaching that morning and how it will benefit me through the week. In brief, I look forward to being in God's house with God's people. And I cannot wait to spend time there each week. When I am in my Father's house nothing else matters. I'm not thinking about anything else but service to and worship of my Heavenly Father.

In Psalms 122:1, the Psalmist writes: "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." That is the way we should feel as we enter into our Lord's house.

Even if we have had a particularly difficult week, the weariness and fatigue can be washed away once we are in God's house. Even if we have been unfaithful to the Lord and/or haven't behaved, as we know we should, we can have those days washed away in our Father's house.

There are times, that as I sit worshipping, I think about what it will be like in heaven when I am in my eternal home praising my Savior face-to-face with a heavenly choir. I cannot imagine what it will be like to sing praises to our Heavenly Father with all of the heavenly hosts in my resurrected body that is perfect and free of and from sin.

And most of all I look forward to seeing my Savior and being able to touch Him and hold his hand and tell him how much I love Him and how thankful I am He loved me enough to die for me. Yes, I know, we can do that right now, but to do it in the new heavenly city that Jesus has gone to prepare for us is beyond my earthly capacity to dream.

READ:

Psalm 100

1 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

2 Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with signing.

3 Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

5 For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations.

FINDING COMFORT

John Wesley, the father of Methodism said: "My ground is the bible. Yea, I am a bible bigot. I follow it in all things, both great and small." (The Methodist Book Concern, 1903) Before I ever knew the quote was accredited to Wesley, I would say: "I'm a bigoted bible believer." And while I'm no John Wesley, I remain a "bigoted bible believer."

I believe that the word of God is immutable and I believe God's word is sufficient to guide me every day of my life through every situation in my life. ["God's] word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." I also am persuaded that God the Holy Spirit inhabits His word.

Thus there is no valley so low that His word cannot comfort; and I pray I never reach a mountain that I do not need Him to stand with me on the top.

After my mother had passed as I awaited my flight back home, I remember the verses of scripture, the bible studies, sermons and hymns that flooded my mind providing me peace and comfort.

There is not a time that I open my bible but that I do not expect to receive the blessing that comes from spending time in it.

When I am sad I turn to my bible; when I am depressed and/or discouraged I turn to my bible. Earlier this spring I was stricken with illness that kept me bedridden for nearly two months. The pain and discomfort I experienced during those weeks were a constant companion; but I experienced wonderful moments of relief when my wife would read the bible to me during that period of time.

I read a lot of things because of the nature of my work, but there is nothing that I have read nor have ever read that feeds my spirit like God's word. In His word I find instruction that "is

profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." That I/we "may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good words."

My friends, I ask you, are you a bigoted bible believer. Do you turn to the bible for the comfort you desire before you turn to a drink, a pharmaceutical or a latest self-help book? I am not saying that there is never a time for medicine and/or a doctor; goodness knows I needed both when I sick in bed.

That notwithstanding, there is no comfort and guidance that we will ever know that matches that found in the holy bible, unless we know the author of the bible as our personal Savior. I encourage you to seek ye the Lord while He may be found.

The scriptures tell us to examine ourselves. Who or what do we turn to for solace? If it is not the scriptures, the solace will be serendipitous and fleeting at best. But with the God of scripture, His word is from everlasting to everlasting.

READ:

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort,

4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them who are in any trouble, by the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted of God.

5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

VICTORY OUT OF SEEMING DEFEAT

Do you have a habit that you would like to rid yourself of, a habit that you know isn't of the Lord? Well I do as well.

I have very low tolerance for certain types of people and especially for people who are blissfully blind to truth and common sense. There are times that I encounter persons like I reference and I just ignore them; but there are other times that my old nature takes over before I know what happened. At times like that I verbally throttle the person or persons and go on my way.

The problem is, that I do not go away pleased with myself; I go away annoyed with myself because I know I should have handled the situation differently. I should say it's the mindset from which my veracity springs that can be the problem for me.

There are times that we are told: "Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him;" and then we are immediately told in the very next verse: "Answer a fool according to his folly lest he be wise in his own conceit." (Proverbs 26:4-5)

I keep the following in mind. The Holy Spirit doesn't beat us up with guilt, He convicts us of the wrong we've done. It is our enemy the devil who attempts to make us feel guilty and unchristian. The Holy Spirit shows us what we did and He reminds us that we have forgiveness and as soon as we ask for it and that: "There is, therefore, now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:1)

There will always be those times when we do the very things we do not want to do, in our walk with the Lord. Even the Apostle Paul struggled with this. But we have an advocate with our Father in Heaven who makes intercession for us. We

are forgiven as often as we need to ask until we, through Christ, are victorious over whatever it is with which we struggle.

The key is that we do not make peace with the sin. We must not make the grievous mistake of thinking we can fool ourselves into accepting that's just the way it is and there's nothing we can do about it. The truth is that in our own strength there is nothing that we can do about it, but through the power of God we can overcome whatever it is that troubles us. As often as we commit the sin we must confess it and ask the Lord to give us victory. And He will.

READ:

Romans 7:15-25

¹⁵ For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

¹⁶ If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

¹⁷ Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

¹⁹ For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

²⁰ Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

²¹ I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

WHO SHOULD WE OBEY?

As has been said countless times: “We live in a world in which good is called evil, evil is called good, and where those who would try to live righteously before God according to His scriptures are labeled intolerant.”

There are things people engage in today that God’s word clearly and unequivocally calls sin, and yet those who seek to obey God and not become accepting participants and/or promoters of the sin are labeled as haters and said to be out of touch.

If parents attempt to raise their children based upon Christian values and morality, the parents are considered to be harmful to their children’s development; but the schools and television programming that promote that to which God objects are hailed as cultural necessities, etc.

I could go on, but I’m sure you grasp my point.

It was Saint Augustine who famously said: “Right is right even if no one is doing it; wrong is wrong even if everyone is doing it.” Therein lies the problem; many actual believers want to be like the world, instead of being like Christ.

We as Christians should be examples to the unsaved who are leading lives of futility.

We as Christians are called upon to represent Christ in our daily lives. We’re not perfect and there will be many times that we drop the ball so to speak. But that should not change our desire or our goal to live in obedience to Christ.

We’re not perfect but we are forgiven and that alone should make us want to live more Christ-like lives and share what Jesus has done in our lives.

READ:

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God, as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore, come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

THINKING ABOUT THE LORD?

We sing a hymn in church that is titled: "When I Think About The Lord." As I reflect upon the lyrics of that hymn I realize how blessed I am that Christ was obedient unto sacrificing His life that I might be saved.

When I think about my Lord, I think about the price He paid for me, and His life lived in perfect obedience to God the Father who loved us/me more, I am convinced, than we will ever know and/or understand.

When I think about the Lord, I think about the afternoon that I got down on my knees beside my bed and made the most important decision of my life. When I think about the Lord I think about how He used a 96-page little book to change my life forever. The book had a chapter on the Holy Spirit and as I read that chapter, I didn't know why but I knew that I wanted what the author was describing in the book. My prayer was simple, I simply prayed: "Lord I want what's in that book." I remember being overwhelmed by a sense of relief and release even though it would be a couple days later before I

prayed the actual sinner's prayer, confessing my sins, and accepting Christ the Son of God into my life as Savior and Lord.

When I think about my Lord, I think about where I would be without Him. When I think about the Lord, I too, as the hymn writer wrote: "[Think about] how He saved me, how He raised me; How He filled me, with the Holy Ghost; How He healed me, to the uttermost."

It continues: "When I think about the Lord, How He picked me up and turned me around, How He placed my feet on solid ground:"

Oh Lord my God yes: "It makes me wanna shout, Hallelujah, Thank you JESUS, LORD, you're worthy, of all the glory and all the honor, and the praise."

The chorus of that wonderful hymn is how I have felt when I think about the Lord every day since I accepted Him into my life. Even in the darkest hours of my life I could rejoice when I thought about the Lord because I knew that He was with me.

I'm not speaking about feelings and emotions; I'm speaking about assuredness that can only come from knowing Christ as Savior.

Do you think about the Lord? Do you think about the moment you realized your need for Christ to become your Savior? Is your walk with the Lord today as fresh and special as it was when you were first saved?

For many, when they think about the Lord they think about the things they will need to change and they do not feel obliged to allow the Lord to make those changes. For others they are eager for the Lord to heal their broken lives.

When you think about the Lord, which group do you fall into?

READ:

Psalm 111

1 Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.

2 The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.

3 His work is honorable and glorious: and His righteousness endureth forever.

4 He hath made His wonderful works to be remembered: the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

5 He hath given meat unto them that fear Him: He will ever be mindful of His covenant.

6 He hath shewed His people the power of His works, that He may give them the heritage of the heathen.

7 The works of His hands are verity and judgment; all His commandments are sure.

8 They stand fast forever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.

9 He sent redemption unto His people: He hath commanded His covenant forever: holy and reverend is His name.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do His commandments: His praise endureth forever.

GOD USES THE IMPERFECT TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PERFECT WILL

The people God uses to bring about His perfect will fascinate me. I enjoy reading about the circumstances in their lives that led them to accomplish what they did or have for the Lord.

One such person is Fanny Crosby. Because of an unskilled doctor Fanny was rendered completely blind when she was only six days old and spent the rest of her nearly 95 years blind. But she was used of God to bring soothing comfort to virtually millions of people around the world by her prolific songwriting ability. She wrote some 8,000 Christian songs during her lifetime.

I can still hear and picture my late grandmother moving about the kitchen humming the Fanny Crosby song, "Blessed Assurance." I'm at a loss to number the times my heart has been stirred her hymns, "To God Be The Glory" and "Jesus Is Tenderly Calling You Home."

Another person God used in a dramatic way to reach people few if any could have cared about less, was the late Rev. David Wilkerson. Pastor Wilkerson by way of Hammond, Indiana to what was then Barnesboro, PA, a small mining, logging, farming community. From there he went on to pastor other small town rural community churches until the fateful day in 1958 that day that he saw a picture of seven "Egyptian Kings" gang members.

David Wilkerson would later say that he knew the Holy Spirit was calling him to New York City to reach those young men and their contemporaries. The short version of a much longer story is that God not only took a young man from rural America who had nothing in common with violent gang members, and even less in common with the degradation of

New York apart from the fact they needed Jesus and he was prepared to share Jesus with them.

David was successful in reaching Nicky Cruz, the leader of a New York street gang, for Jesus. Cruz accepted Christ and would eventually himself become an evangelist preaching and teaching Christ and was responsible for other gang members converting to Christ, and he also converted the new leader of his former gang.

David Wilkerson founded the “Times Square Church” in the heart of Times Square, New York, a place at that time more known for pornography and prostitution than any thought of a church. He would go on too found Teen Challenge, the Christian addiction recovery program, which Nicky Cruz served as Director at one point.

A blind woman, a backwoods minister, and a gang member in the hands of the Lord, have reached untold numbers of people for Christ and continue to do so even today after Crosby and Wilkerson have long gone home to be with the Lord. The question I often ponder is why does God seemingly use the most imperfect people to accomplish His will? I do not have an answer to my own question except that maybe God uses imperfect/broken people because they are imperfect and broken.

Perhaps the question that should be asked is: “Are we willing to be obedient to God’s calling so that He can use us in ways that are pleasing to Him? And are we willing first to get our lives right before Him so that He can use us?”

READ:

Acts 4:13-22

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they

marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

¹⁴ And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

¹⁵ But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves,

¹⁶ Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.

BEING KIND

Being nice is not cost prohibitive. I will frequently say to someone I am corresponding with or that I have been speaking with to, "do something nice for a stranger today."

But what exactly does that mean? Do we know how to be nice to a stranger? It's not complicated and it requires nothing of us but to acknowledge a stranger. But what does that mean?

We live in a culture in which we hurry by people consciously oblivious of them. Oftentimes we avoid making eye contact with people if we can do so for any one of a plethora of reasons. We brush by people and frequently ignore people because that's what we do. They're not like us or they are homely or they are homeless and the list goes on.

Being nice to a stranger is sometimes simply smiling and saying hello and genuinely meaning it. Being nice to a stranger can be as simple as holding the door open for someone and acknowledging them as we do. Something as simple as sincere thank you can make another person's day.

We do not know what burdens or sadness a person may be experiencing at any given moment and sometimes that random act of kindness can be a real blessing to someone.

Sharing of our resources with a homeless person may cost us only the change we drop in their cup but for them it can mean the difference between a meal and a place to stay, and going hungry and sleeping on the street.

Are there times that we give to a homeless person and they take the money and spend unwisely? Of course there are. But if we are giving in the name of He who provides for us that isn't necessarily our concern. I know a pastor who shared that a homeless woman once approached him and he

took her into a convenience store and bought her and her children food.

Scriptures make clear that Christians do not live for themselves, they live to show forth Christ and to further His kingdom.

I attend a small church that, I refer to as the church at the "well of Bethesda." I refer to it as such because we minister to the people that sadly, many other churches will not. John 5:3 tells us that at the pool: "...lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered..." Christ ministered to a man at that pool. If we do not minister to persons like this who will? It is easy to give money for someone else to do it but I contend that Christ set the example of doing it Himself. Should we not do same? We welcome the castoffs of society in and treat them as warmly as we do one another.

The world has become an uncaring insensitive place, but that is not how Christians are to behave.

If we say Christ is our Savior, then we are to live the examples He set. So I encourage you to do something nice for a stranger today. As we are told in Hebrews 13:2: "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

READ:

Hebrews 13:1-3

1 Let brotherly love continue.

2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

3 Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

WE FIND TIME TO DO WHAT IS IMPORTANT

It is a truism that, "We can always find time to do what is important to us." It is equally as true that we are very adept at creating reasons for not doing what we should.

So it is with attending a bible believing Christ preaching and teaching church. Over the years I have heard many people give creative reasons for not attending church or not attending regularly. Despite the reasons we give, the truthful reason is that we do not think it is important. If it were we would do it.

I know a man who works in retail and has approximately one weekend a month off from work. So obviously he cannot be at church every Sunday. But that doesn't stop from attending every midweek week bible study. He is also in contact with the pastor and fellow members of church throughout the week because his spiritual nourishment is important to him.

There is a reason God instructs us to attend church. It is to strengthen the body of Christ by strengthening the individual members of the body of believers.

Watching a television ministry Sunday morning is not the same as going to church. Watching truly biblical television ministries can be worthwhile supplement to Sunday worship but they should not be a substitute for attending church.

In the church we have fellowship with other believers. In the Christ centered church we can share a particular prayer need; we can share of what the Lord has done for us and in so doing be an encouragement to others in our fellowship. We share in the needs of the church and our church family.

In the church we can partake of the sacraments and honor God with our tithes and offerings. And in the church we can

receive spiritual nourishment for the week ahead should God grant us same.

With that said we are instructed not to just be churchgoers, but we are to be carriers of the Word we receive. We carry with us into the world what we have been given and share it with others in the week upcoming.

God didn't tell us to go to church if we wanted to or to go when we felt like it. He didn't tell us to go to church and then live our lives the rest of the week as if we hadn't been there.

I love going to church and I love being with my church family. We are imperfect but as body we are strengthened in our walk as believers and those who are not believers are hearing the Word of God presented in a Christ centered way that will hopefully encourage them to give their lives to Christ.

This Sunday I pray that you will attend a Christ centered church and that you will find a friend to take with you.

READ:

Hebrews 10:21-25

21 And having an high priest over the house of God;

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised;)

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

How often I have prayed the following from Matthew 6:9-13:

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, they will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our [trespasses], as we forgive we forgive [those who trespass against us].

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

One of the things within this prayer that I have come to embrace very tightly are the words: "They will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." They mean so much to me because I know that God's will is perfect and is always centered upon what is best for us as the children of God.

If God's will for us as His children is perfect in all ways, and it is, then why would I not want His will to be done here on earth?

Also why would I not want God to provide me with my daily bread? And to know He has forgiven me as I have forgiven those who may have wronged me, how wonderful to know I am free of the burden of hate and ill will? Knowing that by grace through faith in Christ Jesus I am delivered from the evil one, what greater comfort can there be?

I pray to be the recipient of His will on earth as it is in heaven, He sustains me with my daily bread and when I pass from this life into eternity I will spend it with Him. It can be no better than that.

The Lord's Prayer is a simple prayer but contained therein is prayer for everything I could need or want.

Amen

About The Author

Mychal S. Massie is an ordained minister who spent 13 years in full-time Christian Ministry. Today he serves as founder and Chairman of the Racial Policy Center (RPC), a think tank he officially founded in September 2015. RPC advocates for a colorblind society. He was founder and president of the non-profit "In His Name Ministries." He is the former National Chairman of a conservative Capitol Hill think tank; and a former member of the think tank National Center for Public Policy Research.

In his official capacity with this free-market, public-policy think tank, he has spoken at the U.S. Capitol, CPAC, participated in numerous press conferences on Capitol Hill, the National Press Club and testified in private session concerning property rights pursuant to the "Endangered Species Act" before the Chairman of the House Committee on Resources.

Mychal's blog, "The Daily Rant" (mychal-massie.com) enjoys a widely popular and diverse audience of truth seekers worldwide. He has been a keynote speaker at colleges and universities nationwide, at Tea Party Rallies, as well as rallies supporting our troops, conservative presidents, and conservative causes across the country. He is an unapologetic supporter of our right to own and carry firearms.

Mychal is also a nationally syndicated op-ed columnist and former host of the top-rated talk show on the Righttalk Radio Network – "Straight Talk with Mychal Massie." He is a former self-employed business owner of 30-plus years. Mychal is an inspirational / motivational speaker and a regularly featured guest on TV / talk radio programs. The online version of his column is carried by WorldNetDaily.com and enjoys a loyal, supportive readership around the world.

Mychal has appeared on every major news-talk television and radio program in the U.S., as well as top international news programs. He is recognized as one of America's most articulate, passionate, and outspoken conservative voices.

He is quoted by America's most popular program hosts and most listened-to programming nationwide. He has successfully debated Congressman Melvin Watt, D-NC, Geraldo Rivera, Rev. Al Sharpton and Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. He appeared in the documentary "What Black Men Think."

He also made an appearance in the independent motion picture "Life Fine Tuned." His positions on a colorblind society, civil rights, educational reform, self-sufficiency, individual responsibility, family, the judiciary, abortion, limited government, reparations, homeland security, immigration and war (both past and present) are forthright and unyielding.

A provocative, outside-the-box, visionary thinker, he has been called the "black male Ann Coulter" by liberals who condemn him and "George Will on steroids" by conservatives who love him. Al Sharpton has referred to him as "fearless."

In February 2011, Mychal hosted an "empty chair debate" at the National Press Club, after Al Sharpton, Marc Morial President of the National Urban League, and former Congressman and co-founder of the Congressional Black Congress Walter Fauntroy refused to debate him on the merits of their accusations of racism directed at Glenn Beck's Restoring Honor Rally.

While the recipient of numerous awards, he is most proud of the awards received August 9, 2006. At that time the Marine Corps League – Bob Swanson Det. 1102 awarded Mychal with Honorary Membership in the United States Marine Corps League, the United States Marine Corps League Distinguished Citizen Award, the

United States Marine Corps League Distinguished Citizen Award Medal, and the United States Marine Corps League Certificate of Appreciation, for, among other things, his exemplary service in the interests of the United States Marine Corps and The Marine Corps League.

He is the recipient of the prestigious “Conservative Man of the Year Award” for 2008, presented by the New York State Conservative Party.

In December 2011, he was recognized as number 13 on the list of the top 20 most influential black Republicans in the nation. An award that he chided the presenters about pursuant to why it was necessary for him to be recognized as a color-coded Republican. He has since that time refused to accept any awards based on skin color.

In addition to having hosted his own top-rated talk show, Mychal has also guest-hosted on some of the top-rated national talk-shows.

Mychal holds degrees in education, theology, and pastoral counseling. He began his writing career in 1999 shortly after becoming an editorial board member on a suburban Philadelphia newspaper. He wrote the foreword for the re-release of Booker T. Washington’s autobiography “Up From Slavery” (released by Pelican Publishing spring 2010). He is the author of “Random Rants: I Was Right Then And I Am Right Now” and “Blacks Are Victims: Because They’re Told They Are.”