



THREE MONTH
DAILY
DEVOTIONAL

THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN
HIS REIGN



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VOLUME THREE / SERIES ONE

Three Month
Daily Devotional
Volume Three – Series One

These brief messages are offered to the reader as “starters” for meditation before the Lord and introductions to a time of prayer. We encourage the reader to take one daily message at a time, leaving tomorrow’s message in tomorrow’s hands. Reading each section more than once may be helpful.

PSALM 51

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.

Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

DAY 1 - AM I ALONE IN THIS DESERT?

Lord, all my longing is known to thee,

my sighing is not hidden from thee.

My heart throbs, my strength fails me;

and the light of my eyes--it also has gone from me.

My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague,

and my kinsmen stand afar off. Psalm 38:9-11

It sure would help to have a companion in this wilderness.

Someone to talk to.

Someone to pray with.

Someone who would understand.

But who?

My closest loved ones are in another world.

At present, they cannot understand.

So I turn to you, Lord.

Bring me into fellowship with your wilderness disciples.

You are the light of the world.

You promised that whoever follows you will not walk in darkness.

You taught us to pray "OUR Father."

You command us to love one another as you have loved us.

Help us to find each other.

A promise:

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
I John 1:5-7

You are not alone in the wilderness.

You have sisters and brothers whom you will meet.

Very soon, if you haven't met them already.

DAY 2 - BEHOLDING GLORY

The earth is full of it, only we can't see it with these eyes...

Glory.

The day will come when it will no longer be hidden.

We will see it.

We will bow the knee, either lifting our voices in praise, or trembling with dread.

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Habakkuk 2:14

But there is one place where we can have a foretaste.

It comes to us as a word.

Straight out of heaven.

Spoken by a human tongue.

The words that I have spoken to you, they are Spirit, and they are life.

---When we hear those words, we begin to see the Unseen.

"As I made my journey and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone

about me. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?'" Acts 22

If you are seeking the Light,

If you are open to a Word from the living God,

If you are prepared to act on what God shows you,

You will see glory in this life.

And you will be changed by it.

DAY 3 - DAILY REDEMPTION

You may be able to remember the day and the hour when you first came to life spiritually.

You may confess that it was a work of God's sheer mercy.

You were raised from the dead by a power not your own.

Jesus became real to you.

His Spirit spoke life to your heart.

Your very body was quickened by his living word.

Question: Is this gift of life as bright within you now as the day it came?

If so, you are doubtless walking the path of daily redemption.

Daily repentance before the living God.

Daily presenting your body as a living sacrifice.

Daily turning from darkness to light.

Daily being renewed in the spirit of your mind.

Daily walking in the light of the Lord Jesus.

If not, you've fallen into the trap of "once and done" faith.

How many days can you survive on a single meal?

How long would you last on a single drink of water?

The gift of faith must be sustained.

Daily.

By us.

Give us this day our daily bread. Luke 11:3

And he said to all, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Mark 8:34

And in the morning, a great while before day, he rose and went out to a lonely place, and there he prayed. Mark 1:35

DAY 4 - ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD

Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

Genesis 5:24

There are those who pretend to be walking with God.

But they are simply in a religious rut.

Disrupt their plans, and they fall apart.

Question their point-of-view, and they bristle.

Their minds are inflexible.

Their hearts are brittle.

When Enoch walked with God, he trusted his future to God with a tender heart.

Enoch never knew what tomorrow would bring.

Enoch was never surprised by disrupted plans.

Enoch walked in the light he was given and trusted the consequences to heaven.

When the right time came, Enoch walked from this world into the next without missing a step.

Are you walking with God, or are you in a religious rut?

Religious ruts are predictable---and boring.

A walk with God is always unpredictable.

But remember, the life of faith is never a "state" it's a walk.

If you get under the yoke with the Master, you will never stand still.

I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

DAY 5 - GROW UP!

Our Lord calls us to repent and become child-like.

It's the only way into God's kingdom.

A child-like heart has eyes to see and ears to hear the things that matter.

But our Lord Jesus never allows us to be childish.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Matthew 5:43-48

The tax collectors can be petty, if they choose---but not you.

Gentiles can be snobbish, if they wish---but not you.

You must be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect.

A man of God.

A woman of God.

A disciple of the Master.

The Spirit has no sympathy for petty believers.

He has but one word for them:

Grow up!

Therefore lift up your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. Strive for peace with all men, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.
Hebrews 12:12-1

DAY 6 - HOLY DISCONTENT

The sure sign that the Spirit of God has awakened you:

You are inspired with a holy discontent.

You are aware that something is missing, which no amount of fame, gain or pleasure can satisfy.

You are driven on a search.

O God, thou art my God.

Early will I seek thee.

My soul thirsteth for thee

In a dry and thirsty land, where no water is. Psalm 63

You are no longer seeking the "treasures" which once meant so much.

They're boring

They're disappointing.

They leave the heart empty and cold.

Now you're looking for God.

To know him.

To know that he knows you.

To love him.

To live in his unspeakable love.

So concentrate.

Stay focused.

Don't let anything distract you.

Don't give in to weariness.

Keep seeking.

Jesus said...."I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst.....All that the Father gives me will come to me; and him who comes to me I will not cast out....For this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 6

DAY 7 - I FEEL LIKE AN OUTSIDER

Read Luke 15:11-32

Outside of what?

Outside the rat race while everybody's "getting ahead?"

Outside the "in group" at church?

Outside the world of "normal people?"

Maybe you are.

Of course the Prodigal Son felt like an outsider too.

He was an outsider in the "far country."

He was an outsider when he fed the pigs.

He even felt like an outsider when he returned home in shame.

"Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son."

...until his Father brought in "back inside."

"Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."

Then there was the Older Brother. He never left the farm.

Yet he was an outsider of the most hopeless kind: he lived on the farm with the heart of an outsider, because he refused to welcome his prodigal brother.

Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound." But he was angry and refused to go in.

If you're outside the "rat-race",

If you're outside the "in group" at church,

If you're outside the world of "normal people," ...

Never mind. So was Jesus.

But don't let anything make you an outsider to the Kingdom of God.

The door is open....so are the arms of the Lord.

DAY 8 - IGNITED

It's not a matter of clinging to certain doctrines about Jesus with your mind.

It's rather having your heart **ignited** with the Spirit of God....

.....so you can think with the mind of Christ.

Nicodemus, a teacher in Israel, was informed but not ignited.

Hence, his educated mind could take him only so far.

He was baffled.

He couldn't "get it."

Jesus explained, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born from above (ignited by the Spirit) he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

Nicodemus scratched his head and wondered, "How can this be?"

Wrong question.

For Nicodemus,

For you,

For me, the question to the Lord is,

How do I get there?

Help me!

Show me the way!

Ignite me!

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him? Luke 11:13

Once our heart is ignited, it's up to us to stay ignited, to keep that inner fire burning.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the good, and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2

DAY 9 - HIDDEN TREASURE

Jesus says the kingdom of God is like treasure hidden in a field.

It's not out there for all to see.

Thousands drive by that field every day unaware.

It's not the most popular site on the internet.

But if you're looking for it, you will find it.

You will be led to it by God himself.

Once you find it, what's your next move?

Is it worth selling all you have to buy the field?

If you vacillate, you're not ready for this treasure.

If this is what you've been seeking all your life, why waste time?

What else is there in all the world but this?

***The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
Matthew 13:44***

A prayer:

Lord God, give me eyes to see and ears to hear!

Empower me to break with all that hinders my pursuit

of you.

Apart from you, all is shallow; all is empty.

Your Kingdom, Lord!

I want nothing else!

Here I am....

I throw myself on your mercy, trusting you to show the way!

Every one who asks receives

He who seeks finds.

To him who knocks, it will be opened.

DAY 10 - I'M NOT GETTING ANYTHING OUT OF IT!

Church! What good is it?

I go there to get fed, and come away as hungry as ever!

And the worship is dry as sin!

So what does one do?

Start shopping for a new spiritual oasis?

Complain to the elders?

Sweat it out and hope for the best?

And don't tell me to "pray about it!"

What do you think I've been doing?

Question:

What are you putting into it?

Before you can know whether it's time to move on, you need to be certain that you've been carrying your weight, when it comes to:

Praying for people in the fellowship.

Praying for the servant-leaders.

Reaching out to the forgotten ones there.

....with transportation

....money

....visits

If it's time to move on, the Spirit will let you know, and you will leave with his blessing.

If it's not time to move, trust the Lord to show you how he would have you fit into his will as part of this struggling flock of believers.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"

Then thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin.....

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;

I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Psalm 32

DAY 11 - INSIGHT FROM GOD

When insight comes, it brings life....

"Was blind, but now I see...."

"Floundering in darkness, suddenly there's the road!"

Who of us has not had moments of illumination?

---the answer to a mystery.

---the solution to a vexing problem.

---the way out of a prison of circumstances.

Thank God for insight!

But now the next move is yours.

Act on that insight!

Without delay!

If you don't act on the light you've been given, you will soon find yourself in greater darkness than before.

So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, (insight into why your worship is so lifeless) leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5:23-24

DAY 12 - ONCE YOU'VE HEARD THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE....

You will never forget it.

You may ignore it.

You may reject it.

You may flee from it.

But you will never escape the memory of it.

Suddenly one day you hear it again:

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

He does not condemn you.

He does not accuse you.

He knows more about your struggle than you do.

"Come to me.

Just as you are.

I will take care of your guilt, just come."

All you have to do is answer, "Yes, Lord, here I am. Help me!"

He will take care of the rest.

He will lift the burden that's weighing you down.

He will break the chain that holds you back.

He will wash the stains from your heart and soul.

He will renew your mind, refresh your body.

Cry out to him.

Call on his name.

Open your heart to his word,

and walk in it.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. John 10:27-28

DAY 13 - OPEN EXPECTATIONS//CLOSED EXPECTATIONS

Open expectations:

You pray.

You wait for the Father to answer his way.

He does.

Closed expectations:

You pray

You wait for the Father to meet your specifications.

He doesn't.

The minute we expect the living God to fit into our program we have left God's world, for the world of fantasy.

The Father does answer our prayers.

He will give us more than we could ask or think.

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him?

Romans 8:32

But God is not our servant.

The Living God cannot be manipulated.

Our Father who art in heaven.

Hallowed be thy name.

We are standing on holy ground.

We take off our shoes in worship.

Relying on the blood of the Lamb,

we cry out in our need,

leaving the specifics to him.

And will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will vindicate them speedily.

Luke 18:7-8

DAY 14 - TWO KINDS OF WORDS

Our world is saturated with words.

Everywhere we look we see them.

Wherever we turn we hear them.

Words.

Big promises.

Enticing offers.

"Don't miss out and be left behind!"

Most of the words we hear and see will soon vanish forever.

Lacking integrity, they fade into darkness when the campaign is over or the promotion ends.

Even most words which we speak to each other have an expiration date.

But there are words that, once spoken, will never die.

They heal the sick.

They raise the dead.

They awaken the apathetic and warn the imposters.

They create life.

Listen to such words, and they flood you soul with eternity.

Never underestimate the power of the Master's words.

Pursue them. Ponder them. Soak them into your being.

Those words will protect you from delusion and lead you into truth.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

Luke 21:23

"Every one then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock." Matthew 7:24

By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear. Hebrews 11:3

DAY 15 - OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH

Where do I go, when I'm overwhelmed?

What do I do when I have no strength left?

I turn either to God or to an idol.

That person....

That thing.....

That power....

That principle....

That to which I turn when my life flounders...

is my God.

It may be the true and living God.

Or it may be an idol.

Behind every idol is the prince of this world, who exacts a heavy price for each goodie he offers.

Only the living God remains true.

God is our refuge and strength

A very present help in trouble.

Therefore will not we fear,

Though the earth be removed,

And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.

Don't wait for a crisis.

Now is your appointed time.

Now is your day of salvation.

The doorway to your knowledge of God is as close as your breath.

His name is Jesus.

Call out to him, and he will lead you into God's world, beginning now.

All that the Father gives me will come to me; and he/she who comes to me I will not cast out. John 6:37

DAY 16 - RESURRECTION: MYTH OR FACT?

Jesus' resurrection.

There are those that say it's the idea that counts. Who cares whether it actually happened!

But for any one who has met Jesus in the power of his resurrection, Jesus' death and resurrection are facts which took place outside of our heads, outside our experience.

Facts.

He was killed in this actual world at a specific time and place.

He walked out of his tomb alive in a living, light-filled body at a specific time and place.

Moreover, when you meet Jesus and answer his call, you begin to experience both a death and a resurrection.

You are joined to this pivotal event in human history in a way that transforms you.

Your old life, in a mystery, is nailed with him on the cross.

You find yourself rising with the Lord Jesus into a new life.

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who

live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

You will know Jesus in the power of his resurrection, once you begin to know Jesus in the power of his crucifixion.

And once you know Jesus in this way, you will joyfully renew the miracle each day.

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3:1-4

DAY 17 - SELECTIVE HEARING

There's conscience.

There's the Spirit of God.

And then there's me.

Sometimes I hear.

Sometimes I don't.

Most of the time I employ selective hearing.

Why should I put up an argument, when God calls me to repent?

It's much easier to just listen with a selective ear.

Take in the good stuff.

Block out the bad stuff.

Not every one who says to me, "Lord, Lord," shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?" And then will I declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me you evildoers."

Matthew 7:21-23

Jesus never forces his word into our ears.

He simply says, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

The "good stuff" that Jesus tells us, is useless to us without the "bad stuff" which also comes from his mouth.

From his point of view it's all good.

We're the ones with the selective hearing.

DAY 18 - SO DIG IT UP!

What do you do when you wake up one day and realize that your "talent" is missing?

The life of God, which once burned within you, has ebbed.

The call of heaven which once beckoned like a beacon has faded.

Your faith itself is unsteady.

What happened?

Did I take a wrong turn?

Why do I feel so lost?

I did all the right things.

I received Jesus into my life.

I accepted salvation by faith.

I go to church every Sunday.

I treat everybody with respect.

What more does God want?

For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and

traded with them; and he made five talents more. So too, he who had the two talents, made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Matthew 25:14-18

You received forgiveness.....

So what are you doing when it's your turn to forgive?

You've been shown unspeakable mercy.....

Is it flowing out through your life?

You have received gifts of the Spirit.....

Are they bearing fruit

Dig up your "talent" and start doing something with it and the fire of God will begin again to burn in your heart.

DAY 19 - WOE TO YOU, WHEN ALL MEN SPEAK WELL OF YOU!

Why did Jesus say that?

What's wrong with being well-liked?

Aren't we supposed to be the salt of the earth? A city on a hill?

The "nice guy" image, which is the Christian standard these days, is totally out of harmony with the call of the Lord.

"Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthew 5:11-12

Our Lord promised that if we follow him, we will share his lot.

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you." John 15:18-19

If they hate me because I'm obnoxious, shame on me.

If they hate me because I'm crucified with Christ, praise

God!

If they love me because I'm "winsome and kind," I've probably compromised the truth in my own winsome way.

If they love me because I've brought them hope in God, may God be praised!

So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go forth to him outside the camp, bearing abuse for him. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come. Hebrews 13:12-14

DAY 20 - SO WHO ARE YOU GOING TO LISTEN TO?

To "experts" on Jesus?

Or to Jesus himself?

No one ever spoke like this man.

Even now, his words echo through the universe.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but those words will still resound.

Every one then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. Matthew 7:24-25

Once you have heard his words, you cannot "unhear" them.

You can ignore them.

You can reject them.

But you cannot erase them from your mind.

You have heard.

The essential thing is to hear the words of Jesus, not through an interpreter, but in their simplest form.

Drink them in.

Soak them up.

Ponder them.

Repeat them aloud to yourself.

For wherever his words are being received by a human heart, the Lord Jesus himself is present with all the power of heaven.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand.

John 10:27-28

DAY 21 - STAY ON THE ROAD

If by God's mercy you find yourself on the road that is life itself, rejoice!

And give thanks.

But stay alert.

For there are side paths which look promising, more promising than the narrow road itself.

But they lead to nowhere.

You will be tempted:

Beware of false prophets.

Not everyone who says Lord, Lord....

Woe to you, when all men speak well of you!

Things to keep in mind, if you want to keep to the road:

Jesus is the way---he alone.

"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I Corinthians

2:1-2

You have been crucified with your Lord:

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Glatians 2:20

DAY 22 - TAKE ME OUT OF HERE!

I don't know how I got here, but I sure didn't plan it this way!

This job.

This marriage.

This boring church.

This town.

Lord, if you'd get me out of here, give me a chance to make a fresh start somewhere else, I know I could make something of myself.

One problem: no matter where you go, you'll still be you.

Changing your surroundings won't make a bit of difference.

The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, "Lo, here it is! or There!" for behold the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.

Luke 17:20-22

Find the kingdom of God in the place where you are, and all things will become new.

You will make a fresh start.

You will see with new eyes.

You will be as one who rose from death.

Then, wherever you go, the Spirit of God will keep sustaining you as a new creation.

And how do I find the kingdom of God?

Seek it.

Cry out to the living God for light.

Open your heart to the words which Jesus the Messiah is even now speaking to you.

***It is the Spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail;
the words that I have spoken to you are Spirit and life.***

John 6:63

DAY 23 - THE FATHER WAITS

When the Prodigal took his money and left the Father's house,

The Father didn't send the goon squad to bring him home.

Nor did he disown him.

The Father simply waited and watched the road.

"Perhaps some day my son will return."

You may not be lost in that far country.

Perhaps you go to church every Sunday.

And yet, it's possible that you haven't seen the inside of the Father's house for years and years.

You've been making your own way in the world.

You've been a success at this and that.

But your soul is empty.

When he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son: treat me as one of your hired servants.'

....But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Bring quickly the best robe and put it on him....."

Luke 15

The Father's house is still where it always was.

You may have drifted away,

but the Father has provided a way back for you.

And now he waits.

DAY 24 - TO KNOW HIM

We can know a million facts about Jesus, and still not know him.

Jesus doesn't bring a résumé.

His only résumé is the scars in his hands and feet and side.

But listen to what he has to say...

Let his words sink into your soul....

Open your heart to them...

...and soon you will know Him.

Not as a memory.

Not as an "idea."

But as your living Friend and Master.

Jesus will speak personally to you.

He will receive the cries of your heart and turn them into prayers.

He will open your mind to understand scripture.

He will flood you with the very Spirit of God.

He will fill you with a love which you have never known,

and it will overflow to others in word and deed.

Don't be satisfied until you know him...and know that he knows you.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand.

John 10:27-28

DAY 25 - WASTED PRAYER??

My prayers don't seem to be going anywhere.

Nothing's happening.

Seems like I'm wasting my time and God's.

If you've been putting your confidence in your prayers, you may well be wasting your time.

People who have "faith in prayer" *are* wasting their time.

Also, people who trust their "how to" knowledge of prayer.

But if you are putting your trust in the heavenly Father--- only in him, no prayer which you pray is ever wasted.

The heavenly Father never fails to pay attention to your cry.

He delights in every effort you make to open your heart to him.

And he told them a parable, to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.....

Luke 18:1

Just make sure your spirit's eye is focused on the Father, and not on your own piety.

He also told this parable to some who trusted in

themselves that they were righteous and despised others: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector, I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get'. But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you this man went down to his house justified rather than the other."

Luke 18:9-14

If you ask, you will receive.

If you seek, you will find.

If you knock, it will be opened to you.

No prayer lifted to the Father is ever wasted.

DAY 26 - WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HOLY?

What's holy?

You will know it when you meet it.

But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" Luke 5:8

As long as we are blind to The Holy, we are blind to God and the things of God.

Our first encounter with God takes place when we know that we are in the presence of The Holy.

"Remove your sandals,, you're standing on holy ground."

Moses heard those words.

Joshua heard those words.

And for each it was the beginning of a walk with God such as they had never known.

Prayer only becomes possible for those who know when they're standing on holy ground.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name!

God is not Our Buddy.

God is not the Man Upstairs.

God is much, much more than Our Higher Power.

If you want to know God, take off your shoes and get serious.

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yea, Father for such was thy gracious will.. All things have been delivered to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

Matthew 11: 25-27

DAY 27 - WHEN YOU WASH FEET, YOUR HANDS GET DIRTY

Sanitary Christianity. It's quite popular. But it's useless.

Sanitary Christianity maintains a "sterile environment" so that it won't be "infected" by the world.

We have Christian entertainment.

Christian novels.

Christian music.

Christian 12-step programs.

Christian Television.

Christian aerobics.

It keeps us pumped up with "Christian Inspiration."

But what about that world out there?

As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.

Do you love me? Feed my sheep.

If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. John 13:14-15

Of course, when you wash feet, your hands get dirty.

And when you mingle with the harassed and helpless folks out there, even your pretty face becomes dusty and smudged.

But what's wrong with that?

Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men; for they will deliver you up to councils, and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear testimony before them and the Gentiles.

Matthew 10:16-18

If your heart belongs to the Crucified and Risen Master, what's so bad about having dirty hands or a smudged face?

God help us to get out into the real world with the real gospel!

DAY 28 - WHERE'S HEAVEN?

"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name."

Headquarters.

Where ultimate judgments are made.

The source of all light.

Fountainhead of unspeakable glory.

See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

Matthew 18:10-14

Heaven....where is it?

Infinitely far.....yet it surrounds us even now in the unseen.

In our present state the sight of it would blind us.

We were made for heaven.

We are incomplete until we arrive.

Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute

you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven.

Matthew 5:11-12a

The Kingdom of Heaven has already invaded this planet.

Broken the dark powers.

Released the power of heaven into those lives willing to receive it.

Are you?

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 4:17

DAY 29 - WHY DO I HAVE TO BE A SPECKLED BIRD?

Mine heritage is unto me as a speckled bird, the birds round about are against her.

Jeremiah 12:9 KJV

I try to keep a low profile.

I stay out of the limelight as much as possible.

I mind my own business.

And yet I seem to appear to the other "birds" around me like a "speckled bird."

Lord, if I am being obnoxious, open my eyes, correct me!

But if it's your presence in me which disturbs them, toughen my skin, and tenderize my heart!

Remember the word that I said to you, "A servant is not greater than his master." If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also.

John 15:20

It is impossible to follow Jesus and avoid rejection.

If they rejected him, they will reject you.

But just as surely as some people listened to the Master

and followed him, there will be people who will listen to you and begin to follow the Lord who lives in you.

Our job is to keep walking in the light of the Lord,
even if we are speckled birds!

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

II Corinthians 4:7-10

DAY 30 - YOU ARE NOT TO BE CALLED RABBI

Doesn't every successful church have a dynamic pastor?

Find somebody who knows how to run a church.

Give them freedom to make changes.

Respect their authority.

Pay them well.

---and you'll have a booming church.

Simple as that.

One problem: Our Lord Jesus calls for a different system....

But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Messiah. He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Matthew 23:8-12

These are the words of the One who said, "On this rock I will build my church."

If he is the builder, isn't it time we start doing things his

way?

His way:

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide.

So that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

This I command you, to love one another.

Jesus is the CEO.

And he is more dynamic than a thousand "dynamic" rabbis, priests, pastors, elders, or superintendents. All we need to do is listen, obey, and follow his lead.

DAY 31 - YOU CAN'T GIVE

WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE

Love, for instance.

And behold a lawyer stood up and put him to the test, saying, "Teacher what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Luke 10:25-29

If my heart is empty of love, how can I love God?

Or my neighbor?

But when Jesus commands me to love, he opens the door to a miracle.

Like the cripple who rises to wholeness at Jesus' command, I obey, and God's love floods my heart like fire from heaven.

Jesus gives me what I do not have.

He fills me with a love which is not mine.

I begin to change.

The Lord's command is redemptive power.

Obedience to his command is redemptive power.

The Spirit of God is in the command.

The Spirit of God is in the obedience.

All we have to do is take the first step.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:34-35

DAY 32 - I HAVE SET THE LORD ALWAYS BEFORE ME

*I have set the Lord always before me,
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.*

Psalm 16

It is possible to live in the presence of God all the time.

To know you're in the presence of God.

To receive his direction.

To know his protection.

Empowered to walk the new walk with Jesus himself.

The Lord Jesus will lead the way, if you will do the one thing required of you:

to set your mind on him.

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:1-4

It comes down to setting the mind on him, a thing which God cannot do for you....only you can do it.

Begin the day turning the mind toward the Lord Jesus.

Commit the day to him.

Practice his presence in the midst of the daily rush.

Commune with him in your heart.

Listen to the words the Spirit brings to your memory.

Worship him as you work.

Walk in the light with him.

Stay under the yoke with him.

"I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me; because I live, you will live also."

John 14:18-19

DAY 33 - SEEKING GOD

....Not a feeling of God

....Not "proof" of God

....Not a "sign" of God's presence.

God himself.

O God, thou art my God

Early will I seek thee.

My soul thirsteth for thee,

My flesh longeth for thee ,

In a dry and thirsty land, where no water is.

Psalm 63

If we pursue a feeling, we'll get a feeling.

If we look for a sign, we may "see" a sign.

But neither the feeling nor the sign is God.

If we seek God, just God, without any bells and whistles,
we will begin to hear a Word which comes from the heart
of the heavenly Father.

Need help?

Draw near to the Incarnate Word and ask.

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yea Father, for such was thy gracious will. All things have been delivered to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one know the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

Matthew 11:25-27

A prayer:

Lord Jesus draw me to yourself.

Lead me.

I will find the Father in knowing you.

Help me to abandon myself to your will.

DAY 34 - I THINK GOD NEEDS A LITTLE HELP ON THIS ONE

Big mistake.

If God makes a promise, he will keep it without your help.

Your assisting hands will only get in the way.

Abraham and Sarah were promised a son.

Time passed.....no son.

They decided to help God fulfill his promise.

All they did was create heartache for the son of promise and for all concerned.

*And the Lord answered me: "Write the vision;
make it plain upon tablets, so he may run who reads
it.*

*For still the vision awaits its time; it hastens to the
end---it will not lie.*

*If it seem slow, wait for it; it will surely come, it will
not delay.*

*Behold, he whose soul is not upright in him shall
fail,*

but the righteous shall live by his faith.

Habakkuk 2

Our job is to do the things God has called us to do...and to trust that he will do for us the things he has promised.

"But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

Matthew 6:30-33

DAY 35 - LET'S GO BIG-TIME!

Ah! Things are beginning to look up.

Our ministry is gaining traction.

People are responding.

The numbers are increasing.

God is blessing our work!

Then a voice whispers in our ear, "Let's go big-time!"

And why not?

Don't we have something that the masses need?

Not just our puny little fellowship.

Not just this dumpy little building.

We have a message for the world!

We know how to make Jesus relevant!

An upbeat gospel for the 21st Century!

Let's use our marketing skills and get it out there!

We've arrived at the crossroads:

The lure of the big-time in success-driven, market-driven Christendom.

Or the call of the Crucified One, inviting us to follow him

to a cross---his and ours---where alone is resurrection power.

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in much fear and trembling; and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

I Corinthians 2:1-5

DAY 36 - ME AND JESUS!

It's just me and Jesus!

I don't need other people.

I certainly don't need to be mixed up with those churchy hypocrites!

Just me and Jesus.

But what kind of Jesus?

When you are joined to the real Jesus, you are joined, whether you like it or not, with his Body on earth---with other believers.

You will never grow in faith until you learn to fit in with those other struggling saints in a fellowship somewhere.

The Lord himself will show you.

In that fellowship is where you learn patience.

How to forgive.

How to love.

How to wash feet.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35

You can't "love one another" in a vacuum: just you and Jesus.

If you are truly listening to the voice of your Shepherd you will be guided into his flock---a definite gathering of believers---and you will learn to work together, worship together, weep together, serve together, for as long as the Master keeps you there.

There, among those stumbling saints, you will grow in wisdom, power, self-discipline, and love.

DAY 37 - NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW

We're not talking about the perfect crime.

We're talking about the petty twists and turns we take in daily life.

Inspired by vanity,

revenge,

envy,

bitterness.

No one will ever know why I said that.

Nor will they realize why I "forgot" to come to their aid.

They will never see the fantasies that fill my idle hours.

My heart contains secrets that scare me sometimes.

Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. Whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

Luke 12:2-3

Never forget that your heavenly Father "understands (your) thought afar off."

*If you say "surely the darkness shall cover me,"
even the night shall be light around you.*

Deception is impossible.

The path of deception is the path of spiritual death.

We only begin to live when we come out into the light
before God and man.

*This is the message we have heard from him and
proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no
darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him
while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live
according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as he
is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his son cleanses us from all sin.*

1 John 1:5-7

DAY 38 - ONE PROBLEM AFTER ANOTHER

I just take care of one problem when another comes
crashing in.

Seems like that's all I do:

Solve problems

Is this how life's supposed to be?

O my God, my soul is cast down within me...

All thy waves and thy billows are gone over me...

Psalm 42

As long as we inhabit these bodies of flesh and blood the problems will keep coming.

This is not a rose garden.

It's a battlefield.

We know that days of peace are but a lull.

Storms are part of our reality, and they are beyond our control.

Today we are in health.

Tomorrow?

Today we are alive.

Tomorrow?

The key is to find peace in the midst of the storm.

order in the midst of chaos.

Life, in this kingdom of death.

It's there for those who seek it.

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to

them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Luke 10:17-20

DAY 39 - PRAY THE LORD OF THE HARVEST

.....to send out laborers into his harvest.

You mean the Lord of the harvest won't send out laborers unless we pray?

You mean it depends on our prayers?

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Matthew 9:36-39

If the number of laborers for the harvest hinges on our prayers, we have been given a major ministry...

It's not very glamorous.

Who sees us pray but God?

It requires staggering faith.

Who can impart such faith but God?

It demands diligence.

Not once-and-done, but daily.

Results are guaranteed by the Lord Jesus himself.

But only he sees them.

If you're wondering what your ministry is, start here.

Take Jesus at his word, and stay faithful.

The power of the Kingdom will move through you.

The Father's will shall be done,

on earth as it is in heaven---

---through you.

"Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

DAY 40 - RAGE OR REPENTANCE

When the Word of God's grace is clearly heard,
there are only two possibilities:

Rage or Repentance

It's either: Crucify him!

Or: My Lord and my God!

Apathy and indifference may seem to be the "privilege" of the spiritually blind and deaf.

But once they are confronted with Truth, they too have no escape.

He who is not with me is against me; he who does not gather with me scatters.

Comfortable Christendom lives in a world of its own.

It knows nothing of rage or repentance.

It believes that all you have to do is "get saved and find a good Bible-believing church."

Jesus offers something far better and demands something far deeper.

He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take

his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10: 37-38

If you want the real thing go to the Real Source: the words of Jesus himself.

Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away. Matthew 24:35

DAY 41 - SATISFACTION

"Every one who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst...." John 4:13-14

Never thirst again?

How can any human being reach such a point of satisfaction?

".....The water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

If the spring is inside you, you can drink any time you wish.

You draw life from this inner spring, which bubbles up from

eternity---from the Spirit of God.

Jesus offers living water.

You drink.

This water becomes a spring....it keeps flowing. It floods you with life from God.

The woman said to Jesus, "Sir, give me this water..."

And before she realized what was happening, she was drinking it.

She was drinking his words---which became Spirit and Life within her.

So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city, and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Messiah?"

John 4:28-29

DAY 42 - YOU CALL THAT REALITY?

Fantasy: a short-cut to fulfillment.

Reality: God's way to fulfillment.

Fantasy: "It looks good. Why not reach out and take it?"

Reality: "If it's meant for me, it will be mine in God's time."

Reality: Rock

"Every one then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock;

and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. Matthew 7:24

Fantasy: Sand

And every one who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell; and great was the fall of it." Matthew 7:26-27

The problem: We tend to confuse reality with fantasy.

Our reality is often sand.

Our hope is often fleeting and temporal.

Images that flash across the screen.

Songs that promise but never deliver.

We grasp at "life" and come up empty.

"For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?"

Matthew 16:25-26

DAY 43 - THE BURDEN OF MY VINDICATION

One of the heaviest burdens we carry is the weight of other people's misunderstanding. People whose respect we crave.

They have me wrong!

They hold opinions about me which are simply unfair!

The unkind things they say!

We feel compelled to set the record straight.

To prove how wrong they are!

Big mistake.

It's a waste of time.

You can spend a lifetime trying to vindicate yourself.

***"Come to me all you who labor and are heavy-laden,
and I will give you rest."***

Bring the burden of self-vindication to him.

Relieve yourself of the need to "prove them wrong."

They're constantly giving God a bad name.

They blaspheme his Son, the Incarnate Word.

Why should they see you as a hero?

And you, son of man, be not afraid of them, nor be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns are with you and you sit upon scorpions; be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. And you shall speak my words to them, whether they hear or refuse to hear...

Ezekiel 2:6-7

God will vindicate his holy name when he's ready.

Let your "good name" be hidden with Jesus at the cross.

For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:3-4

DAY 44 - THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE KINGDOM OF DISTRACTION

"Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born from above, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."

John 3:3

Why?

Because, until one is born from above, there is only the Kingdom of Distraction.

So many things to worry about.

So much to do.

So many opportunities for success.

So many memories of defeat.

So many unanswered questions.

No wonder we find it hard to believe!

Unless one is born from above....

How do you know when you're born from above?

When the Spirit frees you from the anxiety of this age and focuses your mind on the one thing that matters:

God's call on your life.

"Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about

many things: one thing is needful."

Luke 10:4

*"Come to me all you who labor and are heavy-laden,
and I will give you rest."*

Matthew 11:28

DAY 45 - THE KINGDOM OF REPENTANCE

On this earth,

The Kingdom of God is The Kingdom of
Repentance.

*Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I
am no longer worthy to be called your son....*

God, be merciful to me a sinner!

Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!

*And standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she
began to wet his feet with her tears, and wiped them
with the hair of her head, and kissed his feet, and
anointed them with the ointment.*

The Kingdom of Repentance is freedom and peace, as
God's Passover Lamb washes away your guilt with the
blood of his innocent death.

But the miracle happens in you only when you turn
(repent) and receive his forgiveness.

Only when you turn every day (in repentance) and, for the
sake of your King, Jesus, practice forgiveness and mercy
toward

your enemy

your neighbor

your friend

your wife

your husband

the beggar named Lazarus at your gate.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe the good news."

Mark 1:14-15

DAY 46 - THE WORK OF A LIFETIME

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has, and buys the field.

Matthew 13:44

The man did it quickly.

---And did it with joy.

But for us, it's the work of a lifetime: selling all we have to buy the field.

It starts with that first act of abandonment.

"Here I am, Lord, I'm yours."

Kingdom life has now begun.

But then the Lord begins putting his finger on stuff I haven't sold yet to buy the field.

My right to myself.

My perfectly moral agenda---but its MY agenda.

My well-concealed vanity.

The bridges that I've forgotten to burn.

In his mercy the Master makes me aware, bit by bit.

If he showed it all at once I'd be overwhelmed.

The field with the treasure is mine. Yet it's not really mine until I possess nothing else.

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Matthew 16: 24-26

DAY 47 - WHERE ARE YOU?

.....our cry to God:

Where are you, Lord?

Why are you so hard to find?

Why can't I seem to come near to you?

.....God's cry to us:

Where are you, Child?

Why are you running toward the darkness?

Why do you keep turning away from my light?

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

Genesis 3

The Lord will answer our cry, when we first answer his.

He is the Shepherd looking for his lost sheep.

He has left the 99 in the wilderness to come seeking us.

And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and

your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams....

And it shall be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Acts 2

When we cry, "Where are you, Lord?"

Silence.

When we cry, "Here I am, Lord! Help me!"

Light from heaven visits our weary soul.

DAY 48 - WHOSE PROGRAM IS IT, ANYWAY?

"Here I am, Lord. Send me!"

We say it with tears in our eyes.

"I'm ready to lay down my life in your service!"

And yet....

When he sends me nowhere but to the place where I
am right now,

When he reminds me that my spouse has a legitimate
complaint,

When the same boring "pest," keeps calling on the
phone,

I begin to wonder whether the Lord understood my offer of
"sacrificial service."

I offer him my life, and this is all he comes up with??

You'd think a committed servant like me could be better
placed than here!

Whose program is it, anyway? Yours, or God's?

***"He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in
much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is
dishonest also in much." Luke 16:10***

Why should the Lord God move you to an exotic harvest field when you have yet to prove faithful to him with the tasks presently at hand?

The living God is not obliged to fit into our program.

We are called to fit into his program.

We are free to go our own way, if we choose.

But if we mean it when we pray, "***Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,***"

then God calls the shots.

And we fit in.

DAY 49 - WHY DOES HE NEED MY PRAYERS?

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest." Luke 10:2

Why doesn't the Lord of the harvest just go ahead and send out laborers?

Why does he need my prayers?

After all, he rules the universe; he can do whatever he wants.

And yet.....

Jesus expressly tells us to pray for laborers.

Because it's necessary.

Because the Lord God has set it up this way.

You could call it a "kingdom starting point."

Once we have received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, this is where we begin.

Even if we don't understand the logic, we obey.

....and behold, things start to happen---around us and within us as we pray for laborers.

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

DAY 50 - "THE BIBLE IS JUST ANOTHER BOOK....."

"Sure, I have a Bible. Who doesn't?

I flip through it once-in-a while.

I find it boring.

All those bloody wars!

All those long names!

What's so special about the Bible?

It's just another book!"

True, the Bible is just another book...until you meet the One behind it.

"You search the scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness to me; yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life." John 5:39-40

If you have an ear for Truth,

If your heart yearns for Eternity,

If your soul is homesick for Paradise,

you will soon hear a Voice which is no demon of your imagination.

Listen to that Voice,

and, to your amazement,

the Bible has suddenly become much more than "just another book."

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand." John 10:27-28

DAY 51 - GO AHEAD, LAUGH!

And all were weeping and bewailing her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. Luke 8: 52-53

They knew the girl was dead.

What they did not know was who Jesus is.

To this day where Jesus is present, rivers of living water flow.

The sick are healed.

The lame begin to walk.

Blind eyes are opened.

Chains of evil break apart.

Jesus never bothers to prove himself to the skeptic.

We are free to laugh if it makes us feel better.

But with needs as great as ours, we would be wise to listen carefully to what he has to say.

For he is true to his word.

It will be exactly as he says it will.

As far as Jesus was concerned the girl was not dead but

sleeping.

He awakened her, and she lived.

Then the laughter stopped.

It always does.

"Behold I am coming soon, bringing my recompense, to repay every one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Revelation 22:12

DAY 52 - FINDING MY WAY BACK

What do I do when I wake up one day and discover I'm lost?

The road seemed right, but now I'm in a wilderness.

Where did I go wrong, Lord?

How do I get back to the real road through the crazy maze behind me?

There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death. Proverbs 14

Agreed. But what do I do now?

Call for help!

Cry out for light!

Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. Psalm 61

You lost your way the minute you started relying on your own wisdom.

You will find your way back the instant you give up the pretence of "knowing" and look to the One who alone knows the way.

A simple prayer....

A direct act of obedience to whatever light you have....

An admission to your own heart, that you are lost without his help....

And you will soon receive light to backtrack until you reach the Way again.

***"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
John 8:12***

DAY 53 - EFFORT

It's true that anything worth achieving takes effort.

Whether it's this world's Rat Race, or life in the Kingdom, the lukewarm approach is a waste of time.

But misdirected effort is also a waste of time.

i.e. Striving to do what only God can do.

You cannot save yourself,

You cannot perfect your character,

You cannot love your neighbor,

You cannot love God,

---without help.

Effort pays off when it concentrates on getting God's help.

The woman who pesters the Unjust Judge...

The man who bugs his neighbor for bread at midnight...

The father who begs Jesus to heal his son.....

Don't waste your time trying to do what only God can do.

Concentrate your effort on seeking God's help.

"And I tell you, Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and

you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

What father among you, if his son asks for a fish will instead of a fish give him a serpent?.....If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

Luke 11

DAY 54 - A MYSTERIOUS GOD? A PERSONAL GOD? BOTH?

To know the One who is the Source of all that is....

The One to whom we shall one day give account....

To whom our hearts cry out when they are overwhelmed....

Who is he?

What is he like?

Is it possible to hear his voice?

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yea, Father, for such was thy gracious will. All things have been delivered to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Matthew 11:25-27

Nobody enters the realm of God's presence until they repent and become a child before him.

Nobody hears the voice of the Father, until "**Hallowed be thy Name**" becomes the prayer of their heart.

To stand on holy ground and meet the living God, we take off our shoes.

Then the miracle begins.

Through Jesus, the Father reveals his love for you

....with a word.

....with a touch.

....with light which words cannot describe.

"God be merciful to me, a sinner!"

"Lord, if you will, you can make me clean!"

"Jesus! Master! Have mercy on us!"

Bring him your greatest need, you deepest hurt,

...in his answer to your cry, you will meet God.

No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

John 1:18

DAY 55 - GIVE ME A REVELATION!

The only way I can know you, Lord, is if you reveal yourself to me!

The only way I can know what you want me to do with my life, is if you reveal the path you want me to take!

I need a revelation!

I'm waiting!

You may be waiting forever.

Because what you think you're waiting for is already here.

Open your eyes.

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father."

John 14:8-9

And your ears.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

Matthew 24:35

And your heart.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:9-13

DAY 56 - I CAN'T SEEM TO GET THROUGH

I pray, but feel like I'm talking to myself.

As if no one is listening.

As if no one is there.

So what's the use?

Thou hast wrapped thyself with a cloud, so that no prayer can pass through.

Lamentations 3:44

If you wait for the cloud to go away,
you might wait for a long time.

Don't go by your feelings.

Don't check the atmosphere.

Don't be intimidated by that "cloud" overhead.

Just pray.

Your claim on God is not your worthiness, but Jesus' blood.

Not your goodness, but God's unspeakable mercy.

Jesus took your guilt upon himself so that you can now stand before the Father and ask.

Even if this baffles your mind, it's no less true.

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not give us all things with him?

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.

Romans 8

Prayer comes to life when we get our eyes off ourselves,

Lift them above our fears and doubts,

And, with a child-like heart, begin asking the Father for help.

Every one who asks receives.

He who seeks, finds.

And to him who knocks, it will be opened.

DAY 57 - DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF

Once we know what God wants us to do, may he give us the grace to act quickly.

So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:23-24

This is not a time to deliberate with yourself.

You know what you need to do.

Do it.

But when we're not sure about the next step God wants us to take, may he give us the grace to slow down and wait for direction.

And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." Matthew 17:4-5

Peter, like the rest of us, wanted to act on impulse.

He was getting ahead of himself.

If the Father had not interrupted him, Peter would have wasted everybody's time building a distraction, institutionalizing an error.

Don't get ahead of yourself.

You will accomplish more in five minutes of obedience to the Lord Jesus than a lifetime of "achievements" out of religious flesh.

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

DAY 58 - FANTASY AND REALITY

We walk through two worlds at the same time.

One world is the creation of our own mind.

The other is the creation of God.

One is fantasy.

The other is real.

Our problem is that we lose sight of which is which.

We travel through the world of fantasy as if it were real.

We ignore the world of reality as if it were fantasy.

He also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?"

Luke 6:39

This world's wisest are blind to reality.

They speak with confidence.

They are sure they know the way.

We follow them at our peril.

As for man, his days are as grass: As a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; And the place thereof shall know it no more.

But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, And his righteousness unto children's children..

Bless the Lord, all his works in all places of his dominion Bless the Lord, O my soul. Psalm 103

DAY 59 - GETTING READY FOR THE BIG DAY

The most important day of your life...

.....the day you leave this world.

"Oh, but that's a long way off!"

Maybe.

Maybe not.

But we know in our bones that it's coming.

Now's the time to make a reservation for the trip.

Now's the time to get to know the One who inhabits both sides of the grave.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, if any one keeps my word, he will never see death."

John 8:51

Eternal life begins on this side of the grave.

Eternal life is simply a relationship with the Lord of Life.

Know him,

Walk with him,

.....and you will never die.

Physical death will simply be a new phase of the journey you have already begun with him.

You will know his presence by his peace.

And that peace will never leave you.

Troubles will come and go.

Your "fortunes" may rise and fall.

Circumstances will continue to churn and change.

But his peace will sustain you through it all.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all people know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything. But in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, Let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, Will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4

DAY 60 - EASY ENOUGH FOR YOU TO SAY!

Forgive. Jesus commands it. That bitterness is destroying you.

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Matthew 6:14-15

But if you were in my shoes, would you be so quick to remind me?

When they ruin your life,
and still pretend to be your friend.

When they destroy your name,
and sit in their sanctified seat in church.

When they betray your trust.

It's not that easy.

True.

But what if you take the whole sad mess to Jesus.

Talk to him.

Tell him exactly how hard it is to forgive in the situation you face.

Ask him for help.

Do you think he'll condemn you?

Send you away empty?

"Lord this bitterness is eating up my soul.

It haunts me.

I can't forget.

Lift this burden, Lord!

Help me!"

"If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"

John 7:37-38

DAY 61 - HIS VOICE OR MY IMAGINATION?

Is God talking to me, or am I talking to myself?

Is that a word from the Lord, or is it wishful thinking?

Is that a divine warning, or is it paranoia?

What makes it so complicated?

Is it God.....or is it me?

When the simplicity is gone, gone too is our "spiritual hearing."

Jesus speaks to his own.

They recognize his voice.

And they obey.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand.

John 10:27-28

Concentrate on what you already know to be his will.

Act on the word which is already clear.

Obey.

Don't sit around waiting for a new revelation.

Your job is to pay attention to the feet right in front of you which need washing.

Serve that person in the name of Jesus.

Take time to listen to that troubled heart.

---All the while giving thanks to God for his unspeakable mercy.

If your feet are following the Shepherd, your ears will hear his voice.

Morning by morning he wakens, he wakens my ear, to hear as those who are taught.

Isaiah 50:5

DAY 62 - A WASTE OF TIME?

I go into my room and shut the door and pray.

Well, at least I try to pray.

Sometimes my mind wanders.

Sometimes it seems like I'm talking to myself.

My reason says, "This is a waste of time!"

How can I be sure that it isn't a waste of time?

How can I know that my prayers are effective?

You can't.

Not as far as your intellect is concerned.

For your intellect, prayer remains an open mystery.

Prayer belongs entirely to the realm of faith.

You pray because the Master commands you to pray.

You know that the Father will answer, because Jesus says so.

If you pray and then run out with a yardstick to measure results, you have not prayed in faith.

You are not praying to a machine which can be "operated."

You are not praying to an idol which can be

"manipulated."

You are praying to your heavenly Father who understands every word you say.

Keep your heart fixed on him and trust him for the "results."

And he told them a parable, to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.... "And will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you he will vindicate them speedily."

Luke 18

DAY 63 - EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE...

.....They labor in vain that build it.

We all say, "Amen! How True! Except the Lord build the house."

And then we go right on building the house our way.

At last we stand back and admire what we have built.

And what is it...this thing which we have built?

It's a work of flesh.

"But it's so beautiful, we're tempted to worship it."

It's an idol.

"An idol? How could it be? We built it all in good faith to the glory of God!"

And as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said, "As for these things which you see, the days will come when there shall not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."

Luke 21:5-6

At issue:

Are we asking God's blessing on what we build,
or are we fitting into his program as he builds?

If the Lord is the builder, we are his apprentices.

He makes the plans.

He gives the orders.

We listen and serve as his Spirit empowers us.

That's it. Nothing more.

"But who do you say that I am?"

DAY 64 - ANONYMOUS LIGHTS

They shine

But their names are hidden in the Light of their Master:

...The I AM

...The Incarnate Word

...Jeshua, "God is Salvation"

They ask for nothing.

They won't press you to join their church.

They have no interest in your money.

They engage in no exploitation of any kind.

They simply invite you to open your heart to the Light,

knowing that when you do,

He will guide you to the place He has chosen for you.

He will protect and provide for you.

He will flood your being with a love unknown to this world.

As the Master says: "You will know them by their fruits."

Amid all the noise and confusion of "religion,"

keep an eye open for those Anonymous Lights.

They are sent to you by One greater than themselves.

They point the way to the True Light.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5: 14-16

"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

"Blessed are you, Simon, son of John! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of death shall not prevail against it."

Matthew 16:15-17

DAY 65 - GOD'S VOLUNTEERS

God's Volunteer Army is quite large.

It is also quite useless.

Busy "doing great things for God."

Things which God never told them to do.

Volunteers for God tire easily.

They have tender skin.

They are easily hurt.

They often flare up in anger.

They crave human recognition.

God is not looking for volunteer help. He's looking for obedience.

Obedience.

"Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord,' did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers.'"

Matthew 7:21-23

The living God never fails to make his will known to an obedient heart.

First we draw near to him.

We present our bodies to him as a living sacrifice.

We divest ourselves of the illusions of this world, and renew our minds in his Spirit.

Then, beginning in the place where we are, we fit into God's program.

We wash feet as low-profile servants of heaven.

We pray the Father's kingdom into the lives we touch.

We rejoice in the Lord always, with thankful hearts.

We practice forbearance toward all.

We deny ourselves, take up our cross daily and follow Jesus, by obeying his simple, clear commands in the power of his Spirit.

DAY 66 - LIVING WATER

"Every one who drinks of this (well) will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

And he did.

And she drank.

She left that well, flooded with new life.

Even her enemies could see it.

Out of her heart flowed a river of life which spread through and blessed the entire village.

Jesus spoke --- she listened.

He gave --- she received.

Words which are Spirit and Life.

Words which heal the sick and raise the dead.

When he speaks and you listen,

When he gives and you receive,

You too are flooded with life from the world to come.

You drink his living water by listening---listening with your whole being.

By taking those words into your life by faith.

By doing what he speaks.

Soon those very words become a spring within you.

They keep you refreshed.

They impart strength.

"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

John 4:10

DAY 67 - "SPIRITUAL" OR ALIVE IN GOD?

"I'm a very spiritual person."

Interesting, but what does that mean?

It's quite acceptable these days to consider one's self to be a "spiritual person."

"I meditate.

I get in touch with my inner self.

I open my mind to the unseen world.

I receive "energy" from the "spiritual realm."

I appreciate the good in all the religions of the world.

All this has made me a better person."

But has it ever occurred to you that all this "spirituality" still seems to make no direct, personal connection with the God of the universe?

It's self-absorbed.

It's taken up with itself.

Does it hear God speak?

Does it have any conception of who God is?

Has it ever encountered glory?

Has it experienced Holy Love?

The issue is not about "spirituality."

The issue is about our connection with the God who is Spirit and Life.

Who is holy.

Who is to be worshiped in Spirit and Truth.

Who is to be loved above all other loves.

Who alone can awaken us from spiritual death.

Do we know Him?

Our Father who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven!

Lord Jesus, that I might receive my sight!

Open my eyes to your world....my ears to your life-giving Word!

DAY 68 - WHY DOES GOD ALLOW THIS?

Innocent suffering.

People's lives torn apart by wars they never started.

Hunger, thirst, fear, danger, disease, death---
undeserved.

Why does God allow this?

Our own bad breaks.

Financial hardship.

Sickness.

Broken friendships.

What did I do to deserve this?

**Do not accept an answer to these questions from
anyone but the living God himself.**

Ask him.

Cry out in your desperation.

Bring your weeping and your tears and your rage to
him alone.

*I will take my stand to watch, And station myself on the
tower, And look forth to see what he will say to me,
And what I will answer concerning my complaint.*

And the Lord answered me: "Write the vision; make it

plain upon tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its time; It hastens to the end---it will not lie. If it seem slow, wait for it; It will surely come, it will not delay. Behold, he whose soul is not upright in him shall fail, But the just shall live by his faithfulness." Habakkuk 2:1-4

Fact:

Blessed are those who mourn.

For they shall be comforted.

DAY 69 - BENEATH THE SURFACE

On the surface things look peaceful enough in this part of the world.

No bombs, at the moment.

No screaming masses.

No flag-burning.

People are busy getting on with their lives.

But, beneath the surface, life in this world continues to be what it has always been: **a scene of continuous conflict.**

Every aspect of our lives is a zone of conflict.

Health is the victory of life over death in our bodies.

---but the struggle continues...to the end.

Our environment is the balance of forces in conflict.

---and the atmosphere is thick with pollution.

In the invisible realm the Powers of Darkness strive with the Light of the Crucified and Risen Word.

"When a strong man, fully armed guards his own palace, his goods are in peace; but when one stronger than he assails him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not

gather with me scatters."

Luke 11:21-23

Life makes little sense until you understand that you're living in a war zone.

The major victor has been won, but the battle goes on.

We are daily answering the call of Darkness or the call of Light.

We are serving the Incarnate Truth...or the Ultimate Lie.

We are moving toward Eternal Light...or Darkness of Desolation.

For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places.

Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:12-13

DAY 70 - HARNESSING GOD?

"Send in your seed money, and God will bless you!"

"Why wait for pie-in-the-sky bye-and-bye, you can have those blessings now!"

"God wants his children to travel first class!"

It sounds almost like:

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

....but not quite.

When you come to Jesus for rest, you are not harnessing God. He is harnessing you:

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me."

When you are under his yoke, he is not in your harness, you are in his.

You are fitting into his program.

You are serving him.

You are his disciple.

He is your Lord.

When I try to make God serve my purpose, I am no longer looking to the living God, but to an idol of my own making.

Sometimes we slip into this mode without knowing it, and wonder why we're experiencing dryness of soul.

Until the Spirit of the Lord lovingly calls us to repentance.

Again the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Begone Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'"

DAY 71 - MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE

They hear

They're open to the Living Word who speaks to them and directs their path.

AND I KNOW THEM

They're known

They know that they are known personally by the Shepherd, who calls them by name.

AND THEY FOLLOW ME

They obey

When the Master says, "Let go of that grudge," they do it.

When he says, "Reach out to Lazarus, the needy one at your gate," they obey.

When he says, "Forgive as you have been forgiven," they find that they can do it, and they forgive.

When he says, "Trust me," they put their doubts into his hands.

AND I GIVE THEM ETERNAL LIFE, AND NO ONE SHALL SNATCH THEM OUT OF MY HAND.

They live

They are alive with the life of The World to Come. The Spirit of God is their sustaining breath.

They are in the world, but not of it. The joy of the Lord is their strength.

Many are called, but few are chosen. Matthew 22:14

DAY 72 - A DIVINE SIGN, OR A DEMONIC DISTRACTION?

Satan knows how eager we are for signs....for proof.

He gleefully encourages us to see "signs" in things which are not signs at all.

For false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.. Matthew 24-24

Jesus counsels us to concentrate on one thing: **his word**.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

"Those who hear (truly hear the word) shall live."

"It is the Spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are Spirit and life."

"Every one then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock...."

When God gives you a sign, there will be no mistake. It will be like the lightning flashing from one horizon to the other. You will know!

When the sign of the Son of man appears in the heaven,

everybody will know. All the tribes of the earth will mourn.

Until then there is only one sign that matters:

The Sign of Jonah: The Crucified and Risen One

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign; but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." Matthew 12:38-39

DAY 73 - WHO WANTS TO PLAY CHURCH!

The church scene turns me off!

They're all so refined, self-righteousness written all over their faces.

And God is among those people?

If he is, I'm not interested.

Show me something real.

Show me some people who actually do the stuff Jesus calls for.

Show me some integrity....

And I'll pay attention.

I'll follow those folks around and learn their secret.

I'm ready to give up my empty lifestyle.

I'm ready to commit.

Just lead me to the place where people walk the walk.

***But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!
because you shut the kingdom of heaven against men;
for you neither enter yourselves, nor allow those who
would enter to go in. Woe to you, scribes and
Pharisees, hypocrites! For you traverse sea and land to***

make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.

Matthew 23:13-15

The living God will guide any seeker to the Banquet Hall of the Redeemed.

He will guide you, if you're serious.

The living God will hold accountable every "believer" who, by his hypocrisy, hinders the seeker in his search.

DAY 74 - BUT I HAVE SO LITTLE TO OFFER!

That's all you need.

Five loaves and two fish will do it.

Don't wait until you think you have something "worthy" to offer the Lord.

If you do, you'll be waiting a long time!

God's strength is made perfect in our weakness.

God's power flows most freely through our inadequacy.

And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

II Corinthians 12:7-10

Start where you are right now,

with what you have to offer the Lord at this moment:

Your body as a living sacrifice.

Your mind, turned from itself to the living God.

Your spirit, open for an inbreathing of life from above.

"Lord, here I am.

I place myself under your yoke.

How can I serve, unless you show me the way?

How can I walk the walk of faith, unless you show me what it means to be meek and lowly of heart?"

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are they among so many?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted....

John 6:8-11

DAY 75 - HIS CALLING IS NOT YOUR CALLING...

So why are you wasting time being envious?

Why are you measuring yourself against that person?

That man or woman who speaks with such power,
who gets so much done,
who touches so many lives---
has been called and gifted for a specific work in
God's Vineyard.

Pray the Lord's richest blessing upon that person, but don't
compare yourself with them.

That person's calling is not yours.

All you have to worry about is the calling the Lord has
placed on you,

---the work he has given you,

---in the place where you find yourself by his
sovereign mercy,

---the people he sends across your path for you to
bless.

Our job is to simply fit into the kingdom program in the
place where we are, letting the Lord himself decide where
and when to move us.

If you are not clear about what the Lord has called you to
do, go back to square one, and listen to his ultimate call:

"Follow me."

Take your eyes off all the "successful" ministries, all the "effective" saints, and fix them on the Master.

He alone is our light.

Peter turned and saw following them the disciple whom Jesus loved.....When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!" John 21: 20-22

DAY 76 - COMPLACENCY TOWARD GOD

Our complacency toward God is often hidden from us by our great zeal for our own "godly program."

How can I be complacent toward God, when I'm pouring myself out---

---saving the environment,

---crusading for the right to life,

---uncovering the hidden agenda of a popular cult,

---ministering healing and deliverance to many lives?

The issue is not: How zealous is your ministry?

But: Are you abiding in the Vine?

Have you died to your own agenda so that God can fit you into his?

"Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers.'"

Matthew 7:21-23

For followers of Jesus there is only one valid urgency:

Obedience to the Master's voice.

Every other "urgency" is a distraction, concealing a heart that has become complacent toward God.

"For you say I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing; not knowing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, that you may be rich, and white garments to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen, and salve to anoint your eyes that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and chasten; so be zealous and repent."

Revelation 3:17-19

DAY 77 - MY INTELLIGENCE GETS IN THE WAY OF MY FAITH

I'd like to be able to have the faith of a simple believer,
but I know too much.

I am knowledgeable in the science.

I understand about the Big Bang.

I've studied the origins of religion.

So how can I return to the ignorance of my childhood and
believe...

that Jesus really healed the sick,

that Jesus truly opened the eyes of the blind,

that Jesus fed thousands with five little loaves and a
few fish?

Sorry, but my intelligence gets in the way.

Intelligence? Blocking your faith?

Intelligence has never blocked anyone's faith.

Knowledge of the real world has never blinded any eye to
God's glory.

True science is no threat to apprehending God.

There is only one barrier to genuine faith: Vanity.

"How can you believe, who receive honor one from

another and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?"

Vanity.

When our vanity is gone, our eyes open.

It's that simple.

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

You will find God,

You will have faith,

You will hear the Shepherd's voice...

when you shed your vanity and seek God with a child-like heart.

Then Jesus will heal you in some way---and open your eyes.

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:29

DAY 78 - THE MEEK ONE WITH THE TONGUE OF FIRE

Make sure the Jesus you think you know is the real Jesus.

So many distortions:

"Gentle Jesus, meek and mild"

"Jesus, the revolutionary" ...

"Jesus, the great teacher"

"Jesus, the martyr"

Jesus is none of these things.

He was much more than a martyr.

He was more than a great teacher.

He never wasted his time fighting the powers of this world.

His meekness of heart was—and is---coupled with a tongue of fire.

Don't let others try to tell you who Jesus is.

Get it from his own mouth.

Let him speak and reveal as no one else can.

"I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized

with; and how I am constrained until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division....."

If you draw near to him and listen, his voice will raise you from the dead.

You will know him---and you will know that he knows you.

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yea, Father for such was thy gracious will.

All things have been delivered to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." Matthew 11:25-27

DAY 79 - WHO ARE THE ELECT?

"And will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?"

His elect?

Some are and some aren't?

Who's who?

Where do I fit into this picture?

And if the Lord had not shortened the days, no human being would be saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days. And then if any one says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. False Christs and false prophets will arise and show signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. Mark 13:20-22

Sounds like some people are lucky.

God chose them.

They're the elect.

And the rest? Too bad!

But wait a minute! "Many are called, but few chosen."

i.e. Many are called to the Kingdom Banquet, but only a few respond.

Many are offered the Living Water, but only a few receive it.

Many hear the words of the Lord Jesus, but few do them.

The elect:

Those hear the Word of God and keep it.

Those who answer the call of the Shepherd.

Those who do the will of the Father.

Those who "cry to God day and night."

Those who deny themselves, take up their cross daily and follow the Lord Jesus.

God knows who they are.

God alone.

DAY 80 - "CHURCH" DOESN'T DO IT FOR ME THESE DAYS

"I come out of church as empty as I went in.

I don't know whose fault it is, but it's becoming a waste of time."

---More and more people are expressing this complaint,

....and acting on it.

They're walking away dissatisfied.

When we're among the "walkers," where do we go from here?

Our options:

Forget the whole thing.

Go into your room and pray.

Start shopping for a meaningful fellowship.

Start a "house church," and invite your friends.

The only meaningful act when "church" becomes a "waste of time" is to turn to the Lord himself and ask for direction.

"Where do you want me to go, Lord?"

"Show me the next step."

"I commit myself to follow whatever light you choose to give me."

Once we're committed to the Lord Jesus as his disciples, we are joined, not only to him, but to his Body on this earth.

Whether we like it or not, we are linked to other stumbling saints who, by his Spirit are walking in the light.

None of us survives in isolation.

None of us belongs to the "Me and Jesus" church.

If we are willing, we will be guided to exactly the place in his Body where the Lord Jesus wants us to be.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:5-7

DAY 81 - I'M TIRED OF WAITING

You say God answers prayer.

When?

I've prayed the same prayer for two years, and what happens? Nothing!

It's my daughter.

She was once a disciple.

But now I don't know where she is with the Lord.

Integrity she has. But peace? Joy? Faith?

I'm tired of waiting.

And this is the confidence which we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him. I John 5:14-15

You're tired of waiting?

Then give up your "waiting" and "checking results"---
---and just concentrate on praying.

And he taught them a parable, to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart..... Luke 18:1
Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of

grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you in my name. Hitherto you have asked nothing in my name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. John 16:23-24

Not one prayer that you pray for this child is wasted.

The Father loves her more than you do.

He is using your prayers to flood her with eternal light.

Believe it and keep going.

DAY 82 - MY LIMIT

For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

Matthew 16:26

"Maybe that worked back in Jesus' day, but I see too many people 'losing their lives' for some absurd religion, some hopeless cause.

Sorry, but I have a limit.

I will follow Jesus within reason.

I will take out of his teaching what works for me, and leave the rest."

Jesus never begged anybody to lose their life for him.

He simply stated a fact:

"Whoever would save his life will lose it.

Whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

If you choose to hang on to your life by remaining in your spiritual comfort zone, God himself will not violate your will.

He may remind you that your comfort zone is a dead zone.

He may send an occasional lightning flash of reality across your path.

But he will not violate your will.

Time alone will reveal the wisdom or foolishness of your choice.

When heaven and earth have passed away, these words will still be true:

Whoever would save his life will lose it.

And whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

DAY 83 - WHAT IS TRUTH?

Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

The most destructive pollutant on this earth is the Lie.

Deceit pollutes the air waves, the political process, the realm of nations, family life, church life.

No wonder we're cynical about any statement which claims to be true.

What are they selling?

What's the angle?

We know that the "caring tone of voice" belongs to a trained deceiver.

So where is the truth?

Where are facts I can rely on?

The Truth is not found in facts, it is found only in a Person.

God is Truth.

To meet Truth is to encounter God.

Satan is Lie.

To be deceived is to encounter Satan.

Incarnate truth is found on this earth in one person only.

Meet him and you're looking at light unpolluted by deceit.

Receive his word into your heart, and your blindness ends.

***Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in him,
"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples,
and you will know the truth, and the truth will make
you free." John 8:31-32***

DAY 84 - DISTRACTED

"Salute no one on the road."

We set out with good intentions.

We're focused on what the Master has sent us to do.

When voices begin to call to us from the left and the right.

"Help!"

"Over here!"

"How can you follow Jesus and ignore my plea!"

Legitimate needs.

Good causes.

How can we refuse?

Soon we're so bogged down in "causes" and "programs" and "crusades" that the Master's clear instructions are lost in the confusion.

And when it was day he departed and went into a lonely place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them; but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose."

Luke 4:42-43

Jesus' first priority was his Father's will, not human need.

As he obeyed the Father human needs were met---
the Father's way.

Our first priority is the Master's will.

If we listen and obey, human needs will be met---the
Master's way.

The Pool of Bethesda was crowded with infirmed people.

Jesus picked out one man and healed him.

Didn't he care about the others?

Of course he cared about the others.

But Jesus allowed nothing to distract him from the Father's
direction.

It's the only way to bear fruit that lasts.

DAY 85 - INTIMIDATED BY SCIENCE?

Nothing to fear.

Science explores the "what" of the universe.

That's as far as it can go.

It can never find the "Who" of the universe.

For science, the "Who" does not exist.

The "Who" behind the universe can only be known when he chooses to make himself known.

Though he penetrates all existence with his presence,

Though he upholds, sustains and rules all that is, he cannot be apprehended by humans in their present state.

It is not ignorance that blinds our eyes to his Glory, or deafens our ears to his Truth.

It is vanity....self-idolatry....sin.

The Holy One speaks his revealing, life-giving Word to the heart that is contrite and child-like. At this moment he desires to speak to you.....

"I thank thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hidden these things from the wise and

understanding and revealed them to babes; yea, Father, for such was thy gracious will. All things have been delivered to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." Matthew 11:25-27

Your soul will never find rest by knowing "what" is out there.

It will find rest only when it meets "Who" is out there--and who is closer than your own breath.

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

Draw near to the One who speaks those words, and he will open your eyes to the unseen.

DAY 86 - "PEACE BE WITH YOU"

Sadness.

Existential sadness.

**It weighs down refugee camps and
bombed cities.**

**It seeps under the doors of Wall
Street greed.**

**It eats at the soul of billionaires
and paupers.**

Sadness of the inmost soul.

No wonder he wept over Jerusalem!

**No wonder he shuddered, as he looked
ahead through the centuries, and saw
endless wars.**

So he opened his arms wide,

**received all that sadness into
himself,**

**and took it with him into death, as
he hung on the cross.**

**When he emerged as the Firstborn of
the New Creation, his first words to his**

followers were:

“Peace be with you.”

And their sadness turned to joy.

**Your sadness will end when your spirit
hears those words from his mouth---and
believes them.**

“Peace be with you.”

**No other words from any other
mouth will end your sadness.**

DAY 87 - BUT WHEN THE DREAM ENDS.....

"Everything's going really well right now.

Am I happy about it?

Not really.

It makes me nervous when things go well.

It's a set-up for disappointment.

Just when I begin to feel secure,

Bam!

The dream ends.

I'm back in the valley of despair.

No, it doesn't pay to relax!

**It's better to stay cynical, than be caught by
surprise."**

**To avoid disappointment you lock yourself in a prison
of anxiety?**

Anxiety:

**the fear that tomorrow will not be safe, the fear
that your "dream" will be shattered.**

"Something's going to happen."

You're afraid to live by faith?

Faith:

trust that God knows and loves you...

that he will keep his word,

that he is in control.

"As long as I walk in the light, I'm in God's hands."

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day. Matthew 6:30-34

DAY 88 - RELENTLESS GRACE

Knowing the outcome of evil....

**...the yawning darkness that waits
for those who turn from the light,**

Grace is relentless

God's mercy keeps calling.

"Come!

***This is the door that leads to
Life!***

Come!"

**Yet one thing God's grace will
never do:**

**That grace will never violate your
will.**

**If you choose Darkness, it will
honor your choice.**

**He offers you
forgiveness.**

He offers you Life.

**But he will not force
his mercy on you.**

And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy."

"Behold I am coming soon, bringing my recompense to repay every one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Revelations 22

DAY 89 - KNOWING GOD

And this is eternal life, that they know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. John 17:3

Knowing God.

Not things about God.

Not how God created the universe.

Not what God will do for me if I meet the requirements.

Just knowing God.

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify thy Son that the Son may glorify thee, since thou hast given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom thou hast given him. And this is eternal life: that they know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent."

He gives you eternal life....

By revealing God to your inmost heart.

By revealing himself to you with a living Word, a word spoken directly to you.

If this hasn't happened to you yet, ask for it.

Every one who asks receives.

Once it has happened to you, keep it fresh.

As the holiest, most profound relationship you can ever have with any one, it is up to you to keep your side of the relationship alive.

Enoch knew God as he walked with God.

Abraham knew God as he walked with God.

Peter knew God as walked with Jesus.

Mary Magdalene knew God as she walked with Jesus.

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

i.e. "Walk with me, and you will know God."

DAY 90 - DON'T SAY IT IF YOU DON'T MEAN IT

I surrender all!

I surrender all!

All to thee my blessed Savior,

I surrender all!

We may even have tears in our eyes when we sing it.

But, wait a minute!

All?

All?

Are you sure?

What if he takes you up on this awesome promise?

And passing along by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. Mark 1:16-18

They didn't know what they were getting into.

But they did know what they were leaving behind.

They had given up control of their lives.

They had forsaken the only security they knew.

If this is what you intend to do, don't talk about it,

don't sing about it,

don't "pray about it",

Just do it.

Take the first command of Jesus that applies to your present daily life, and act on it.

i.e. Repent.

Go ask that person for forgiveness.

Dig into your pocket and loosen up on that cash. Break that habit.

Speak to your friend about Jesus without shame.

DAY 91 - WHAT A COINCIDENCE!

Coincidence: "An accidental and remarkable occurrence of events, ideas etc. at the same time, in a way that sometimes suggests a causal relationship."

That book that came into your hands...

That person who suddenly reappeared in your life...

The timing of that phone call.....

What's going on?

Who is behind this strange coinciding of events?

Is the living God at work in this?

Is the evil one trying to distract me?

Was it "just a coincidence?"

For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of the affliction we experienced in Asia; for we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired of life itself. Why, we felt that we had received the sentence of death; but that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead; he delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us; on him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.

II Corinthians 1:8-10

If you are walking with God, nothing is a coincidence.

The Lord is there.

And he knows what's going on, even if you don't.

Whatever happens---usual or unusual---as you go through the day, happens with the permission of the living God.

His presence, even in the darkest hour, is able to transfigure every event into something redemptive.

Practice his presence.

Wait on him.

Trust him.

And you will *mount up on wings like the eagle.*

***"Lo, I am with you all the days, to the end of the age."
Matthew 28***

DAY 92 - THE POWER OF INSIGNIFICANCE

"If you want to get ahead, get noticed!"

It's the way to success in this world.

If you don't figure a way to stand out ahead of the competition, you are doomed to failure.

It's the way to success in Christendom.

If you want them to listen to your message, rise above the crowd and get their attention.

But the authentic Kingdom of God turns this world's wisdom upside-down:

And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." Mark 10:42-45

God's redemptive power moves through the despised and rejected Lamb...

"who had no form or comeliness, that we should look at him, and no beauty, that we should desire him."

Those who follow him, do things his way.

"....Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit...."

Die to yourself.

Become insignificant.

*And a new creation will rise within you,
blazing with the power of the world to come.*

Power to heal.

Power to set the captives free.

DAY 93 - THE PRAYER OF A SEASONED SAINT:

"Help me, Lord! I don't know what I'm doing!"

The prayer of a new believer:

"Help me, Lord! I don't know what I'm doing!"

The prayer of a hypocrite:

"I thank thee, Lord, that I have my act together!"

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

The closer your walk with the Lord Jesus, the more conscious you are of your absolute helplessness without him.

"Spiritual growth" is often thought of as arriving at an "elite level" in God's order.

True spiritual growth takes place under the yoke with the Master.

As we labor at his side, taking direction from him, he teaches us the essential lesson of the kingdom:

To be meek and lowly in heart---like he is.

To find true rest for our soul by giving up our agenda for his.

There is no other way.

"You search the scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness to me; yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. I do not receive glory from men.....How can you believe, who receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?"

John 5:39-44