

Readings to Inspire Dedication to the Heavenly Calling

BE BOLD! BELIEVE!

OUR GUIDE FOR A KINDER WORLD

**Inspirational Reflections
for Every Day of the Year**

Gary Britton

A Sponsors of Hope Publication

Be Bold. Believe!

“Narrow minded, inflexible church going fanatics turn young people away from God. But young people are not really against God. They are just against the false image of God created by these religious fanatics!

We speak to the young in spirit of all ages. We want to help them see that God is not a cruel tyrant and that not everything fun or pleasurable is sin.” (p.405)

That’s what this book is all about.

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A Sponsors of Hope Publication

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“For a kinder world.”

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*This book is dedicated to the
Sponsors of Hope volunteers who have
unselfishly given of their time and talents
in loving service to others over the years.*

Great is your reward in Heaven.

*“In as much as ye have done it
unto one of the least of these My brethren,
ye have done it unto Me.”*

(Matthew 25:40)

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INTRODUCTION

In India an elephant was brought before five blind men. One touched the elephant's side and said, "The elephant is like a wall." Another touched his leg and said, "No, the elephant is like a tree." The third man touched the elephant's ear and said the elephant was like a palm leaf. The fourth touched his trunk and said, "The elephant is like a snake." The last blind man touched his tail and said, "The elephant is like a rope."

All five were right. But only the guy with his eyes open can put all the pieces together and see the elephant like he really is!

The same holds true for God.

God is so big, so beyond our human comprehension that none of us will ever be able to see Him fully as He is, comprehend Him, or appreciate Him, neither in this life, nor in the one to come.

Knowledge of God and His kingdom have been the subject of study by countless since the beginning of time and can be likened unto a jewel: A jewel of the most precious kind. A jewel, priceless and rare. A multi faceted treasure.

We offer you here a few of those facets.



January

Serving God is not some big spiritual experience of living up in the clouds, feeling holy and pure and better than everyone else.

Serving the Lord is having a close and dear friend walking beside you, helping you along the way as you go through life.

JANUARY 1

A NEW YEAR

It's a new year. We need new calendars.

Aside from that, not much is special about today other than we eat more, we watch football, and have more people nursing hangover headaches than any other day of the year.

It's New Year's Day.

Hopefully we have learned a few things this past year: Things that have made us wiser, better. Hopefully we grew closer to the Lord and to our family.

Hopefully we will grow even closer this year.

Affirmation:

I am going to make a real effort to get to know the Lord and His Word better this year.

- - -

“Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.” (Philippians 3:13)

IF I HAD...

Many people think if they had a mate they would be happy.

Or if they had a better job they would be happy.

Or if they had a child, lived somewhere else, had more money, a bigger house, or a better education, or if they didn't have so many problems they would be happier.

People find all kinds of excuses to not be happy. Happiness doesn't depend on things or circumstances.

The way to be happy... Is to not think about the things that make you unhappy!

Happiness is a choice.

If you want to be happy, BE!

Affirmation:

I am happy because I have God's love in my heart and His presence in my life.

- - -

"Happy is that people whose God is the Lord."
(Psalms 144:15)

JANUARY 3

WE ALL SPEAK IT

We all need love. We all understand loving concern.

We may not speak a foreign language, but there is one universal language everyone speaks, everyone understands. Love transcends borders, cultures, and age.

We don't have to all agree on politics. We don't all have to see eye to eye on religion, social issues, or sports.

But we can love. We can be loving in our dealings with others.

Gentle, tender, respectful.

Tolerant, patient, and accepting.

Caring, sharing, and kind:

LOVE.

Affirmation:

I am loving and considerate of others in my dealings with them.

- - -

“Let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loves is born of God, and knows God.” (1 John 4:7)

UNDER YOUR NOSE

Many people are looking in the wrong places.

People are looking for love. They are looking for something better. But often, very often, what we seek is closer than we think.

God is good. And He has promised to supply ALL of our needs.

So, if you think you are lacking something, look up and ask the Lord to help you see things like He sees them.

What you are looking for may just be there right under your nose!

Affirmation:

I know you want and have the very best for me, Lord, and I thank You for being so good to me.

- - -

“Open Thou mine eyes that I may see.” (Psalms 119:18)

HOW IT WORKS

You see it all the time: Someone is big one day, and the next they have been reduced to nothing.

They become rich and famous, and haughty and arrogant. But then they say or do something wrong, and down they come!

Politicians, heads of state, dictators, and presidents are suddenly assassinated. Big Wall Street bankers and titans of industry end up in prison for fraud.

Very few people are able to handle fame and fortune and the praise of man without taking the glory to themselves. And God doesn't like it when we are proud and self-satisfied, boastful and arrogant.

The Bible says, "The high places shall be brought low."

That's how it works!

Affirmation:

Everything I am and have comes from You, Lord, and without You I am nothing.

- - -

"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (1 Corinthians 10:12)

IN GOD'S TOMORROW

Time shall be no more.

There will be no more sadness or pain, nor sorrow, broken dreams or Internet connections.

Email will be obsolete, wifi unnecessary, no more computers, and no one will care.

We will have nutritious food, be able to bathe in every stream, and sleep under the stars.

Everyone will be pretty, all will be healthy, no one will take himself too seriously, or react in a huff.

There will be fun things to do, pleasures galore, and every day a party. The perfect place where mosquitoes don't bite, all wrongs are made right, no one will frown and all will have smiles.

We'll find time for our neighbor, feel content in our labor, and learn new things each day.

We will have learned to love, in God's tomorrow... Where time shall be no more!

Affirmation:

I know the day is coming, and it's going to be good!

“He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” (Isaiah 2:3-4)

THE ANSWER

God's Word says that in order "to build and to plant" we have to first "root out, and pull down, to destroy and to throw down." (See Jer. 1:10)

And that is what we are doing: destroying the false teaching that has been foisted upon humanity now for centuries, tearing down people's misconceptions of what God is like, and helping them get free from the grip religion has on them.

True religion is not a harsh, hateful, controlling, guilt tripping God that tries to make people conform to a set of inflexible rules.

True religion is not about rules.

True religion is about love: A voluntary giving of oneself to God and to our fellow man.

Love is the answer. Love is the way.

God is love.

His love will rule and reign... In the end.

Affirmation:

I have found the answer to life's questions and freedom from the bondage of religious rules in the simplicity of God and His love.

- - -

"Know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge that ye might be filled with the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:19)

ACHIEVING YOUR DREAM

Ideas are cheap.

All of us have great ideas, but that doesn't make us special.

That's why if you are looking for someone to back your idea, other than your mother, it's probably not going to happen!

Hard work is what counts.

And it's only with hard work, day in and day out, and with the Lord's help...

That you can make your dream come true!

Affirmation:

I am not sitting around waiting to be *discovered*. I make things happen in my life.

- - -

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might.”
(Ecclesiastes 9:10)

BEACONS

Where are the beacons in this world?

So many people out there seek their own glory. So many voices sing their own praise. So many flakey and superficial people are idolized and held up as role models.

But where are the beacons? Where are the people we can really look up to and admire?

Mother Teresa was a beacon of love. She was a beacon of compassion.

Mother Teresa didn't live a life of self exaltation, but a life of service. She spent her entire life helping the poorest of the poor. Yet most of her good deeds went unnoticed, known only to God.

Mother Teresa was and always will be a true beacon to the world.

Affirmation:

I am a good example of God's love and kindness to the people in my life.

- - -

“When you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto Me.” (Matthew 25:40)

THE MIDDLE ROAD

Can you have too much of a good thing?

Too much sugar is bad. Too much salt. Too much sun is bad. Eating in excess is not good.

Almost everything in excess is not good.

Even exercising.

Things in excess also seem to be the cause of many of the world's problems:

Too much work.

Too much leisure.

Too much worry.

Too much waste.

The Bible tells us to be moderate in all things.

MODERATION is God's secret to health, well being, and happiness.

Affirmation:

I avoid excesses in my life and walk the middle road of moderation in gratitude to You, Lord.

“The fruit of the spirit is... temperance.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

“I HAD FUN”

A famous actor died recently. And in describing his life, his last words were, “I couldn’t have had more fun.”

You hear that frequently these days.

Life for many people has been reduced to just having fun: eating, drinking, traveling, flaunting their money, and having a good time.

Many wealthy people have set that poor example by spending exorbitant amounts of money on cars, houses, throwing parties, as well as many frivolous pursuits. “Living the good life,” they call it.

When we come to the end of the road the Lord is going to ask us all, “What did you do with your life?”

Only what we do to help others will last. We’re not sure saying “I had fun” will cut it!

Affirmation:

I spend my time helping others and doing things that are truly worthwhile.

- - -

“Labor not for things that won’t last, but rather labor for those things that are eternal.” (John 6:27)

THIS PRISON WORLD

We are living in a prison world.

Many people are slaves to their jobs. They have little to look forward to as far as change.

Many on Earth live in poverty. They live in a prison of perpetual need, while the rich live in ivory towers and are in constant fear of losing their riches.

Many people are prisoners of their health. Others are imprisoned by the fear of death. Almost the entire human race lives in fear of one kind or another.

Entire nations live in fear: Fear of their neighbors. Fear that the other guy will use his nuclear weapons first.

The saddest part is that man himself is largely to blame. These prisons were created in man's own mind. These chains that bind man exist only in his head.

We ourselves built the walls that separate us from our fellow man.

But only LOVE can break them down.

Affirmation:

God has set me free from the chains of this world through His love.

- - -

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed." (John 8:36)

WHO CARES?

Some people worry a lot about what people think. They worry about what people say.

But as we get older we realize that most people are so busy with their own lives that they don't care about you or what you do.

We waste so much of our time worrying about what people think that it keeps us from doing many things. We hold back. We limit ourselves. We need to stop that.

As long as we are doing the right thing, and as long as we are doing the loving thing, we don't have to fear what others think. Who cares?

God knows. God sees.

And that's all that matters!

Affirmation:

I do the right thing and it doesn't matter what people say.

“We ought to do what's right in the sight of God.” (Acts 4:19)

IF

If you are faithful to read the Word,
and tell others about the Lord,
and walk in love,
and pray...

You will grow in the Lord.
You will find strength that you knew not of.

And God will never fail to protect you,
and supply all your needs,
and care for you.

Period!

Affirmation:

I pray, I read the Word, and I find ways to be a blessing to
others.

- - -

“Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God.”
(Micah 6:8)

NOW OR NEVER

People work hard to build up their businesses. Others invest in the stock market. They want to make a lot of money.

People live as if this world were going to last forever. They get so caught up in the things of this present life. They work and labor and sacrifice for things that will not last, things that will be soon forgotten.

We go through this life but once, and NOW is the only time we have to build for eternity. Now is the only chance we'll get to invest in souls: Living souls who will be our friends forever in the world to come.

It's now or never.

The only time we have is NOW!

Affirmation:

I am investing in eternity and things that will last.

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon Earth, but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven.” (Matthew 6:19-20)

THE PATH TO PEACE

We see a lot of division in the world: opposing political beliefs, different religious views, gaps between generations, peoples, and nationalities.

Tension, strife, and disunity are tearing families, neighborhoods, and countries apart. All this fussing, fighting, and arguing is not solving anything. It's only making us sadder and sadder!

We all basically want the same things, and we have so much more in common than the things that we are letting divide us.

The solution is to start focusing on those things and be grateful for our many blessings. Only then will we see things in their proper perspective and be empowered to solve our problems and bring about change.

God blesses unity, people working together, living in harmony and peace with each other. Nothing else will ever truly solve man's problems!

Spread the WORD!

Affirmation:

I dwell on the many positive things we all have in common.

“God is not the author of confusion, but of peace.”

(1 Corinthians 14:33)

FRIENDSHIP

Friendship's a funny thing isn't it?

There are people that you just like from the start. And people who seem to like you.

And then there are others who no matter how hard you try, for some reason just won't let you be their friend. Why is that?

Maybe we aren't meant to be really close friends with just everybody. Maybe that's what makes friends so special, their uniqueness.

A true friend will stand beside you no matter what. Jesus is that kind of friend.

He loves us, not for anything we have done, but because HE is the embodiment of love itself, the Spirit of the loving Creator of the universe.

God's love is the cement that binds friends and sustains a true friendship.

May we be loving, patient, and kind to those we love, and to those who love us... TRUE friends.

Affirmation:

I am a true friend and am there for people when they really need me.

- - -

"There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."
(Proverbs 18:24)

GOD KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING

One of the biggest lessons we have to learn in life is to wait for God to work.

God has His times, and if we try to rush things and push our way through we may end up not being happy with the results.

Most of us get impatient. Most of us seem to think we know better than God. We want things right now!

But God's condition is clear: Put Him first, and then, after you have done THAT, He will give you the desires of your heart.

God knows what's best.

Wait on Him.

Affirmation:

I wait on the Lord, I trust in Him, and let Him do things in His timing.

“No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.” (Psalms 84:11)

BE GRATEFUL

May we always be grateful for our many blessings.

May we always thank the Lord for every bite we eat, and for having a place to lay our heads.

May we never take for granted our loved ones and friends, because everything can be lost in an instant.

Life is full of surprises, and in this world of uncertainty you never know what's going to happen next.

Lord help us to remember that.

And always, always be grateful!

Affirmation:

I am grateful for everyone and everything in my life and take nothing for granted.

- - -

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.”

(Psalms 100:4)

DON'T HANG UP!

Most people seem to think that prayer is venting to God and letting Him know what they want and think. But prayer is really more about hearing what God has to say to us.

We can begin by talking to the Lord, telling Him our concerns and worries. But the time should come when we stop talking, and instead of hanging up on Him, give Him a chance to speak.

Samuel in the Old Testament had it right when he said, "Speak Lord, for thy servant heareth."

We all have two ears and one mouth. And that's the proportion we should use them in when it comes to prayer. If we do we won't be disappointed.

God does answer prayer. And He WILL answer yours. But you're going to have to quiet your own spirit first and,

LISTEN to what He has to say!

Affirmation:

I stop the noise all around me, Lord. I quiet my spirit, and seek You in prayer.

- - -

"The Lord speaks in a still, small, voice." (1 Kings 19:12)

LIKE A TREE

Trees are nice things.

Trees provide shelter from the sun, refuge for animals, and surrender their fruits to man.

Birds like them. Carpenters need them, and children play in them.

A tree spreads its arms upward in continual praise to God as a silent testimony of His goodness.

Who doesn't like trees?

May we be like trees, deeply rooted in God's love, so that we may be a blessing to many!

Affirmation:

I am yielded to You, Lord, and am letting You use me for Your glory.

- - -

“He shall be like a tree... and whatever he does shall prosper.”
(Psalms 1:3)

AT DEATH'S DOOR

One time I almost died.

And as I lay there at death's door I saw how most of the things we place value on in this life are just not important.

We really do have our sense of priorities mixed up. We don't see things as God sees them.

Facing death, I saw that everything we strive for, everything we get all worked up about and sacrifice for just doesn't matter in the world to come.

I saw at that precise moment how blessed I was. I saw how good I had it in this life.

I also realized that it was really easy to please God. And I knew that all He was asking of me was to be happy, to be grateful, and to help others do the same.

How cool is that!

That's what I learned that day. The day I almost died.

Affirmation:

Thank You for making it easy to please You, Lord, and for the wonderful life You have given me.

"We brought nothing into this world. Having food and clothing may we be content." (1 Timothy 6:7-8)

WATCH OUT!

It's so silly to hold grudges.

Some people hold grudges for years. It's ridiculous.

Bitterness will get you nowhere. The past is past. And dwelling on the past will only rob you of the joy of today.

Bitterness destroys you more than anyone else, because it pumps its poison into your body as well as your soul.

The only way out of the dead end of bitterness is to start counting your blessings and be grateful for what you have.

So, stop your whining! Stop feeling sorry for yourself and pretending to be the victim.

God hates murmuring!

If you complain long enough, He may really give you something to whine about.

You better watch out!

Affirmation:

I am not living in the past, and I do not complain or give place to grudges and bitterness.

- - -

“Do all things without murmurings.” (Philippians 2:14)

SPACED OUT!

Space is out there and is a never ending eternal testimony of God's greatness.

They say this star, or that planet, or galaxy is a million light years away, or a billion! Astronomical numbers and distances so big that it's hard to even wrap your brain around them!

It must be cool to be able to look into the universe through one of those big telescopes.

Maybe the only reason space exists is because God intended it to show us His incredibly awesome magnificence.

When you only begin to grasp its size, when you only start to have the most minimal sense of the vastness and enormity of space, that isn't even a drop in the bucket of what's really out there. It is so incredibly beyond our grasp and our comprehension. And that's what God intended.

Space is there to give us an idea of the unfathomable greatness of God!

Affirmation:

I look up at the stars and the moon and praise the Lord for His never ending mercy, love, wisdom, and might.

"The heavens declare the glory of God." (Psalms 19:1)

IMAGINE

Man spends trillions of dollars on war, security, and defense, every year!

Imagine how the world would be if even half that amount of money went to building hospitals, parks, and schools.

Imagine how everything would change if everyone was fed, clothed, and warm.

With that kind of money we could free man from the burden of poverty, ease the agony of uncertainty, sleep at night without fear, and all smile once again. Imagine that!

People tell me that isn't realistic. They say it's impossible. They insist it can't be done.

They say we are dreamers.

We are.

Affirmation:

It can be done. We can do it together!

- - -

“To him that believeth ALL things are possible.”

(Mark 9:23)

SEEING THE INVISIBLE

We know the wind exists, because we see what it does. Although we can't see the wind, we see it blowing through the trees.

But we have to open our window if we want to feel it.

Likewise it is when we open our hearts to God and His love that we begin to see Him in our lives moving behind the scenes and working for our good.

God and the spirit world exist, even though we cannot see either of them.

But we can know them...

If we just open the windows of our hearts!

Affirmation:

I keep my heart open to God and His love.

"If any man open the door I will come in to him."

(Revelation 3:20)

CONTROL FREAKS

Parents feel frustrated because their children don't do what they want. Wives get frustrated with husbands. Husbands with wives. Kids with their parents.

We want our computers to work perfectly, our cars to run smoothly, our jobs to be ideal, and for everyone to agree with us and our way of doing things and seeing things.

We want everything our way all the time. And we get bent out of shape when we don't get it.

So many problems in life come from our trying to control others. We really are becoming control freaks.

We all need to let go and trust that God is in control of our lives!

Affirmation:

I give You control of my life, Lord, and let You use me to be a blessing to others.

- - -

“He must increase, but I must decrease.” (John 3:30)

WHO CAN YOU TRUST?

In this world nowadays it seems like everything is becoming disposable, including relationships.

You see it everywhere: people turning on each other. Politicians do it. Even life long friends will suddenly get mad at each other, often over the most trivial of things and call it quits.

Unscrupulous dealings in business are commonplace. Cheating in academics, sports, and romance are widespread. People are growing colder. Who can you trust? Who can you rely on any more?

When this old world has nothing left to offer, you will still have Jesus. When all others forsake you, He will still be there by your side.

You've tried everything else. Try Him.

Ask Him into your life and He WILL come in and help you, show you. His love is never ending.

Only God will never let you down!

Affirmation:

I trust in Thee, Lord. I give You my all, my everything. Thy will be done in my life.

- - -

“He is no fool who gives a life he cannot keep, to gain a love he will never lose.”

NEW BEGINNINGS

As we grow older we have to go slower. We find that we sometimes don't have the energy or stamina we used to have.

At first it's hard to accept. But then as we adjust to it we see it as the blessing that it is.

We start to see things we missed in our haste. We take time for things we didn't even notice before. And we appreciate some things more.

As we begin new stages in our lives, let's look forward to the opportunities, experiences, and new beginnings that await us.

Let's take some things more in stride, and stop and take time to see the beauty that surrounds us.

Affirmation:

I accept these changes in my life and embrace them as new opportunities for spiritual growth.

- - -

“Get wisdom. Get understanding. Forsake them not.”
(Proverbs 4:5)

GOOD OR BAD?

People seem to be confused when it comes to pride. Is pride a good thing? Or is it bad?

It's ok to be proud of your children when they do something good. We all have a sense of pride in our work, or should.

But when it comes to a high and haughty attitude, that type of pride is not good. Pride and arrogance and contentious spirits are not of God. Nor is a hard unforgiving spirit.

Satan's sin was pride and rebellion. And when we are proud we are reflecting him.

Our God is love. And the fruits of living in His presence are love, meekness, joy, goodness, and a peaceful spirit toward others.

There are two paths. The choice is ours.

Affirmation:

I choose the path of humility and dependence on Thee, O Lord.

- - -

“A meek and humble heart Thou, Lord, will not despise.”
(Psalms 51:17)

TAKE THE PLUNGE

Communication is everything.

People today are starving for real, deep, and heartfelt communication.

Fear has a grip on some people and keeps many from opening up.

But where there is love there is no fear, because fear and love cannot reside in the same place at the same time.

Make an effort to talk with your mate, your child, your friend. Make yourself vulnerable and communicate from your heart.

Take the plunge.

And you will inspire others to do the same!

Affirmation:

I am open and share my feelings with my loved ones.

“To do good and communicate forget not.” (Hebrews 13:16)



February

*We all need to be forgiven so much.
How can we not be patient with others?*

THINGS ARE NOT AS THEY SEEM

It's so easy to think we know more than others, to think we could do things better. We are often critical and harshly judge people for the job they are doing. Why is that? I guess it is just human nature.

They say that ninety percent of an iceberg is under water. We see only a fraction of it.

So it is with most things in life. We often think we see the whole picture when we only see a small part. We are tempted to think we know so much about some things when we can't begin to appreciate the sacrifice, the labor, the blood, sweat, and tears that have gone into them!

We all need to be forgiven for so many things. Each one of us really needs to remember a few of the mistakes we ourselves have made, and not be so demanding.

Lord help us to be more loving, more understanding, and more accepting of others!

Affirmation:

I know I don't see everything. I wait until You, Lord, show me the complete picture.

- - -

"If any man thinks he knows anything, he knows nothing as he should." (1 Corinthians 8:2)

GOING TO HELL?

We don't believe that anyone is "going to hell" for not keeping a whole bunch of rules!

A lot of people are big on this: "Do this, do that, or you'll go to hell, etc." But did you know that nowhere in the Bible does it even say that?

God will forgive any sin. And many things we are taught as sins aren't even sins in the first place. The Bible says the only thing that will not be forgiven us, the only thing that God cannot forgive, is rejection of Him!

We believe that hell is being far from God's presence. After all, if God is love, then to be far away from Him would sure be hell! And the only way to get there is by outright rejection of God and His love.

Pleasing God isn't hard. Don't worry about being *good enough* for God. Just love Him, and you'll have nothing to worry about.

Pretty simple, isn't it?

Affirmation:

Thank You, dear Heavenly Father, for being so gracious, merciful, and loving though none of us deserve it.

"He that loveth hath fulfilled the law." (Romans 13:8)

IT STARTS WITH YOU

We should ALL be on a journey of self improvement. Bookstores have entire sections devoted to this subject, so a lot of people are reading them. But the majority of us aren't.

We can whine and complain all we want, and we can see ourselves as *victims*, but what does that accomplish. Doing nothing gets us nowhere. Only a proactive attitude can bring about change. But that change must first come from within.

Your circumstances don't determine where you can go. They merely determine where you start. You do have the power to change the world: YOUR world, your family and friends, the world you live in. But you are going to have to start with yourself.

Ask God to give you His love for those around you. And ask Him to show you the areas YOU need to change in.

You'll be a lot happier!

Affirmation:

God is changing me and making me into what He wants me to be.

- - -

"I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me."
(Philippians 4:13)

DEEP DOWN INSIDE!

Have you noticed how people when they find themselves in imminent danger cry out to God? People who otherwise would not be caught praying, do so when they get scared.

That just goes to show how deeply ingrained in our beings the certainty of God is.

Man's longing for love is a longing for God, a yearning to be reunited with Him. One that will never be satisfied any other way, no matter how many things of this temporal transitory life we throw at it.

Only God can satisfy that longing in your heart. Only He and His love can ever fill that aching void.

He's waiting. But He won't force Himself upon you. If you open your heart to Him, He will most certainly come in and reveal Himself to you in a unique and special way.

Then you will KNOW He is real...

Deep down inside!

Affirmation:

Help me to know You, Lord, very up close and personal.

"Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you." (Jam. 4:8)

WE HAVE A LOT!

We all have a lot to be thankful for, yet we often find ourselves complaining. Lord help us!

All you have to do is look at the world today with its famines, wars, natural disasters, and plagues to realize how much you have to be grateful for.

If you have food in your belly, clothes on your back, and a place to lay your head, you're richer than many people on this planet. And if you have someone in your life who loves you, you are richer than a king!

Let's not be heard to murmur and complain. It must grieve God's heart to hear us complain when He has been so good to us.

We are mightily blessed.

And we have a LOT to be grateful for!

Affirmation:

I count my blessings and am grateful for my life and the people and things I have in it.

"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits."
(Psalms 68:19)

HE WILL!

If God exists why doesn't He do something?
You hear people saying that all the time.

After natural disasters, during wars, in times
of social upheaval, illness, and death they blame
God. "Why doesn't God do something?"

Why doesn't He?

Because God has given man free will to do as
he pleases. And all of the problems we face today
are the accumulated effect of man's lack of love
toward his fellow man.

Be patient. God does exist.

And soon He WILL do something!

Affirmation:

God is in control and everything is playing out according to
His plan.

- - -

"For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and
will not tarry." (Hebrews 10:37)

SAY "I LOVE YOU"

We saw a TV show where two brothers were really close but were afraid to hug or say they loved each other.

This show painted saying "I love you" to someone we care about as a weakness, something that somehow *real* men just don't do!

Look at what we have become. This world certainly is ass-backwards.

God is our anchor and His Word is our light. And we sure need both in this world that is so confusing and where so many people don't seem to know up from down anymore. As the Bible says, "calling light dark, and darkness light."

God is love. He shows us that He loves us in so many ways. God continually tells us, "I love you." We should also say "I love you" to those we love.

Real men DO say "I love you"!

Affirmation:

Love and showing affection are of God. They are not weaknesses.

- - -

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil."
(Isaiah 5:20)

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

Food is good. A steak is great.

But also eat plenty of fruits and vegetables, and don't forget nuts, whole grains, and fish when you can.

Sugar substitutes are deadly. Dietary supplements are risky.

Limit white sugar, refined foods, and things with all those chemicals.

That's what we think. This is what works for us.

Above all, avoid excesses. Moderation is the key to good health.

And before you eat,

Don't forget to ask God to bless your food!

Affirmation:

I eat healthy and generally try to avoid excesses, and God blesses my efforts.

- - -

“Let your moderation be known to all men.” (Philippians 4:5)

WHICH DO YOU DO?

Did you know that the religious fanatics criticized Jesus the most? They called Jesus a sinner! They still criticize people nowadays.

Surely you have had the unpleasant experience of being told that something you were doing was a “sin”, and that “God didn’t like it”. They judge you in the name of God!

But Jesus didn’t condemn the average person. Jesus only condemned the self righteous, holier than thou religious fanatics of His day. That’s why they ended up killing Him, because He exposed them for the hypocrites that they were.

Jesus’ whole message was that we should love each other. By HIS EXAMPLE He taught us to love, not to condemn.

How sad it is that some people STILL haven’t figured that out!

Affirmation:

I follow Jesus’ example and as much as possible show love. I do not criticize anyone.

“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children.”
(Ephesians 5:1)

MAKE TIME!

We find time in our busy lives for all sorts of things. But we find so little time for God and things of the Spirit. Almost anything and everything is more important than Him!

We exclude God by keeping ourselves busy with other things: Temporal things, frivolous things, all kinds of things take first place in our lives. Things we want to do. Things we think we have to do. Things that won't last.

We give Him whatever time we have left over, if any at all. How can we expect God to bless us when we exclude Him?

No wonder our lives unravel.

“God doesn't want our SPARE time. God wants our PRECIOUS time!”

Affirmation:

Heavenly Father, I give You first place in my life, my home, and my heart.

- - -

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.”

(Mark 12:30)

EMBRACING DEATH

Death is not a bad thing. It's our graduation!
And just as birth is a joyful event, death can also be if you have the Lord.

We all have a certain apprehension regarding death, especially if we think about any pain that might come along with it. But death is inevitable, and it pays to face our fears and discuss them openly.

Many people who have had near death experiences state that they saw a bright light and felt God as a warm, welcoming, loving presence. They weren't afraid. They felt so good, that they didn't even want to come back!

So don't be afraid of death. Death is not the end. It is only the beginning! A mere stepping stone to all the pleasures and blessings of God.

It will be your day of glory, if you have made peace with God...

And are now living in HIS love!

Affirmation:

I know that death will be my graduation into the next life and I have nothing to fear.

- - -

"Death is swallowed up in victory." (1 Corinthians 15:54)

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

The world is a mess. There is no disputing that. But there's still a lot of beauty around us. There is a lot of good in this world.

God's beautiful creation surrounds us as an everlasting testament of His presence and love.

Many people live unselfishly, thinking of others, working to make the world a better place. Many products make our lives easier. Many projects give us hope for tomorrow.

So if sometimes you feel discouraged, if sometimes everything you see depresses you, remember:

What you see, depends a lot on what you're looking for.

Look for the GOOD!

Affirmation:

I look on the positive side of things and see the good and beauty that surrounds me.

“What things are good, pure, lovely, and of good report... dwell on these.” (Philippians 4:8)

TIRED OF WAITING?

We have all grown so used to things getting done right here and right now.

We expect God to answer us immediately. But God doesn't work that way. He takes time to make a flower, a little baby, or a sunset. He is seldom in a hurry.

It's hard to wait. Waiting shows faith and real trust that God is in control and that He knows what's best.

A lot of people get bored with waiting for God to work in their lives. But the fact is God is waiting for them! God is waiting for them to start **DOING** something.

Get busy and stay busy loving and helping others, doing good in some way while you are waiting for God's answer.

THAT'S the kind of person who gets mightily blessed by the Lord.

Affirmation:

I am doing what I know I can today, and know that God will take care of the rest in His perfect time.

“Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men.” (Galatians 6:9-10)

LOVE ABOVE ALL

Before you start your day, before you rush into your job, your worries, your life...

Remember: In everything we do God wants us to show love to each other. That's the only reason we are here in this life: To learn to love.

Love is the mystery. And love is the reward.

It doesn't matter what others do or say.

What's done with love will last.

We will never regret those things we did for love. We will never feel bad that we chose love. We will never regret the things we did with unselfish sacrificial love for someone else.

Love is stronger than hate.

Forgiveness is more powerful than revenge.

Truth will conquer, ultimately.

God is love. And those who live in love live in God and God in them.

Rest assured, love WILL win, in the end!

Affirmation:

God uses me to help usher in His love here on Earth.

"Tis love the whole world yearns for, and 'tis love that bids them heed Thy call."

LONELINESS

A lot of people are lonely nowadays. People get online looking for love, looking for companionship. Loneliness is killing people.

But we have found there is a really simple cure for loneliness. And that is to get out of yourself and into others.

When we start thinking of others it often makes our own problems seem small. When we get busy trying to help someone else, our own problems just disappear!

It really is that simple.

We all need each other.

And God blesses us when we reach out to others!

Affirmation:

I put others first in my life and am blessed with love and companionship in abundance.

“Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”
(Galatians 6:7)

SHOW APPRECIATION

We all like to feel special. We all like to feel appreciated.

It's really nice when someone appreciates our efforts. We feel good when someone notices the job we are doing, and the sacrifices we make. That encourages us to do an even better job.

So let's make the people we love feel special by showing them that we really appreciate them. Let's show them we care.

It doesn't take much to encourage someone. A word of encouragement goes such a long way...

And can really make someone's day!

Affirmation:

I appreciate the people around me and encourage them to be their best.

- - -

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
(Matthew 7:12)

MODERN MAN

Man wasn't always as unbelieving as he is today. Man wasn't always as rebellious against God.

Many people nowadays say God is a myth, and that man only believes in Him out of ignorance. They paint God as a fairy tale personality, something that anyone with even an ounce of brain can clearly see is not real.

Such is our modern world. Only modern man has rejected God.

But God is as alive today as He ever was. And He works in people's lives as much now as ever.

The only way to know God, is to open your heart and receive Him. Then, you too, will know.

Then, you too, will BELIEVE!

Affirmation:

I know You are with me, Lord, and I thank You for my many blessings.

- - -

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalms 46:1)

READ IT!

Without God's Word you can't have light, or joy, or might. Without God's Word you can't be successful, loyal, or fruitful. Without God's Word you'll never find your place; you'll be unprepared, be lost in space.

You won't go far without it. You'll wear out, you'll give up. If you neglect it, you will regret it.

The secret to God's blessings, the key to God's favor, is living in His Word. The things of this earth will pass away. But God and His Word will live forever.

We will NEVER regret the time we spent reading and studying God's Word.

Affirmation:

Your Word, Lord, is the most important thing in my life, and I make time for it daily.

“Forever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven.”
(Psalms 119:89)

WHERE TO START?

The Bible can be confusing. It is so big you may not know where to begin.

The Bible is unlike other books, other than a dictionary maybe, in that you may not really want to read it all the way through from the beginning.

The gospels are a good place to start. They are at the beginning of the New Testament.

Then you can continue on from there.

Take breaks when you want and read something from the Old Testament. Maybe a Psalm or two, a chapter in Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, or the beginning of Genesis.

Pray a little prayer and ask God to lead you, to speak to you before you start each time. Most people open their Bibles too soon, and close them too soon.

As you get into God's Word you will discover all kinds of cool things. And you will understand how and why it has stood the test of time!

Affirmation:

I love spending time in Your Word, Lord. Through it You show me so many amazing things.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)

BE THAT CHANGE!

What we do day in and day out is what we believe. You can't say you believe in eating healthy if you live on junk food. You don't believe in exercise if you never exercise. You don't believe in helping others if you're not doing something to help those in need. And you can't say you believe in love if you're not loving to those around you.

Good intentions, no matter how noble, have no power to change anything. It is the *doing* that counts. It is only by doing that we can make a difference. We don't become what we say we believe, we become what we do every day.

If you want the world to be more loving, YOU be more loving. If you want the world to be more tolerant, work on being more accepting yourself. This is the only way that we can ultimately make a difference. Change must first come from within. Someone once said: "Be the change you want to see in the world."

Affirmation:

I daily DO the things that will bring about the changes I seek in my life.

- - -

"Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (James 1:22)

LIKE KIDS AGAIN!

What makes a baby so beautiful? Is it the wonder in his eyes? Or is it the innocence of his soul?

A baby sees no evil. He judges no one. He accepts you with a love that is true and pure. A baby hasn't learned to be distrustful yet. A baby hasn't learned to fear.

Jesus said we should be like little children. Jesus said that theirs was the Kingdom of Heaven.

Heaven will be like Disney World, only better: a lot, lot better!

In Heaven we will all be children again, all giggles and smiles.

We will have all learned to trust. We will have ALL learned to love.

Affirmation:

Lord help me to have the innocence, trust, and joy of a little child once again.

- - -

“You, Lord, hide Your secrets from the wise and prudent but reveal them unto little children.” (Matthew 11:25)

A LIFE OF LOVE

When we are young we think life will last forever.

But the years have a way of passing by without our noticing until we have neither the strength nor the opportunities we used to have. And we wonder where our lives went.

We look back at so many of the things that we obsessed over at the time and thought were so important, things we sacrificed for, and we realize they weren't worth it.

We have nothing now to show for them. They are long forgotten by everyone else but us. Must this happen to us all?

We get one shot at life.

Think long and hard about your choices.

Affirmation:

I put God and His love first in my life and in all my dealings with others.

- - -

“Rejoice young man in thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart. But know that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.” (Ecclesiastes 11:9)

LEARNING BY LISTENING

It seems like everybody's talking nowadays. Have you ever been in a room and it seemed like everyone was talking all at once? Funny isn't it!

But you know, you can't learn anything as long as you are talking.

God gave us two ears and one mouth. Lord help us to use them in that proportion. But that takes a real effort. It's not easy sometimes.

I have been trying to talk less and pay more attention to others lately.

And I've been amazed at the things you can learn, if you just observe, and listen!

Affirmation:

I listen more than I talk and I learn more that way.

- - -

"Be not rash with thy mouth... Let thy words be few."
(Ecclesiastes 5:2)

LIFE'S STRUGGLES

So many people are struggling today.
Many have money problems. Others poor health.

A lot of people don't know where to turn.
But God always takes care of His own.
He will always provide for those who seek Him, and unconditionally surrender to Him.
God will do His part. But we've got to do ours.

And our part is to put HIM first!

Affirmation:

You are first in my life and my greatest joy is to please You, Lord.

- - -

“If they obey and serve Him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures” (Job 36:11)

LOVE IS GIVING

They say there are two types of people: givers, and takers.

Selfishness sure seems to be rampant in the world today. No wonder people are unhappy.

But love is all about giving, and when two people give, they both receive.

When we care about someone, we put their happiness above our own.

You can give without love...

But you can't love, without **GIVING!**

Affirmation:

I put other people's happiness above my own, and I am blessed.

- - -

“Freely ye have received, freely give.” (Matthew 10:8)

STRIVE TO BE HAPPY

Happiness is a funny thing. It's so easy at times. Yet at others it's hard.

When we let go of our worries and cares we can't help but be happy. If we only live in the future, we can't really be happy now. And dwelling on the past will keep us on a bumper.

But living in the present and thinking of others is a sure thing to make us glad.

Happiness attracts money, good health, and more happiness. And being happy is a sure fire way to attract the opposite sex!

We don't have a sad God.

We have a happy God who wants us to be happy!

Affirmation:

I am happy and grateful and blessed, and I share that joy with the world.

- - -

“The joy of the Lord is your strength.” (Nehemiah 8:10)

YOUR CHOICE

Negativity is a killer.

Negativity gets you nowhere.

Negativity will bring you down, reduce you to nothing, and ultimately defeat you.

Negativity is contagious, and you must avoid it like a plague.

But being positive has the opposite effect on you! A positive attitude will build you up.

Being positive is a choice that will attract life and love and overcoming into your world!

Positive? or negative? What's it gonna be?

The choice is yours!

Affirmation:

I am positive and speak positively to everyone that I meet.

“Our spirits are contagious. We are either lifting up or beating down. There is no middle ground.”

THE POWER OF LITTLE

Sometimes we feel so small! Sometimes we feel there is not much we can do.

This world has gotten so big and complex. No wonder we feel small at times.

But a little key can open a BIG door.

The tiniest seed can grow into the mightiest tree.

And even a single candle can be seen a mile away in the midst of darkness.

Don't underestimate the influence you have.

Little is much, if God is in it!

Affirmation:

I know that I am strong in You, Lord, and there is nothing that we, together cannot do.

- - -

“When I'm weak then I am strong. For God's strength is made perfect in my weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

WE NEED EACH OTHER

Sometimes it's hard to get along with people.
And some people can really be hard to get
along with!

But it's the people who are in your life right
now that God wants to use to teach you the things
that He wants you to learn.

That's the main reason we are here on this
earth: To learn to love.

And for this... we need each other!

Affirmation:

The people God put in my life are what I need to grow in
grace and in the fruits of His Spirit.

“Let us love one another, for love is of God.” (1 John 4:7)



March

You may wonder if you are in God's will.

*Well, you are in God's will, right now,
right where you are at this very moment.
We all are.*

Now get to work!

MARCH 1

THE REAL ENEMY

The world is getting to be a scary place: so many problems, so much evil.

But you can't get rid of darkness by trying to beat it out.

The only way to get rid of darkness is by letting the light in.

The real enemy in this world is ignorance. The challenge is to enlighten men's hearts and minds. That's our battle.

And that battle will only be won with LOVE.

Affirmation:

I am a bearer of hope and love to a dark and dying world.

“Darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.” (Isaiah 60:2)

MARCH 2

TO FORGIVE IS TO LOVE

Sometimes we are treated unjustly, and it's hard to forgive.

But when we realize that we need to be forgiven for many things, it makes it easier to forgive others.

Only God can give us love to forgive.

Forgiveness isn't a weakness.

Forgiveness is a sign of TRUE strength!

Affirmation:

I forgive those who have mistreated me, because I know I also need to be forgiven for many things.

- - -

“Be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God has forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:32)

MAKING SENSE

Most people place more importance on their cars, their careers, their family, fun, and friends than on God.

They enjoy eating, playing, traveling, and sleeping. They have time for TV, or fishing, drinking, and all kinds of things.

But they spend so little time reading the Bible. Most of them in fact never read it at all! No wonder their lives unravel.

No wonder people feel lost. It's not surprising the sadness, hopelessness, and despair that so many experience. Man cannot find direction in life if he neglects the one compass that can guide his way.

God's Word is as good for us today as it has ever been. Spend more time in it. Read it. Study it. Contemplate it.

And life will start making more sense to you!

Affirmation:

Your Word, O Lord, is my guiding light through this complicated maze of life.

“His delight is in the Word of the Lord, and in His Word doth he meditate day and night.” (Psalms 1:2)

MARCH 4

ONLY GOD UNDERSTANDS

People vote for the rich and famous to be their leaders. They vote for celebrities, lawyers, and even billionaires!

But how can the rich even begin to understand the plight of the poor and the needs of the average person?

No wonder nothing changes.

Only God understands. Only God cares. And only God can lead us all, each one of us along life's path. God alone can fill our needs, give us love, and bring meaning to life.

Don't look to man to solve your problems. Look to God!

Affirmation:

I look to You, dear Heavenly Father, and depend on You for help and guidance.

- - -

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in men." (Psalms 118:8)

MARCH 5

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

If we eat good food we will have strong, healthy bodies. But if we eat a lot of junk, we will pay for it down the line.

We BECOME what we eat.

The same holds true for us spiritually.

We should be careful about the music we listen to, the movies we watch, and the books we read.

If we read, listen to, and watch negative and depressing things, they will become a part of us. And we will reflect their negative values little by little.

But if we fill our eyes and ears with positive and uplifting things, they will have their good effect on us also over time.

We BECOME what we eat!

Affirmation:

I don't waste my time on things that do not help me in a positive way.

- - -

“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth good fruits, and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth evil fruits. For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.” (Luke 6:45)

MARCH 6

JESUS IS ALL ABOUT LOVE

Did you know that many of the things religions teach us nowadays never even came from Jesus and His teachings? In fact, Jesus' entire message can be summed up in one word: LOVE.

He taught us to love God, put God first in our lives, and to love our neighbor, those around us. This is Jesus' simple message. And it is as good for us today as it was for people back then in His day.

Jesus isn't religion. Jesus is love. And God's ONLY LAW is love.

Imagine what the world would be like if everyone only lived by Jesus' SIMPLE rule!

Affirmation:

I know I don't need to worry about keeping a whole bunch of rules. I just need to be loving.

"All the law is fulfilled in one thing: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Galatians 5:14)

SOME DAY

Everything God does is done with love. Sometimes He gives us something, and sometimes He takes something away from us. But whatever He does, He does it with love; even though sometimes at the moment we don't understand what He is doing.

His ways are not our ways.

Only God sees ahead. Only He knows the entire plan. Only God is wise.

And we would be wise to trust Him and believe that He knows best: that ALL things are for our good, eventually.

Some day we WILL see that He was right.

Some day we will see the happy ending.

Some day we will see His love in the things that we do not NOW understand.

Affirmation:

I never regret having put my trust in Him.

“If you give good things to your children, how much more will your Heavenly Father give good things to them that ask Him?” (Matthew 7:11)

EAT THAT ELEPHANT!

How do you know you can't do something, if you've never done it?

We have learned that you can do pretty much anything, if you just do it ONE step at a time. Like someone said, "How do you eat a whole elephant? One bite at a time!"

Whenever you feel like you can't do something, remember, it's probably because of the limitations you yourself create. Just the fact that you've never done something doesn't mean you can't do it.

So next time you want to do something, and you are not sure if you'll be able to do it, remember that if we are working with God, anything is possible!

You can tackle any *elephant*, any big job, any thing that seems impossible.

If you just do it...

One step at a time!

Affirmation:

I can do anything, because I walk hand in hand with God.

"All things are possible to him that believeth!" (Mark 9:23)

MARCH 9

AS SURE AS THE LAW OF GRAVITY

Some people just don't seem to get it.

It seems like many haven't figured out that before you can harvest, you first have to plant.

We can only reap what we have first sown. And if we want to receive abundantly, we first have to be generous in our planting.

Yet many people live like paupers here on Earth, spiritually, emotionally, as well as materially, because they expect to receive without ever giving.

The law of gravity says, "What goes up must come down." And God's rule of giving is simple: What goes around comes around.

Our lives are like mirrors. If you want to receive...

You're going to have to start by **GIVING!**

Affirmation:

I give of what I have generously and unselfishly.

"Give, and it shall be given unto you... With the same measure that ye give it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38)

MARCH 10

LIKE HIM

Why did God put us here? To learn to be like Him! And what is God like? God is LOVE. God is the very Spirit and essence of love.

We are here on Earth to learn to be like Him.

God never forces us. He waits for us with open arms, and is never judgmental or condemning. And He wants us to reflect Him and to show this type of love to others.

Some day when we are finally reunited with God in our heavenly home, we will see that His love for us here on earth was unconditional.

Until then...

Let's try to be more like HIM!

Affirmation:

I let You shine through me, Lord, so that I may be a blessing to many.

- - -

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.”

(Matthew 5:16)

FREEDOM FROM BITTERNESS

Some people hold grudges over petty things. And they hold them for years! They seem to think they will accomplish something by doing so. But that's not true.

Holding on to a grudge is actually pride and self-righteousness. You feel you were treated wrong. You deserve better. You are not like the other guy. You are "superior"!

But grudges and bitterness, no matter how we paint them can never bring us any good. Someone once said, "Bitterness only hurts the vessel in which it is stored." We get nowhere by holding grudges.

God wants to help you. God can set you free from the things that hold you down.

But you've got to ASK HIM to!

Affirmation:

I have no time for grudges or bitterness in my life.

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice."

(Ephesians 4:31)

THE DISTANCE

Someone once said, “How far away God seems to you is a measure of the distance that YOU have put between yourself and God.”

God isn't far away. It's US who keep Him at arms length. Some people feel that God is far away because they are holding on to something that He wants them to give up.

It may be some character trait or bad habit that they need to leave behind. And then there are others that may not feel worthy of God and His love due to something they have done in the past.

But God is always there, and He is only waiting for you to let go of the things that are keeping you down, if you will just come to Him with a believing heart.

Seek Him in prayer. Get quiet before God.
And He WILL answer!

Affirmation:

I know that You hear me, Lord, and I thank You for being right beside me in everything I do.

“Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you.”
(James 4:8)

FOREVER

Lately they're talking more and more about trying to make people live longer, increasing life expectancy.

Some people are claiming that the day is not far away when we could live for hundreds of years and maybe never even die. We will actually be immortal, live forever, or close to it. Some people are even freezing their bodies until that day comes.

My God, I don't want to stay here in this world for all eternity!

I believe we are here on a mission, that God gave each of us the opportunity to come to earth that we might grow spiritually.

We were not meant to stay here forever, but to fulfill our mission and then go back home to be with the Lord.

There, we WILL live forever!

Affirmation:

I am here to learn lessons of love, forgiveness, and obedience to my dear Heavenly Father, and in His time He will take me home.

- - -

“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9)

ARE YOU BUSY?

We read about a man whose company is worth three billion dollars, and he answers every one of the 200 emails he receives every day. Imagine that!

He says he gets up at 4 am to do it. He figures that if someone takes the time to write him, the least he can do is write ‘em back an email in response. How cool is that!

No doubt most of the people who email him receive just a line or two which he probably “copies and pastes” into the email, but at least he sends them something! Instead of snubbing them he acknowledges them. With that kind of attitude no wonder he’s so successful!

We are ALL busy these days. None of us like to be ignored.

Jesus said, “Do unto others.” That’s not just only being considerate...

It’s also good business!

Affirmation:

I show respect to every person who I encounter, no matter what their station in life may be.

“Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.”
(Romans 12:11)

STEPPING STONES

Someone told us the other day that she was not very lucky in love. She said that she had made some wrong choices in her life as far as relationships went.

Well, for a true believer in God, nothing happens by coincidence. Nothing happens by chance.

Everything in our lives, all the experiences, every relationship we have, both good and bad, are mere stepping stones to make us what God wants us to be; if we will but let Him.

Many things in life don't turn out as we plan. But that doesn't mean we have made bad choices.

Sometimes God gets His greatest victories out of seeming defeat. And we learn lessons of faith, humility, and trusting the Lord that way.

So no matter how things sometimes appear...

With God everything turns out ok in the end.

ALWAYS!

Affirmation:

I know that all things that happen to me are ultimately for my good.

- - -

“All things work together for good to them that love God.”
(Romans 8:28)

MARCH 16

CHRIST'S IMMINENT RETURN

Companies think nothing about deceptive advertising. Politicians are famous for not keeping their promises.

Religion, instead of bringing people together, is creating more divisions. Greed is widespread. People only think of themselves.

In spite of all of man's supposed higher education, the world is not getting better.

All these things are only signs of the times we are living in. Jesus said that before things can get better they will get worse.

Only Christ's return will set things straight, right all wrongs, heal all hurt, and usher in a Kingdom of true righteousness based on God's ONLY law of LOVE!

Affirmation:

I know everything is going according to God's plan, and there will be a happy ending for us all.

- - -

“As the waters cover the sea, so shall the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.”

(Habakkuk 2:14)

LEAN ON HIM

People say they prayed, but God didn't answer them.

It's not that God didn't answer: It's just that the answer is on the way, and they haven't seen it yet! It's that simple.

God always answers prayer. His answer may not always be exactly what we have in mind, but the day will come when we will see that He knew better, He wanted the best for us, and that's what we got!

God is trying to teach us to trust Him instead of our own natural reasoning. Don't doubt.

He wants you to lean on Him.

Affirmation:

I know Your love is everlasting and I trust in You, dear Jesus.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall bring it to pass.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

MARCH 18

IF JESUS WERE HERE

What would you think of Jesus if He were here with us today?

Jesus didn't have money.

Jesus had no college education.

He was homeless!

He hung around with drunks and prostitutes, and was rejected by the religious leaders of His day.

If we measure Jesus with the same parameters we measure success nowadays, He was a complete failure.

Jesus sure didn't have much.

But just look at what He ACCOMPLISHED!

Affirmation:

You, O Lord, are the yardstick by which I measure everything in my life.

- - -

“Be ye therefore followers of Christ, as dear children.”
(Ephesians 5:1)

MARCH 19

THE BEAUTY OF SILENCE

Isn't the world getting noisy!

Some people seem to surround themselves with noise. They live with the radio blaring, or they have the television on all day long and even through the night while they sleep.

All that non-stop noise!

People go to the country, to a park, or to the beach, and they have to take their noise with them.

It seems like some people have forgotten the beauty of silence, the wind blowing through the trees or the waves on the sea shore. No wonder they have trouble hearing the voice of God.

God speaks in a calm, gentle voice. He whispers to your heart if you bring a quiet to your own spirit and truly want to hear.

But you'll never hear God speaking if you live in a world of constant noise and confusion.

Get quiet before Him, and He WILL speak.
Hear ye Him!

Affirmation:

I get quiet before You, Lord, and wait until You speak to my heart.

- - -

“Be still, and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)

MARCH 20

EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY?

If God and Heaven don't exist and the Bible is a fairy tale, then it makes sense to get the most out of life in the way of food, fun, travel, and good times, as so many people do these days.

But, if this world is not the end, if there IS an afterlife in God's loving Kingdom of Light, then we would do well to heed Jesus' advice to not live just for these fleeting temporal pleasures and a "me first" feel-good life style.

The spirit of this world is all about having fun, making money, enjoying life, and being cool. Yet reality for most people is one of working, struggling, coping, surviving. The good life they see on TV is like an apple that is perpetually dangled in front of their nose: ever so close, yet never fully attained.

This present world is the fake one. God's coming Kingdom is the real one.

Which are YOU living for?

Affirmation:

I'm just passing through this world. I have my sights set on Heaven.

"We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." (2 Co. 4:18)

THEY DON'T LISTEN

Most people don't listen nowadays.

As you get older you try to share your knowledge, your experience, your wisdom with your children. But they don't listen either.

They pretend to, but they really don't. And this can be frustrating.

It's natural to want to help them. But the things we consider useful and valuable, the things we have learned over the years, each new generation will have to learn for themselves.

We have to realize this and let them.

We need to pray for these we would help. We have to pray they will learn the lessons of life, hopefully without too much grief. We have to commit them to the Lord and remember that He loves them even more than we do.

We can't help them not make mistakes.

But as they say, "A wise man learns from his mistakes." Let's pray that our children do too!

Affirmation:

I trust that God is working in the lives of my children, and I commit them to Him in prayer.

"The prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much."
(James 5:16)

TUNNEL VISION

We all go through hard places. We all have difficulties at times. Sometimes everything around us seems dark, and we can barely see one step ahead of us.

We go through “tunnels” in life, hard places. Some are short. Others are longer. But if you think about it, usually nothing very bad (or very good!) ever lasts very long! And somehow, over time, things have a funny way of working themselves out.

Sure, it’s hard at the time. It’s not easy to stay positive when everything is coming down around your ears.

But, if you have Jesus by your side, the light is always shining at the end of the tunnel.

ALWAYS!

Affirmation:

I know that You, Jesus, will lead me through every storm of life.

- - -

“Though I walk in the midst of trouble, Thou wilt revive me.”
(Psalms 138:7)

MARCH 23

IT MAKES NO SENSE

There's no logic in faith.

Faith is the most illogical thing there is. Because faith is believing in an invisible God, and following Him even when you don't understand what He is doing.

You trust the Lord, because you know He loves you. You know He sees the path ahead and will take care of you no matter what.

With God seeing isn't believing:
BELIEVING is seeing!

That's love. That's trust. That's faith. It makes no sense. But it works!

So don't worry about having to try and figure everything out. You don't always have to understand. God is the one who has to understand. And He does. He loves you.

Stay CLOSE to Him.

Affirmation:

I don't need to understand everything, Lord, to know You love me and watch over me.

- - -

“For we walk by faith and not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7)

MARCH 24

THE POWER OF WEAKNESS

These days we hear about people who want to empower themselves.

We see products, pills, plans, and philosophies that promise to empower us, make us feel better, stronger.

Exercise is good for all of us of course, but aside from that, we as believers are not here to empower ourselves. We are here to glorify the LORD.

It is when we feel weak, when we feel incapable and insufficient, that God has an opportunity to work. This is one of the main lessons for a real Christian.

It is not about us empowering ourselves. It is about learning to tap into His power in our lives.

And His power can only shine through when we get out of the way...

And let HIM work!

Affirmation:

I let You use me for Your glory dear Lord, and know I am nothing of myself.

- - -

“When we are weak then are we strong, because HIS power is made perfect in our weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

MARCH 25

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

The secret to power, faith, anointing, and light... is the Word.

It is God's Word that gives us strength for the trials. It is in reading the Bible that we find the help and guidance that we seek.

If you are reading it daily, if you are memorizing verses that stand out to you and praying for God to work in your life, He will!

Take time for God.

MAKE time for His Word!

Affirmation:

I make time daily for Your Word. Through it You lift my soul and enlighten my way.

- - -

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)

MARCH 26

THE POWER WE HAVE

We all have influence.

We influence the lives of those around us.
And the people we surround ourselves with
influence our lives as well.

No man is an island. Each of our lives is
bound to influence others, like it or not.

We can make lives, or we can shatter them
with our words and with our actions. We all have
more power than we realize.

May God help us to use that power to inspire,
encourage, and motivate those around us...

For GOOD!

Affirmation:

I am a reflection of You, Lord, and Your love, patience, and
goodness.

- - -

“No man lives to himself, and no man dies to himself.”
(Romans 14:7)

WHAT GOD IS REALLY LIKE!

Organized religion, however well meaning it may be, has given the world a distorted image of God for so long now that it's no wonder many people think they don't want Him. Nobody wants the merciless tyrant that they make Him out to be.

Too many people promote a religion of a keeping of rules. But that's not what God wants.

God is our loving Creator who wants us to be happy. He has given us many blessings and pleasures to enjoy.

God is compassionate. He knows our trials and tribulation and always comforts us.

God is our best friend. He is always there for us and will never leave our side!

MOST of all... God is the very spirit of love. He is more concerned with us showing love to each other than keeping any set of rules.

THAT is what God is **REALLY** like!

Affirmation:

Thank You Lord for making it so easy. All You ask for is our love.

- - -

"I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

MARCH 28

SOMEONE SPECIAL

Is there someone special in your life?
Someone who accepts you no matter what?

A friend like that is something to be
cherished.

Someone that you feel relaxed with. You feel
at home in their presence. Someone that you can
talk to. Someone that understands you. Someone
that knows everything about you, and loves you
anyway. A friend who is happy to see you, sad
when you leave, and patient until you return.

Sounds like Jesus doesn't it?

Do you know someone like this? Aren't you
blessed.

May we ALL be this kind of special friend!

Affirmation:

I am grateful for my friends and the people who love me and
care about me.

- - -

“A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for
adversity.” (Proverbs 17:17)

IN CLASS NOW

Death is not the end. Death is only the beginning.

This world is our classroom. And we each voluntarily came here to this life on a personal and individual mission to learn the lessons that are unique to each of us.

We chose to come here of our own free will, for our spiritual enrichment and for our own good. And when we have learned all the things that God wants us to learn, He will take us home.

We will have graduated and we will then move on to even greater things, because Heaven is not the end, Heaven is only the beginning!

We will never stop learning, even right through Eternity.

How exciting is that!

Affirmation:

Thank you Lord for such fun things to look forward to, not only in this world but also in the world to come.

“Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of My mouth.” (Proverbs 4:5)

GOT A MINUTE?

You wake up in the morning, and what's the first thing you do?

Most people jump right into their day.

But if you will just take a few minutes to seek the Lord, if you will make time to talk to Him, you will find that your days will go a lot better.

And if, throughout your day you take little pauses to touch base with the Lord, you will not only have greater peace, but you will also be more productive.

God is more willing to give than we are to receive. But He never forces anybody. God doesn't guilt trip anybody.

He waits for us patiently, and is always there to respond to our needs, if we will but let Him.

Start the day off right...

By first seeking the Lord!

Affirmation:

I put first things first and seek God in prayer every morning before starting my day.

“My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.”
(Psalms 5:3)

GOD'S MYSTERY GAME

People think that serving the Lord is drudgery and hardship and abstinence, and “Oh no, having to pray” having to “read the Bible” and whatever.

But that's not it. It's loving Jesus, and letting Him lead and guide our lives. And that's like a mystery. It's kind of like a computer game, where maybe you go a little way, and then you say, “Oh oh, I'm lost. I don't know what to do. I need a clue now.” So you stop, you get a clue and continue the game.

Serving the Lord is like an adventure, with Him showing us the path of life each step. And there are little treasures along the way, rewards and things.

It's like a big puzzle and we're detectives with our magnifying glasses looking for clues.

Yes, the Lord loves a mystery. He likes to see us trying to figure things out, and seeking His leadings and guidance. He is there for us throughout our lives just waiting to assist us any way He can.

And with His help, we will win the game!

Affirmation:

I enjoy discovering Your plan for me, Lord. Thank You for being with me every step of the way.

“Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God.” (Mark 4:11)



April

*God's Word is a light for our path, a
beacon in the storm, and a user guide for
getting along with the friends, neighbors,
mates, and lovers we meet along the way
as we journey through the maze of life.*

IT'S RELATIVE

You see others who have more than you, especially on TV, and it is hard to not be tempted to complain. Sometimes you feel like you are missing out on something.

But then again if you look around, it isn't hard to see many who have it a lot worse than you. It's all relative.

That's why we shouldn't compare ourselves with others. There will always be people who have more, and there will always be those who have less.

Let's be grateful for what we have and thank God for our many blessings.

God never fails to take care of His own when we put Him...

FIRST in our lives!

Affirmation:

I am mightily blessed and have a lot to be grateful for.

- - -

“Be content with such things as ye have.” (Hebrews 13:5)

LOVE GOD?

Many people say they love God. Many people say He is first in their lives. And that is fine, but many people are only looking to receive.

Every one of God's children should be asking themselves: What am I doing to get out the Word? What am I doing to share God's message with those around me?

If we are not actively sharing His Word, we are failing God, and we are failing others. Because that's what we are here for, to spread His gospel of hope and love.

The true message of Christ was not one of receiving, but one of giving.

He gave His all to us.

Should we not do the same for Him?

Affirmation:

I share Your message of love with those around me.

- - -

“Freely ye have received. Freely give.” (Matthew 10:8)

HOW DEEP!

Aren't people interesting?

Some people are really active. They are always in motion. Others are laid back. Nothing seems to bother them.

Some people talk a lot. Others talk very little.

Some have great ambitions. They are going places. And some are perfectly content where they are.

It's beautiful how different we all are. We can all learn something from everyone we meet.

Don't forget, we were all made in God's image.

Think about it:

How deep is THAT!

Affirmation:

I appreciate the differences in every person I meet, and learn something from each one.

- - -

“God has given each one of us different gifts, but they all come from His same Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:4)

GOD ISN'T A MONSTER

Do you know why many people don't want anything to do with God nowadays?

Because many religions paint God out to be a cruel tyrant that sends people to hell if they don't keep their set of dumb and inflexible rules.

But that's not God.

Jesus didn't teach us that to please God we had to observe a burdensome bunch of rules and prohibitions. God isn't a monster.

God wants you to be happy, and He wants you to enjoy life. So don't worry about those who would condemn you and try to tell you how you should live. That's between you and God.

After all, it's God who you're going to have to answer to, not them!

Affirmation:

I know You want me to be happy and loving, Lord, and not worry about trying to be so "good".

"Do good, love mercy, and walk humbly with Thy God."
(Micah 6:8)

ONLY A MOMENT

Taking time out from our normal activities and daily events to spend time with the Lord is never time wasted. God wants our time more than anything, and if we give Him that, He will bless it.

We should all have moments of reflection and seeking the Lord: Times when we ask God what areas we need to make progress in, what character faults we need to work on; times to let the Lord make us vessels more fit for His use. These should be times to take stock of our lives, apologize to anyone we've wronged, and seek forgiveness of those we've hurt.

Throughout the ages God's men and women have found that no matter how busy they are, if they take time for the Lord, God will do His part and make them more productive in everything they do.

You never lose by putting God and His Kingdom first... Above all the other things we think we need to do.

It takes *only* a moment.

Affirmation:

I don't let anyone or anything take away from my time with You, Lord.

- - -

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."
(Isaiah 40:31)

APRIL 6

OLD AND LOVING IT

It's funny how some people are afraid of growing old. They are so afraid of wrinkles and the extra pound here and there.

They spend huge sums of money on creams, procedures, potions, and things to retard aging. To try to look younger, they say. It's sad.

We shouldn't be afraid of growing old. We should welcome each new stage of our lives with dignity. Wrinkles are nothing to be ashamed of. To grow old gracefully is beautiful.

We will have that glow. We will have that gleam in our eyes, if we have grown in wisdom.

We can grow old and love it...

If we live in love and mature in the knowledge of God!

Affirmation:

I am happy and grateful to be where I am now in life and know that the best lies yet ahead.

- - -

“Gray hair is a crown of glory if it be found in the way of righteousness.” (Proverbs 16:31)

APRIL 7

IN THIS TOGETHER

We don't need more division:

We need more love.

We need to realize that at the core we are all the same. We need to realize that the things we have in common are so much greater than the things that we tell ourselves make us different.

The world is being torn apart by strife, competition, and greed.

But it is only together in a spirit of mutual respect and kindness that we can ever hope to achieve the things we really want.

We are all here on this earth together.

And only by working TOGETHER with love, can we break down the walls!

Affirmation:

I look for the things I have in common with people and build upon them.

- - -

“Let us follow after things which make for peace.”
(Romans 14:19)

APRIL 8

WHAT TO BELIEVE

Sometimes you don't know what to believe.

Some say go this way, some say go the other. Some say do this. Some say do that. And yet others say do neither.

The line is getting more and more blurred between what's good and what isn't.

The gap is growing between what we used to consider right and acceptable, and what many consider right and acceptable nowadays.

Now we accept as normal things that we wouldn't have just a few short years ago.

This world is full of uncertainties, and if we don't keep our eyes on the Lord and stay in constant communication with Him we are doomed to failure.

God is our rock. God is our refuge.

God never fails to lead and guide His children...

If we will but seek HIM!

Affirmation:

You are my rock, O Lord. On Thee I stand.

“The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry.” (Psalms 34:15)

CELEBRITY STATUS

Celebrities are so glorified in this world. They tell us every little detail about their lives: stupid things like what they put on their hot dogs, or when their cat's feeling depressed. It's ridiculous!

The excesses of celebrities are flaunted in our faces in magazines, movies, on television. It's disgraceful how the press holds up many of these as role models.

Some have contributed very little to the world. The only trait, the only defining "quality" some have is that of being a "celebrity". And kids are growing up wanting to be like them! How tragic.

If you want fame, riches, and glory in this world, you better enjoy them while you can, because they won't last: You can't take them with you!

But if you have lived unselfishly for others here on Earth, in God's eternal kingdom you will be remembered.

There, YOU will be a celebrity!

Affirmation:

I don't want to be famous in this world. I want my reward in Heaven.

- - -

"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."
(Colossians 3:2)

HE CAME FOR LOVE

Jesus was crucified. A man who committed no crime whatsoever met with the most gruesome death, just because He exposed the decadent religious system of His day. Jesus, for His example of love, suffered at the very hands of those He was trying to save.

Jesus had no earthly possessions other than his tunic and sandals. He had no house or any place to lay his head at night. He had no college education, was not a learned doctor of the law, had no credentials from Rome nor any religious order of His day.

Yet His doctrine of love, with its one simple rule of “doing unto others as you want them to do unto you” transformed lives, created jealous enemies, set the captives free, shook up the world, and has continued to do so to this very day.

There is one name that is above every other name that has ever existed or ever will, and that is Jesus. There is one name that can set man free, one name that makes Satan tremble, and only one name through which we can solve all of man’s problems, win the world, and usher in the only kingdom of true righteousness, equality, justice, peace, and love for all.

Jesus came for love, lived and died for love. Jesus was God’s ultimate expression of love to us.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

People are slaves to their jobs and have little time for anything else.

Grocery stores are packed with products that only deliver chemicals and empty calories.

Entertainment has become little more than violence and noise.

To many people religion has lost its meaning, and is little more than a flaky show.

Our lives are filled with people, but we have few meaningful relationships. We are being reduced to glitter and glitz, vanity and nothingness.

What's going on?

We are living in the days Jesus talked about in Matthew chapter 24.

Affirmation:

We are living in exciting times, and I am thankful to be a part of it.

- - -

“As in the days that were before the flood, so shall the coming of the Son of God be.” (Matthew 24:38-39)

THE VOCIFERATION PLAGUE

One of the main problems we have in the world today is people who spend their time being very vocal about every little thing they don't like. Why are we giving them so much attention?

These vociferators will never be satisfied until the world and everything in it is to their liking. Until everyone and everything is like they think it should be, and that of course is never going to happen.

Often these people criticize others who are doing something, while they themselves are doing nothing, other than criticizing!

They are a leading cause of the problem. And they don't even see it.

We need to ignore them and stop letting them call the shots and dictate how we all should live and think.

Affirmation:

I don't pay any attention to the complainers who just want to criticize. I am too busy being part of the solution.

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good and edifying that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” (Ephesians 4:29)

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

For many people money seems to be the only yardstick. How sad.

“Got a problem?” Fix it with money.

“Want to be happy?” Get more money. That’s what people think.

Money sure is a poor way of keeping score. Yet it is what the world worships. But God’s currency is all the good things that money can’t buy. Funny world isn’t it!

Money is a necessary evil. We all need some, if we don’t want to starve. We just have to keep it in its place and not let it control our lives.

Got money problems?

Ask God to help you. He will if you keep money in the right perspective.

The person who puts God above everything else in their life will never lack anything!

Affirmation:

Money is my servant. I do not permit it to be my master.

“The love of money is the root of all evil.” (1 Timothy 6:10)

APRIL 14

YOU ARE WHAT YOU THINK

Thoughts are real things.
They can either build up, or they can destroy.
And negativity kills.
It kills initiative. It kills creativity.

That's why it is so important to dwell on the positive, to speak positive.

We actually **BECOME** what we think!

Affirmation:

I have a positive attitude and see good and possibilities,
because God is with me and everything is under control.

- - -

“As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.” (Proverbs 23:7)

FEARLESS IN HIM

Have you noticed that most of the things we worry about never happen? Our fears are almost always over some future event: something that hasn't even happened yet!

Fear is acrippler, and if we give way to our fears we will end up powerless, useless.

Fear is one of our spiritual enemy's favorite weapons, and the only way he can defeat us is by tempting us to fear.

But God's Word says to, "Cast our cares upon the Lord and He will sustain us." (Psa. 55:2)

He will see us through. God tells us we are not to fear but to trust Him. His shoulders are broad enough to carry any load.

Fear not. Let God work in your life!

Affirmation:

I do not permit fear in my life, and know You are with me, Lord.

- - -

"For God hath not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7)

APRIL 16

THE DAY IS COMING

Sometimes it seems hard to believe.

Sometimes it just doesn't seem possible.

But the day will come when love WILL triumph over greed, light will conquer the darkness, and fear will flee away.

A day when worries vanish, freedom reigns, and loneliness will be no more.

The mighty will be brought low.

And the meek, at last, shall inherit the Earth.

Affirmation:

I know that day is coming. I know it will most surely come.

“Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” (Matthew 5:5-8)

APRIL 17

HOW LITTLE WE KNOW

Have you noticed that everywhere you look we are surrounded by “experts”?

It seems like many people think they have everything all figured out. Whatever it is, they have the solution. They always seem to know what needs to be done.

You see people all around talking like they know the answers. They act as if they aren't afraid of anything. But if they really know what they're doing, if they really are so sure of themselves...

Why are they so afraid to die?

The older we get, the more we realize how little we really know, and how much we need to seek the Lord and His guidance daily in our lives.

We don't have all the answers.

Thank God He does!

Affirmation:

Thank You Lord. You have NEVER let me down.

- - -

“They that seek the Lord understand all things.” (Proverbs 28:5)

TROUBLE SLEEPING?

“If I were rich I’d be happy.” That’s what many people think. They think their problems would be over. They really think they would be happier.

But it seems to me that the rich and famous have more than their share of problems.(1) People are out to get them. Everything they do is criticized. They are always living in fear.

When you’re rich your problems aren’t over.

King Solomon said, “The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not let him sleep.”(2)

He should know as he sure had it all! That’s why he said we should, “Seek neither poverty nor riches.”(3)

I’m grateful I’m not rich.

And I REALLY enjoy sleeping well at night!

Affirmation:

You are always faithful to supply all my needs, Lord.

(1) 1 Timothy 6:9

(2) Ecclesiastes 5:12

(3) Proverbs 30:8

LET GOD SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS

We are all so busy these days.

Sometimes we feel overwhelmed with the demands our jobs, families, and even friends place on us.

But if we make an effort to seek the Lord's strength, if we get quiet in prayer before Him, we will find that we will be more productive. We will end up getting more done.

We will be putting ourselves in a position where God can show us a different perspective to our problem, and a solution that we didn't see on our own. Other times we find that when we make time for the Lord, our problems seem to have a way of solving themselves!

His ways are not our ways. To find His ways, we have to let Him have His way.

And the way we do that... is by stopping everything, and seeking Him!

Affirmation:

I stay out of your way Lord, and let You work through me.

“Seek the Lord and His strength. Seek His face continually.”
(1 Chronicles 16:11)

APRIL 20

HOW WILL THEY KNOW?

There are so many of God's children throughout the world. Some belong to one of the many, many churches and denominations that exist. Others do not.

Yet they all believe in the God of love. They have all accepted Jesus, and they are all fulfilling His will as they let Him lead and guide them through their lives.

Some people profess their faith outwardly. Others are more discrete about theirs.

But Jesus said that the only way the world would know that we all are His children, the way the world would know that we have the Truth, would be when they SEE OUR LOVE, the love we have for each other.

There is no getting around it: We cannot say we love God but are not loving to each other.

“Beloved, let us love one another.”

Affirmation:

I am one of God's children here on Earth and am grateful to be in service to our King.

“By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.” (John 13:35)

APRIL 21

BLESSED IN HIS SERVICE

We are blessed to have the Lord.

We are grateful that we can help the needy, pray for the sick, encourage people, and generally just be a blessing to others.

We see people who have a lot more than us, but that is only materially. Because we are blessed with having the Lord by our side.

We are blessed with His guidance, protection, and love.

What else could we wish for in this life?

What else could we wish for in the life to come?

We are indeed blessed.

Affirmation:

You have surpassed all my dreams, dear Lord.

“Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation.” (Psalms 68:19)

HAPPINESS

Some people are never happy, because they think things will make them happy. And they never have enough!

Some think that being with a particular person will bring them happiness.

And others place happiness in the future, as some future event or destination, one that is always somehow unattainable.

But happiness comes when you break free from that driving spirit of busyness and thinking you have to get somewhere, do something, or have something to be happy.

And it all begins with counting your blessings!

Affirmation:

I do not let people or external things affect the way I feel.

“I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.”

(Philippians 4:11)

SPLIT DECISIONS

It takes a long time to build something.

Yet so much can be lost in just one moment of carelessness.

Whether it be the construction of a building, the execution of a project, or the preservation of a valued relationship, the repercussions of the smallest deed can have far reaching results.

That's why we have to be careful and resist the temptation to do things, to say things in haste.

It's easy to blow out a match...

But oh so difficult to put out the forest fire that tiny match can start!

Affirmation:

I walk circumspectly and am prayerful about everything I do and say.

- - -

“Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything... Let thy words be few.” (Ecclesiastes 5:2)

NOT THE ONLY ONE

Have you noticed how depressing the news is?

If we believed half of what they tell us on TV we would all want to give up, jump off the nearest cliff, or live like a hermit in a cave!

But in spite of all of their negativity, exaggerated news stories, and sensationalism it is still a beautiful world. It just seems like they don't want us to know about it.

So if you sometimes feel all alone, if you feel like all of your loving efforts are in vain...

Remember, there are a LOT of other people doing great and wonderful things for the world.

Cheer up.

You are NOT the only one!

Affirmation:

I know my efforts are not in vain and will produce good fruit eventually.

- - -

“One man plants, another man waters, but it is God who makes it grow.” (1 Corinthians 3:7)

TIME TO LISTEN

A lot of people today are starving just for someone to talk to once in a while. And they are blown away when they see that you are willing to stop everything and show them you care enough to listen.

Do you want the key to every heart? Do you want the secret to winning people's favor? Stop trying to push your own agenda for a few minutes.

Stop trying to make people listen to you, and show some sincere interest in them. They too have their story. Let them speak their piece.

If you truly want to hear what they have to say, and you listen with an open mind as well as an open heart, they will not only feel that someone showed them God's love that day...

But you may also even learn something yourself!

Affirmation:

I make time for people and always give them a listening ear.

- - -

“Let every man be swift to hear and slow to speak.” (James 1:19)

APRIL 26

THE GOD OF LOVE

We don't believe in *religion*. We believe in love.

Man has waged war in the name of religion. Man has terrorized the world in the name of religion. Man has committed all kinds of heinous acts in the name of religion. Man has made a god out of religion.

But our God is love. Our God is the very spirit of love. Our God is not religion. Love is our God.

Love has the power to heal hearts, mend wounds, lift up those in need, and free the oppressed. Love can feed the poor, end all wars, and bring true peace to the world.

But it has to happen through US!

Affirmation:

I believe that God's love is the answer to all of man's problems, past, present, and future.

"This is the victory that overcometh the world: our faith."
(1 John 5:4)

APRIL 27

ME OR OTHERS?

Do we go through our lives thinking only of ourselves? Or do we think of others?

It says in the Bible that all our deeds should be done in love, “in honor preferring one another.” It takes a real effort to create a habit of thinking of others instead of just ourselves. And it’s not always easy.

As we go through this day, let’s make an effort to see what we can do for others, see who we can cheer up, see if there’s someone we can make happy.

Let’s be more loving. Let’s be more giving.

God help us to be a blessing today to those around us by putting their needs above our own...

And to not think of ourselves, but to think of others!

Affirmation:

I love others, because God loves them through me.

- - -

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.” (1 John 4:11)

A SIMPLE PLAN

People often ask us:

What's life all about? Or, Why are we here in this world?

We believe we are all here on a mission.

We believe we are all here to learn to love.

And when we learn this lesson we will have grown spiritually, we will have accomplished our mission, and we will be called back home, back to the "mother ship".

Simple plan now. Isn't it!

Affirmation:

God is in control, and my life is unfolding according to His highest and most perfect will.

- - -

"For ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:9)

APRIL 29

GOD'S BLESSINGS

People sure complain a lot these days.

You read about them in the news. You see them on television.

They complain about the government. They complain about the system. They complain about other people.

And some people even complain about things that happened hundreds of years ago, things that our forefathers did, as if we should somehow be held responsible for them today. How dumb is that!

Complaining is contagious. Negative people are self destructing.

There is only one way to be happy in this world: Be grateful for all the good in your life.

And THANK GOD for your blessings!

Affirmation:

Thank you, dear God for being so good to me!

“In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

APRIL 30

FOR A HAPPIER MARRIAGE

Communication in marriage is more than just talking and saying what you want or think.

Communication is also listening.

To listen, doesn't only mean to hear with our ears, but to listen with our ears, hearts, and minds.

It means to put yourself in your spouse's place, to really try and understand what they mean. To listen to their heart.

To be a good communicator we must first ask questions and be willing to change our viewpoint. We must be open to seeing things as others see them.

May God help us to be better communicators.

May God help us to see things with a Heavenly perspective...

And show His love to our mate by TRULY listening.

Affirmation:

I listen to my mate and show I really care!

- - -

“To do good and communicate forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.” (Hebrews 13:16)



May

You will not be judged you by how much you gave, but by how much you had left over.

IT'S EASY!

Praying is not hard.

Praying is talking to the Lord, and more importantly, listening to Him.

You can pray wherever you are throughout your day. You don't have to go somewhere special or get down on your knees to be heard.

Sometimes you talk to God like a friend, maybe even out loud. Other times you can just turn your thoughts into a prayer. It doesn't have to be an audible prayer.

Either way, God hears you. He knows. He cares.

If you place prayer high on your list of priorities...

God will place you high on HIS list of priorities!

Affirmation:

I talk to God like a friend, and He leads me and guides me throughout my day.

- - -

“Seek ye the Lord while He may be found. Call ye upon Him while He is near.” (Isaiah 55:6)

MAY 2

BE BOLD

Be bold!
Believe in love.

Be bold!
Believe in the miracles love can do.

In your life; in the lives of others.
Be bold enough to dare to try.

Be bold.
BELIEVE!

Affirmation:

I believe we can change the world with love. I believe it can be done!

- - -

“If thou will believe, thou will see the glory of God.”
(John 11:40)

CLOSE TO ME

Why does God allow natural disasters?

Some no doubt are the result of man creating an imbalance of nature through his pollution of the planet.

Others are for reasons not understood by our finite minds. And with all the other things going on in the world right now, life can get scary.

But one thing is for sure: God will see you through the storm. God will take care of you no matter what may come your way.

He is able to take care of His own, those who seek Him, those who put their trust in Him.

Between natural disasters, economic woes, and political uncertainty, we certainly are living in trying times.

But through it all God says,
“Stay close to Me.”

Affirmation:

I seek You and Your help, Lord, throughout my day.

“He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust.” (Psalms 91:4)

MORE TO LIFE

We all like to have a good time. We all like to have fun.

But look back at your life. How many fun things and good times do you even remember anymore?

We remember only the most outstanding. We really remember very few compared to all the good times we had.

The thrill of our sports team winning the big game was short lived. Our excitement over that blockbuster movie quickly faded. The delicious meal we devoured for lunch is scarcely a memory come dinner time. And that night out on the town? Long forgotten.

There's more to life.

What we make out of it depends on us.

Affirmation:

I want the most out of life and don't settle for just temporary thrills.

- - -

"The world will pass away and its pleasures, but He that does the will of God will live forever." (1 John 2:17)

MAY 5

HE GIVES THE VERY BEST

Sometimes we try to run ahead of God.
Sometimes we stubbornly seek something
that is not His will.

But where God guides, God provides.

And if God is not supplying in some area or
direction of our lives, maybe it is not His will!

Or maybe it is God's will, but just not God's
timing.

When we let God choose, when we put God
first and let Him direct our lives...

He always gives us the very best!

Affirmation:

I know God knows what's best for me, and I let Him guide
my life.

- - -

“Man's goings are of the Lord; how can a man then
understand his own way?” (Proverbs 20:24)

MAY 6

TALK LESS, LISTEN MORE

Are you a “listener”?
Or are you a “talker”?

When you talk:

- You can't learn anything.
- You can't hear from God.
- You don't grow.

When you listen:

- You learn fun, useful things.
- You hear from God, feel His presence in your life, and receive His blessings.
- You grow in wisdom and understanding.

Affirmation:

I am going to talk less and listen more.

- - -

“Let your speech be always gracious and pleasant, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” (Colossians 4:6)

MAY 7

A BLESSING IN DISGUISE

It's amazing how disasters and suffering bring out good things in people.

They make you grateful for your many blessings.

Things that you took for granted suddenly become special when faced with the possibility of losing them.

You realize loved ones are more important than your material possessions. Family and friends can't be replaced.

It's never easy, but suffering, in a funny way is good for us in that it makes us reassess our lives, look up to God, and resolve to be a better person.

Lord help us to remember these things during the good times also!

Affirmation:

I am grateful Lord. I am thankful for my many blessings.

“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 5:20)

MAY 8

HAHAHA!

Do you smile a lot?

Do you smile ever?

People smile when they are happy. People smile when they are grateful.

Laughing is good too.

You know what they say, “Laugh and the world will laugh with you. Cry and you’ll cry alone.”

The Bible says that laughter does us good like a medicine.

Let’s all stop taking ourselves so seriously, learn to laugh more...

And enjoy this marvelous life that God has given us!

Affirmation:

Lord, fill me with Your joy, and let it shine through my countenance, that I may be an inspiration to others.

- - -

“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine, but a broken spirit drieth the bones.” (Proverbs 17:22)

SEEKING JUSTICE

It seems like many people out there today are seeking justice.

You see them every day on TV. They work themselves up into a frenzy and often times resort to violence. They get on their own personal crusade to find justice for real, perceived, or imagined injustices.

People are becoming bitter and more and more narrow minded, judgmental, inflexible, condemning, and unloving.

Growing hard is a choice. And letting life's circumstances and injustices harden your heart is not God's solution.

You can't right all of man's wrongs. But you can do the right thing in your life.

Ask God to give you a tender heart. Ask God to help you be a vessel of His love...

To heal, and not to hurt.

Affirmation:

Make me an instrument of Your peace, Lord.

“Where there be hate, let me bring love.

Where there be discord, let me bring harmony.

Where there be despair, let me bring hope.”

(St. Francis of Assisi)

MAY 10

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

The flame of one little candle can be seen a mile away in the middle of the night.

Don't ever feel that because there is so much darkness your little flame will not make a difference. A tiny seed doesn't grow into a big tree overnight. But it will eventually.

Every bit of love we give, every kind word, every good deed we do will bring forth good fruit some day.

We will harvest the things we plant.

Light will brighten the darkness, and love will conquer all men's hearts.

That day **WILL** come!

Affirmation:

I know that the love I give will come back to me some day. I know my efforts are not in vain.

- - -

“So shall My Word be that goes forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void... it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:11)

A REAL COMPANION

Studies show a tiny baby needs to be held to be healthy. Babies need human contact, warmth, and love.

We as adults are no different. We all need to be held and cuddled, yet many are too embarrassed to admit it.

People are starving for love. People are starving for that same human warmth. So many people are lonely.

God can supply all your needs, including a companion. But you have to put God first in your life. And then, wait for someone who is doing the same thing while they are waiting for you.

God will bring the two of you together in His time!

Affirmation:

The Lord is my everything, and I have put Him in first place in my life.

- - -

“No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.” (Psalms 84:11)

BUSY ALL THE TIME

A lot of people stay busy. They are always working, going, rushing, doing. They rarely take a break and would have you believe that God wants them to be that way.

But all of this endless motion isn't of God.

Instead of getting closer to Him they are keeping Him away with all of their frantic self effort.

God lives in the quiet place, the still, and the calm. And to get closer to Him we have to cease from our own labor, our own works, and all the noise.

God doesn't force anyone.

You've got to stop everything, get calm, and come before Him with an open mind and a yielded spirit. And stop being so busy all the time!

When you do, you will find the guidance and direction that you seek in your life.

Affirmation:

I find peace and direction in my life when I slow down and take more quiet time with God.

“Better is a handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit.” (Ecclesiastes 4:6)

LIKE JESUS

Pride and arrogance are great sources of stress and tension. They also contribute to all kinds of health issues.

Jesus was a wise man. He had the solution to all of man's problems, yet He was humble. Jesus was right. But He wasn't arrogant about it.

Lord help us to be humble and realize that without You we are nothing. Lord help us to be a blessing to those around us.

Lord help us to be more like YOU!

Affirmation:

I want to be more like You, dear Jesus.

- - -

“Come unto Me and learn of Me for I am meek and humble and ye shall find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11:28-29)

A FUN LIFE

Serving the Lord is not a life of hardships and sacrifice. It is a life of joy, gratitude, blessings, and miracles! It really is an easier life in many ways.

The whole image of serving God portrayed throughout history as being a life of drudgery, sacrifice, pain, and doing without is simply not true.

It is a life where the Lord shows you the best choices and helps you make good decisions. The wisest decisions. And it's fun!

It is a life where God's there to protect you, guide you, and help you in every facet of your life.

From simple grocery shopping to making life decisions concerning a mate, a career, or a house purchase, serving God and putting Him first in your life is a never ending journey of miracles, as He leads you every step of the way.

No other life is worth living.

No other life could be more FUN!

Affirmation:

Thank You for this incredibly interesting life you have give me!

- - -

“The Lord hath done all things well.” (Mark 7:37)

FOR A REASON

All of us seek a lasting relationship. But things often don't turn out as we hope.

Many people feel they made a mistake, because they got involved in a relationship that didn't last more than a few months or years. There's a prevalent attitude that if a relationship doesn't last for a lifetime, then it was a mistake. People blame themselves.

They see their unrealistic romantic expectations dashed when a relationship doesn't play out as they hoped and suffer great emotional stress as a result.

Everyone comes into our lives for "a reason, a season, or a lifetime" and every relationship can be a stepping stone, and serve as a lesson to prepare us for greater things, if we will allow it.

May we be grateful for all the experiences we have in this life and not let seeds of regret choke out the gardens of our hearts.

Love purely. Live unselfishly. Do good.

And look forever forward!

Affirmation:

I know that everything in my life has been for my good, and I don't look back with regret.

"The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." (Proverbs 4:18)

MAY 16

HEALTHIER AND HAPPIER

The best way to prevent illness is to obey God's natural laws: Live right, eat right, work right, play right, rest right, love right, and maintain a right relationship with Him.

Do what you can, and God will do what you can't.

So work on the ounce of prevention now, rather than worrying about the pound of cure later.

Follow these common sense rules for good health by taking care of His Creation and giving it the proper maintenance its Creator knows that it needs. Observe these things as best you can, and they will help you be healthier and happier.

God bless and keep you in good health!

Affirmation:

I make a real effort to eat healthy and find a balance in all aspects of my life.

- - -

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health.” (3 John 2)

SHADES OF GRAY

People nowadays are getting more and more extreme.

Not everything in life is so right or wrong, all good or all bad. And focusing on our differences is only dividing us.

Some things in life are not so clear cut, not so black or white, but more often than not one of many shades of gray.

Many things are relative, and sometimes it is only if we look at things from different perspectives that we can truly see the entire picture. We each have our opinion. We all have our story. We all have our individual point of view.

Lord help us to be more open, more loving in our dealings with people. Lord help us to put ourselves in the other guy's shoes and try to relate to him.

And realize there is often more to things than meets the eye!

Affirmation:

I am understanding of others, slow to judge, and slow to speak.

- - -

“Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.” (John 7:24)

ONLY LOVE

Nations pressure other nations into doing what they want.

Companies pressure us into buying their products.

Fear, threats, and intimidation are common tactics people use to get their way.

People get into romantic relationships and then feel disillusioned, because the other person doesn't live up to their expectations.

Everyone wants things and they even get mad when they don't get them. No wonder people are miserable. Greed and selfishness are killing us.

It's time we woke up.

Only LOVE will set us free.

Affirmation:

I am loving to others. I know that love is the answer!

“If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.” (John 8:36)

THE ROAD TO GOD'S BLESSINGS

We all have so many things to be grateful for, and God is so good to those who let Him and His love rule in their lives. How could there ever be room for any of us to complain?

If we are not grateful for what God has already given us, He's sure not going to feel like giving us much more. And if we murmur and complain long enough, He may even take away the blessings we already have. Boy, then we'll have something to whine about!

The Bible says, "In EVERYTHING give thanks."

The surest way to keep God's blessings flowing is by having a grateful attitude, counting our blessings, and thanking God continually for them.

Remember, "Keep your eyes on the donut and not on the hole!"

Affirmation:

I am grateful. I am thankful. I will not complain. I am truly blessed!

- - -

"Oh magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name forever." (Psalms 34:3)

LIKE A ROCK

Life is full of surprises.

And this world is full of uncertainties.

The uncertainty of work, financial uncertainty, the uncertainty of relationships...

The dynamics of life can change suddenly, and things can catch you by surprise!

This world is shifting sand.

Only God and His love will remain forever true.

And only God can guide you through the storm.

Affirmation:

I know You are true, Lord. I know You will never leave me or forsake me.

- - -

“Trust in the Lord and do good. So shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.” (Psalms 37:3)

DO IT TODAY

When people find themselves in danger they immediately think of their family and loved ones.

They wish they could tell them, “I love you.” They wish they could hold them. They regret having done some things, having said some things.

Tragedy has a funny way of putting things in the right perspective.

Don’t wait for your world to get scary to be kind to others.

Show them your love. Show them you care. Seek forgiveness. Show them how special they are to you.

Do it today.

Tomorrow may be too late!

Affirmation:

I show my love to those that I love and who love me.

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this Book, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” (Revelation 1:3)

TRUE BEAUTY

A lot of people today suffer from lack of self-esteem. And this is only made worse by movies and television that make people feel they have to be as physically attractive as Hollywood celebrities and the rich and famous.

But we can be set free from that bondage and the pressure that makes us feel we have to be like everyone else.

True beauty is more than just physical appearance.

A person with love in their heart that cares for others will always be attractive. This inner beauty will always be found irresistible to the opposite sex.

A loving person will never be a lonely person.

Ask God to give you great love for others, and you will be more beautiful than ever.

If you give love, you'll get love!

Affirmation:

The closer I get to You, Lord, the more attractive I am to others.

- - -

“A meek and quiet spirit is in the sight of God of great price.”
(1 Peter 3:4)

GET OUT OF THE WAY

We all seem to be under so much pressure these days:

Pressure at work. Pressure at school. Pressure at home.

So we look for relief in food, in drink, in music, drugs, or even violence! It's enough to drive anyone crazy.

The secret is: to give up!

Ultimately a lot of the pressure in our lives is caused by trying to control things, situations, and people; by insisting on having things our way.

But relief and real freedom come when we give up, when we stop trying to control things that are beyond our control.

God only has the opportunity to show His greatness when we surrender...

When we get out of the way!

Affirmation:

I surrender my all to You, Lord, and let You work in my life.

"Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you."
(1 Peter 5:7)

MAY 24

TODAY IS THE DAY

We should all appreciate this life we have while we're living it.

There are so many things we will look back on and realize how good we had it.

So what keeps us from enjoying life now? What keeps us from being grateful today?

Our spirit of busyness keeps us down. Our negative mindsets keep us from enjoying life.

Today is the day we were waiting for!

Let's be grateful for what we have right now. Let's be grateful that we don't have it worse. Let's be grateful for our many, many blessings.

And enjoy life and what we have... today!

Affirmation:

I take time to enjoy life and everyone in it and am grateful for what I have today.

“Let all those that put their trust in Thee rejoice. Let them ever shout for joy. Let them that love Thy name be joyful in Thee.” (Psalms 5:11)

LET IT GO

Have you been treated unfairly? Has someone accused you falsely? Been mean to you?

Do you have trouble forgetting it and leaving it behind?

Sometimes it seems it can't be done, but you must let it go. Until you do, it will only eat away at you.

Bitterness will hurt you more than it will hurt them. Let it go.

Don't do it for them. Do it for yourself.

Experience the freedom that comes from truly giving it to the Lord. Freedom from the enslaving spirit of bitterness. Freedom from the bondage of holding on to the injustice.

The day will come when all of life's wrongs will be made right.

Your day will come.

But until then, you must learn to...

LET IT GO.

Affirmation:

Lord, I put these things in Your hands. Help me to be more like You.

- - -

"The Lord is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression." (Numbers 14:18)

HOW CAN YOU KNOW?

People often wonder what life is all about.

Well, to a large degree life is about learning to choose between good and evil.

What does that even mean?

In this upside down world how can we know when something is good, or something isn't?

So many things are subject to interpretation. People's perceptions can vary a lot and languages, customs, time, and context also come into play.

So how can you know if something is good, or if it's bad? In God's eyes, it all gets down to love.

If your actions are kind and unselfish, if what you do is motivated by love, then it is good.

And if not... then it is bad.

Pretty simple!

Affirmation:

I live a life of love toward God and share His love with those around me.

- - -

“He that loveth his brother abideth in the light.” (1 John 2:10)

MAY 27

WHAT ARE YOU MADE OF?

Music is powerful.

Music has a real effect on people, more than they realize.

Some music inspires and excites, and motivates you in a positive way. It is soothing, brings you peace, and makes you feel good.

But some music can really stir you up with hateful and belittling lyrics. It sows discord, strife, and makes you tense and frustrated, even violent!

So watch out what you listen to.

We actually turn into the things we expose ourselves to over time.

Whether it be the food we eat, the movies we watch, or the music we listen to...

We become the sum total of these things!

Affirmation:

I am prayerful about the things I watch, the things I read, and the music I listen to.

- - -

“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of foolishness shall be destroyed.” (Proverbs 13:20)

FOOLISH CHRISTIANS

We have so many puritanical Christians out there making such fools of themselves, no wonder a lot of people don't want anything to do with Jesus, the Bible, or their God!

We have people who say they are Christians bombing abortion clinics saying God told them to. There are churches of every color and denomination preaching racism. Tons of people preach abstinence from everything pleasurable, which they paint as sin. And many Christians' entire service to God has been reduced to the furtherance of their individual political stance or ideology, none of which are of God.

The so-called Christian world is fragmented and divided with their fussing, fighting, and pet doctrines.

These things do not draw people to the Lord but rather away from Him.

Oh foolish Christians...

What's it gonna take?!

Affirmation:

I spread God's message of love and light, and stay away from fussing, fighting, and division.

...

“That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God.”
(Romans 15:6)

MAY 29

ABOVE ALL ELSE

We don't go to church.

We don't see anything wrong with going to church. We just don't feel the need. That could change some day. Who knows?

There are many, many people in this world who love God and are being used by Him as vessels of His love. Some go to church. Others don't.

We believe that the most important thing is to put God first, and to be loving to those around us.

We don't condemn anyone for going to church and we believe no one has the right to condemn someone for NOT going!

Jesus said, the most important thing, above all else is...

To LOVE one another!

Affirmation:

It is not my place to judge my neighbor. Only to love my neighbor.

- - -

“For all the law is fulfilled in this: Thou shalt love.”
(Galatians 5:14)

MAY 30

YOU CAN'T BUT GOD CAN

God is loving and merciful, and He will never give you a load too big for you to bear. Jesus said, "My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." And, "Come unto Me, and I will give you rest."

So if you feel overburdened with something, maybe it's not God's will.

Or maybe you are taking too much upon yourself and trying to do things in your own strength instead of letting God do it through you with His power, His love, His grace, and His strength.

"His yoke is easy, and His burden is light." It's not difficult and it's not unbearable. So quit trying so hard!

Rest in the Lord and trust in Him. Let Him work and He will do it through you.

Try it. Put Him to the test!

Affirmation:

I rest in the Lord and let Him carry my load.

"My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."
(Exodus 33:14)

REMEMBER THE FARMER

A farmer plants his seeds. But he doesn't see any fruits right away.

He has to water them. He has to nurture them. He has to protect them from bugs, plagues, and diseases.

He has to be patient, very patient. And if he doesn't give up, he will eventually be rewarded. He will see the fruits of his labor.

Everything in life costs something.

Few things are really free. They cost someone something.

So if you want your dream to come true, remember the farmer. You are going to have to work for it...

And you're going to have to have a LOT of patience!

Affirmation:

I do what I can, and the Lord always does for me what I what I can't.

- - -

"If you want your dream to be, take your time, go slowly. Small beginnings, greater ends. Heartfelt work is holy."



June

*God's idea of "big" isn't the same as ours.
Man's idea of big is money and
multitudes.*

*God's idea of great is a man who, day after
day, is faithful in the little things.*

FRUSTRATED?

Life can be frustrating. And people can be especially frustrating. Downright annoying!

What can be done about it?

One solution is to move to some remote location, find an uninhabited cave, and live in it all alone!

But let's be honest with ourselves: Most of us wouldn't survive very long in such inhospitable surroundings... At least not without the Internet!

So the only other option most of us have, short of murder which we do not advise, is to stop whining, be brave, and BE the EXAMPLE of love, patience, and tolerance you expect others to be!

God will bless you!

Affirmation:

I am grateful for the people in my life, even when they try my patience.

- - -

“Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children.”
(Ephesians 5:1)

WHAT DOES GOD WANT?

For thousands of years religions have told us “what God wants” of us!

They have been so presumptuous so as to tell us all kinds of *rules* that God supposedly wants us to keep. Yet they can’t even make up their mind as to what those rules are!

Most paint God as distant, as a heartless tyrant. Some things they say about God don’t make any sense. Others are just plain dumb!

No wonder so many people say they don’t want God. They just don’t want the God portrayed by these people!

So then just exactly what DOES God want of us? Jesus taught us that all we have to do is love God and our neighbor. The only law, the only *rule* we now have is to LOVE.

So don’t worry about religion’s rules.

Be loving, and you will be fulfilling God’s ONLY law!

Affirmation:

I please God by giving unselfish love to others.

“He that loveth not, knoweth not God, for God is love.”

(1 John 4:8)

HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME?

The Bible says we should *watch and pray*.
Not watch and criticize!

Life has gotten so complex, and none of us can presume to see the whole picture about anything really.

Whether it be with politics, religion, or what our next door neighbor is doing, we often can only see the tip of the iceberg. We just really don't have enough understanding to accurately judge people here in this life. Only God sees everything.

We would be better off if instead of criticizing other people and being so condemning, we spent even half of that energy praying for them.

We sure would see some positive results that way!

Affirmation:

I seek You continually, Lord, to see things as You see them.

- - -

“Teach me Thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path.”
(Psalms 27:11)

JUNE 4

GOD AND SCIENCE

Many people think they have to choose between science and God, as if they were somehow not compatible. But such is not the case.

They are opposite, but they compliment each other. God and science are simply two sides of the same coin.

This natural world that we are living in is a mere reflection of the spiritual world that surrounds us. And both are just as equally wondrous, unfathomable...

And beautiful!

Affirmation:

I praise you, O God, for the intricate beauty, harmony, and precision of Your creation, both physical and spiritual.

“For the invisible things of Him are clearly seen and understood through the things that He hath made.”

(Romans 1:20)

WHAT ARE YOU INTO?

So many people today are so into themselves. Their whole world revolves around them.

No wonder they are unhappy. No wonder they are so depressed.

This is the culture we are living in. And it is only made worse by television, movies, music, and the Internet.

It's not surprising that loneliness abounds.

Because true happiness comes not in living selfishly, but in thinking of others. And people are what bring meaning and purpose to life.

Are you lonely? Look for ways to bring joy into other people's lives.

Are you depressed? Discover what joys can be had by putting others' needs above your own.

GIVE love, and you'll receive love!

Affirmation:

I open the windows of my heart and life to others.

- - -

“Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over shall men give back to you. For with the same measure that you give, it shall be given back to you again.” (Luke 6:38)

NOT ALONE

Do you love the Lord? You are not alone.

There are many, many hundreds of millions of people that love Him too. There are many who believe in the Bible and find help and guidance in its pages.

There are many who hear from the Lord and have a close walk with Him. There are many who follow Him, and many who share the same hope that you do.

There are many more that God uses day after day to lift up and encourage others. There are many who have forsaken self and are putting Him first.

Many people are pleasing God and are fulfilling their mission on Earth.

Cheer up.

You are not alone!

Affirmation:

I am a soldier in God's mighty army of love.

- - -

“Let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.” (Galatians 6:9)

“VIVE LA DIFFÉRENCE!”

Getting along with the opposite sex is not only challenging; it can be downright frustrating! And sometimes we may be tempted to give up trying.

Since the beginning of time men and women have had difficulty understanding each other, because we are different. God made us different.

And the problem comes when we insist on trying to make the opposite sex see things the way we do, when we expect them to be like us.

It would be boring to live in a world where men and women were all the same!

We are not supposed to try to be like each other. We are here to learn from each other, enjoy each other. That’s the beauty of love.

As the French say... “Vive la différence”!

Affirmation:

Thank you Lord for my mate, for this wonderful opportunity to learn from our differences, and to grow in Your love as a couple.

- - -

“Male and female created He them. A man shall cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh.” (Genesis 1:27, 2:24)

WE BELIEVE IT!

God is love. God is the spirit of love. And love is God. We believe that.

We also believe everything God does, He does in love. God can take away or God can give, but whatever He does, whichever it is, He does it in love. We are convinced of that.

This is what the Bible calls the walk of faith; trusting in an invisible God.

Sure, there are many things we don't understand right now, in this life, but the day will come when we will see the glory of God in the things that we do not now understand.

Love WILL win in the end. There WILL be a happy ending.

We believe it!

Affirmation:

All these things come from a loving Father. All these things come from a Father of love.

- - -

“Blessed are they that believe, for there shall be a performance of those things from the Lord.” (Luke 1:45)

JUNE 9

SHOW THEM YOU CARE

How do we show someone we care?

The best way is simply to pay attention to them.

It takes a real effort to stop what we are doing and listen to a friend or loved one.

It isn't always easy.

It takes an effort to not let your mind wander, to listen and not be formulating your answer while the other is talking.

People are starving for attention.

Be willing to listen...

Show them you care!

Affirmation:

I show people that I care by listening more to them.

“My children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.” (1 John 3:18)

STOP IT RIGHT NOW!

Some people are workaholics. They work non-stop, drink a lot of coffee, and get very little sleep.

They are tormented by a spirit of constant unrest. They feel they can't stop.

But one of the central lessons we are here to learn is to let God move in our lives. And He can't do this as long as we are in this state of constant busyness.

We have to stop doing things in our own understanding, in our own reasoning, and in our own energy and strength.

Then, and only then, can God start moving mightily in our lives.

It is only when we get out of God's way that He can bless us, provide for us and show us His power.

Stop trying so hard.

Give God some space!

Affirmation:

I give you room to work in my life, dear Lord, by stopping and looking to You first in all I do.

“He that is entered into His rest has ceased from his own works.” (Hebrews 4:10)

GREAT

God's idea of greatness is not money. God's idea of cool is not how popular you are. God's idea of good is not self glorification, arrogance, and pride.

God only uses humble people. Men and women who are small in their own eyes are great in God's.

Those who know they are nothing without Him. Those who know that everything they have is because of Him, and comes from Him.

These are the truly great on this earth.

And these will be the greatest in the world to come!

Affirmation:

I know that everything I have and everything I am is thanks to God. I walk humbly, because I owe everything to Him.

- - -

“Every good and perfect thing comes from above.”
(James 1:17)

SHAMEFUL

A woman paid \$130,000 for a hand bag.
Another paid half a million for a watch.

A man shelled out \$1.6 million for a bottle of whiskey. People pay millions for iPhone cases covered with hundreds of diamonds, and the most expensive cars can be had for \$20 million or more.

Expensive houses go for hundreds of millions. And the most expensive yacht has a hull completely covered in gold and is worth \$4.5 billion!

The world's richest man recently increased his fortune by \$2 billion... in ONE day. But over 80% of the world's population makes under \$10. a day.

Still, people idolize the wealthy. They justify them and even exalt them as role models.

We should all be ASHAMED!

Affirmation:

I do not glorify material riches and the people who have them.
I rather praise the Lord and exalt His name.

“He who dies wealthy, dies disgraced.” (Andrew Carnegie, Billionaire business magnate, philanthropist and pioneer of the American steel industry.)

THE QUESTION

The big question is: “Does God exist?”

If God doesn't exist, then let's eat and drink and be merry. Let's gorge ourselves with a never ending barrage of food, drink, drugs, good times, travel, and unbridled fun. We would be stupid not to do so!

But if God does exist? Whoa!

If God DOES exist, if there IS more to this life, and if something else awaits us after it, then wouldn't we be wise to start getting ready for it?

So, we should all ask ourselves:

“Do I really live as if I believe that God exists?”

Affirmation:

I am doing the most that I can for the Lord during my journey through this life.

- - -

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon Earth. But rather lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven.”

(Matthew 6:19-20)

JUNE 14

WELCOME HOME

Home is a place where you are always welcome. Its doors are always open, and you feel safe.

Home is where you feel you are heard, you feel you count, and you feel loved.

Home is the bosom of a mother, the faith of a child, and a glimpse of Heaven.

Home is a place of ease, a place of rest, and a place of refilling.

That's what Jesus is like:

With Jesus in your heart you are home.

Affirmation:

I find comfort in your arms, O Lord. Thou art my hiding place.

- - -

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous run into it and are safe.” (Proverbs 18:10)

NEED HELP?

Do you know why some people don't hear from God? Because they are lazy. They prefer to have others tell them what to do. They want someone else to give them the solution to their problem.

It's hard work sometimes hearing from God. You have to make a real effort. You have to quiet your own spirit, stop all your feverish activity.

In short, you have to get yourself out of the way for God to be able to get through, because God speaks in a small, quiet, firm and loving voice. But if you don't quiet your own spirit you'll never be able to hear Him!

Other people can't solve your problems. No one else can fully understand the scope of your situation.

So, instead of looking to people to help you, get alone in prayer, bring a hush to your own spirit, wait for His answer... And you will get it!

Affirmation:

Lord, You know what's best. I look to Thee alone for help and guidance.

- - -

"Be still and know that I am God." (Psalms 46:10)

ANGER IS EASY!

Anyone can get mad, get up in arms and fly into a fit of rage. And some people can get all bent out of shape over anything, and almost nothing!

But it takes guts to keep it together. It shows real worth to control yourself.

Now, we are not talking about the kind of self control where you are inwardly ready to explode any minute. But coming to a place in your life where you realize that nothing good has ever come out of those times you blew up and said something rash, or did something stupid.

You're smart when you realize that you ended up not changing anything, but only hurt people including yourself! It's not only smart, but it's also a lot better for your health and happiness.

So, why worry? Let's stop trying so hard to change things we cannot change.

God can set you free from anger.

But you have to ask Him to!

Affirmation:

Take away from me, O God, everything that's not of You.

“He that has no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.” (Proverbs 25:28)

JUNE 17

IN THE END

When all is said and done, when we come to the end of our lives...

What will we be able to take with us? What will remain?

That glorious new building of today will be in ruins tomorrow. The good we do today will be forgotten by future generations.

Popularity is transitory. Fame is fleeting.

Man forgets. Only God remembers!

And only what we do for LOVE will remain...

In the end.

Affirmation:

I believe in love and I am loving to those whose paths I cross in this life.

- - -

“And there is faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13)

BACK TO LOVE

Instead of bringing the world together, religion is only creating more division.

Petty rivalries, jealousies, and bickering over doctrines and even politics these days are common in churches. Fussing, fighting, and feuding have always been rampant in the religious world. And these things are simply not of the Lord!

Jesus came in love.

Jesus came for love, that we might learn to love and help each other.

Not in competition, but in loving cooperation and fellowship as one body. Not with empty words, but by loving deeds: His love through us for our fellow man.

How far we have fallen. We need to get back to the teachings of Jesus, pure and simple.

We don't need more religion.

We need more love!

Affirmation:

I lift up Christ by being an example of patience, tolerance, and love to others.

- - -

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves.” (Philippians 2:3)

JUNE 19

BLAH BLAH BLAH

Talk is cheap. And the cheapest talk of all is talking about others. Gossip.

Gossip comes from idle people and empty minds: losers.

Great souls simply don't have time for gossip. They dwell on the positive. They are busy doing better things, more productive things. They are winners.

Sooner or later we reap what we sow. What goes around comes around.

We don't waste time on gossip!

Affirmation:

I don't spend my time talking about others. I have better things to do.

- - -

“A gossip can separate the best of friends.” (Proverbs 16:28)

ONLY GOD KNOWS!

Sex, booze, short dresses, and dancing.
The tooth fairy, Protestants, Catholics, Jews.
Marijuana, Muslims, Joel Osteen, nudity,
pumpkins, the Pope.

Not going to church, or temple, or mosque,
or going to church, or temple, or mosque.
Conservatives, liberals, Krishna, and Buddha.
Abortion, the flag, makeup, a thong. Cleavage,
guns, pork, and red meat. Birth control, tattoos,
cats, and mother-in-laws!

All of the above things are GOOD to some
people. And all of the above things are sinful, evil,
or BAD to others.

So...

WHICH is right? WHO is right? There
is no cookie cutter response to these and other
questions.

Time, context, and other factors must be taken
into account when it comes to many things in life.

Only GOD knows.

Only God sees the whole picture, and
only God sees the heart.

Who are any of us to think we know...

MORE THAN GOD?!

Affirmation:

I know nothing, Lord, except what You show me.

“Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts.” (1 Corinthians 4:5)

JUNE 21

A SURE THING

There will be war no more.

There will be no more fear.

Man will have ceased to view his neighbor as his enemy.

In God's tomorrow.

Affirmation:

The day will come when fear will have been conquered by love!

“Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” (Isaiah 2:4)

JUNE 22

YOU CAN'T GO WRONG

You can't please everyone.

Many people love our writings. But some say we don't talk about God enough. And yet others say we talk about God too much.

Funny world isn't it!

Many people don't want much to do with God nowadays. They have been turned off by religious fanatics. Many people have big misconceptions about God, of what He is like, and of what He expects of us.

That's why we need to keep it simple.

If you give people hope, if you give them love...

You can't go wrong!

Affirmation:

Help me to be an example of hope and Your love, dear Lord.

“Love ye one another as I have loved you.” (John 13:34)

GIMME MORE!

Seems like people are never satisfied these days!

They always have to have another beer, another portion of mashed potatoes, raise the volume even more on their sound system.

They want more. They want another. They want bigger, better, fancier, cooler.

More caffeine, more drugs, more pleasure, faster, faster, and faster!

But something's gotta give!

Sooner or later we will all have to come back down to the ground. Sooner or later we will all have a wake up call.

We will all be humbler then. We will all be more loving.

Then, and only then, will we finally all be **HAPPY**.

Affirmation:

I am happy and grateful for the many blessings and things that you have given me, Lord.

“Delight thyself in the Lord, and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.” (Psalms 37:4)

JUNE 24

WHEN?

When you realize life's not all about you.

When you don't have all the answers.

When you stop feeding your senses.

When you stop pursuing nonsense.

When you come to the end of yourself.

When your best isn't good enough.

When you finally let go...

Then God has a chance.

Then God can show you.

Then God can fill you.

Then God can heal you.

Then God can THRILL you!

Affirmation:

I have stopped doing things in my own strength and am letting God do them through me.

"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."
(2 Corinthians 12:9)

NO TIME FOR YOU GOD

There are 168 hours in a week.

Surveys break this down to the following for the average person:

- 50 hours of sleep
- 40 hours of work
- 35 leisure (television, computer, sports, etc.)
- 14 meals
- 12 household activities
- 5 commute
- 5 personal care
- 5 shopping
- 2 civic & religious activities

No wonder people have so many problems...

They give less than 1.19% of their time to
GOD!

Affirmation:

I put You first in my life, dear Heavenly Father.

“No man can serve two masters. For he will either hate the one or love the other. Ye cannot serve God and riches.”
(Matthew 6:24)

SPECIAL THINGS

We think God inspired chocolate.

Is there anything better? Is there anything more yummy? Chocolate stands in a class all by itself. Chocolate is special.

We think God made roses.

Is there anything more beautiful? Is there anything more fragrant? Roses are divine. So special.

We think God made babies!

Is there anything purer? Is there anything more Heavenly? Babies are like little angels dropped right out of Heaven. They're so special.

And we think God made you and me.

God made us to love. God made us to reflect His love to the world around us.

We think WE are special indeed!

Affirmation:

I glorify You, Lord, in everything I do and am an example of Your love to others.

- - -

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

WHAT, ME WORRY?

None of us can see the whole picture of why we are here on Earth.

And when we come to the end of life's road probably all of us will be sad to some degree when we see the opportunities we lost, when we realize the time we wasted on *nothings*.

But no one is perfect.

And thankfully God knows our weaknesses. God knows our limitations, temptations, and trials. And all that is really required of us is that we just do the best we can.

As long as we try to do the right thing, as long as we try to be considerate and kind and loving to others...

We'll have NOTHING to worry about!

Affirmation:

I do my best for God and others, and know that my efforts are not in vain.

- - -

“Well done thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” (Matthew 25:21)

WHY PRAY?

I really don't understand how prayer works, but I do pray to God.

To some people it may seem a little crazy, talking to an invisible being. But the best way I can explain it is: When I pray, coincidences happen. And when I don't pray, they don't. Or not as many.

I talk to God as a friend. God is my friend. Throughout the day I tell Him things, ask Him things. And He guides me. He helps me.

That's why I talk to God.

He'll do the same for you!

Affirmation:

Thank You, Lord. You always hear me, You always help me, and You always answer my prayers.

"All things that ye shall ask in prayer, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." (Mark 11:24)

JUNE 29

A HAPPY ENDING

Heaven is REAL! It exists.

When all is said and done, when our lives are done and through, only what we have done for LOVE will last.

We all know this deep down inside. We have just had this blurred by all the noise and confusion of the world.

Yes, the good news is that love will win, in the end. Love is the currency in Heaven, and in Heaven the only yardstick will be love.

So, what are you waiting for?

LOVE, here and now. Let all of your actions be guided by love... and you can't go wrong.

You will have a happy ending!

Affirmation:

Thank You dear Heavenly Father. I know that my labor of love here and now is not in vain.

“There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord shall give me at that day.” (2 Timothy 4:8)

OUR PRIORITIES

Greed is flaunted in our faces in movies and on television to where many people now accept it as normal.

It's no wonder that more and more people think nothing of living selfishly.

But there is only one thing we can take with us from this life; and that is what we do unselfishly and for others.

Only what we do for love, and for the Lord will last.

We are here to enjoy life. That's not bad. Just so long as we don't lose sight of what is real...

The things that will last,
Forever!

Affirmation:

I know I am only passing through this world, Lord. I keep my eyes on the Heavenly vision.

- - -

“For we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

(2 Corinthians 4:18)



July

*We create most of our problems
ourselves. And then we want to blame
others.*

We really need to stop being so stupid.

JULY 1

MOVE WITH GOD!

You can't please the old.

The old is implacable, immovable, set in its ways. The old always resists change.

Each new generation has had to deal with this. Every new generation has had to buck the status quo, go against the norms of their day. It's never been easy.

But God is with pioneers.

God is with those who are brave enough to challenge the norm. Because God is all about change!

Our God is a moving God.

Are YOU moving with Him?

Affirmation:

I am open to the changes that God wants to bring about in my life.

- - -

“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you.” (Ezekiel 36:26)

EXCITING TIMES

Aren't we living in exciting times?

Technology is advancing so quickly that if you blink you miss something!

There certainly is a good side to this.

But all of the cool gadgets, devices, inventions, and breakthroughs are coming at a price: People are having to choose between traditional values of family, friendship, and love; or selfishness, indifference, and greed.

Jesus said that people would grow cold. But He said that we are not to worry. He said that this would be one of the signs to look for before His return.

Aren't we living in exciting times!

Affirmation:

Thank You Lord for being with me in these times that we are living in. Thank You for always being by my side.

“The love of many shall grow cold... And then shall appear the Son of God coming in the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory.” (Matthew 24:12,30)

JULY 3

DON'T WORRY

Why do we worry about tomorrow?

When a need arises, You Lord will provide.

When obstacles come, You Lord will help us through them or around them. Or over them!

Why do we worry so?

Because we are not truly trusting Him. We have not yet surrendered our all.

Thank you Lord for Your peace.

Thank you Lord for the rest of body, mind, and soul that comes from letting YOU take control of my life.

Affirmation:

I take life one day at a time and trust God to take care of tomorrow.

- - -

“The Lord redeemeth the soul of His servants: and none of them that trust in Him shall be desolate.” (Psalms 34:22)

LOOK TO GOD, NOT MAN.

The world today is so divided.

Some people believe that God doesn't talk to man today. Others believe that God doesn't want a man to enjoy a glass of wine, or a woman to wear pants, or dance. To some, many things are taboo!

A lot of Christians have turned going to church into a god. They seem to have forgotten that true religion is about a personal relationship with our Creator.

People are so incredibly divided and at odds with each other when it comes to their beliefs. No wonder so many people are turned off to religion.

Don't look to man. Look to God.

SEEK God: and you will find Him.

LISTEN to God: and He will guide you.

FOLLOW God: and He will give you the desires of your heart!

Affirmation:

I don't care about pleasing man, Lord. Only You.

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." (Psalms 118:8)

CLEANING HOUSE

We all have to do dirty laundry. We all have to brush our teeth. We all bathe.

We wash, we scrub, we shave. We keep clean to take care of our bodies, our health, our well being. If not, we get ill. We get stinky. We lose friends.

The same holds true for us spiritually. We get yucky if we are not cleaning ourselves regularly by making time for the Lord.

You will be unpleasant to be around if you do not take time to think about Him and bathe yourself spiritually with inspiring things from His Word.

Time for a scrub?

Affirmation:

As soon as I wake up the first thing I do is spend time with the Lord.

“Now ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you.” (John 15:3)

JULY 6

I DON'T WANT TO WAIT!

My God! It is hard to wait!

Whether it be for that job, or that mate.

Whether it be for the sun to shine, the wound to heal, or for the bell to ring: it's **HARD** to wait!

But patience seems to be one of the main lessons we are here to learn. And just when we think we have learned it, God gives us another batch of things that try our patience. He shows us just how far we have to go, how much more we have to learn.

But you know...

It's **ALL** for our good. Everything is for our spiritual growth. Everything is under control. All things will turn out for the best.

And we will be so happy some day, that we trusted Him, **TODAY!**

Affirmation:

I know that everything is going according to Your highest will.

- - -

“But let patience have her perfect work that you may be perfect and entire, lacking nothing.” (James 1:4)

JULY 7

STRANGE PEOPLE

Some people sure are strange.

It's amazing to see how they can misinterpret things. They read between the lines. They want to interpret your words and find hidden meaning. It's quite funny at times. It's also sad.

It's sad how people have been led away from the simplicity of life. They have become captives of snares created by their own minds, products of their own thoughts.

It's wise to be simple.

That's what makes a little child so beautiful: He hasn't learned to overly complicate things... yet.

Only Jesus can set you free. Free from the things that keep you down.

Free to live.

Free to love.

Affirmation:

I stopped analyzing and trying to understand everything, and now let You have free reign in my life Lord.

- - -

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed." (John 8:36)

JULY 8

“MAÑANA”

It will be a better day “Mañana” when the world is free of fear.

Concrete and glass, plastic and crime, steel and starvation, pollution and guns will no longer be the bane of man’s existence.

Greed, jealousy, envy and self will no longer rule man’s heart.

Man will feel no need to kill his neighbor. No one will be a stranger.

And the child in us all will be set free.

“Mañana.”

When the world is free of fear.

Affirmation:

A better day awaits me, and a world where love will reign at last.

- - -

“They shall not hurt nor destroy... for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord.” (Isaiah 11:9)

JULY 9

HAPPY SOULS

Are you a happy soul?
Or are you a sourpuss?
Do you go through your day with a smile?
Or do you trudge through it with a frown?

People with positive outlooks are not only more successful: They also live longer!

So, unless you have a death wish, start looking on the positive, be grateful for what you have, enjoy life, and SMILE more!

You will not only have more fun...

But you will also be more fun to be around!

Affirmation:

I dwell on the positive and look on the bright side of life.

- - -

“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.” (Proverbs 17:22)

JULY 10

LIVING IN HARMONY

God always seems to bless people who live in peace with each other, people living in harmony, helping each other.

It takes an effort sometimes. It's not always easy, but there is real strength in unity.

Life is hard enough as it is, but God blesses unity. That's why the devil attacks it so much.

Let's try to get along better with those around us. Let's be positive and lift each other up. Let's make an effort to dwell on the things we have in common, things that unite us.

We need each other.

Let's strive for harmony.

Affirmation:

I need and am grateful for the people that God has put in my life.

- - -

“How good and how pleasant it is to dwell together in unity.”
(Psalms 133:1)

OPEN UP!

Some people only think of themselves. They are only looking to receive. They are complainers. They are always unhappy, depressed, and have many problems.

Other people give, and give, seeking nothing in return. They forget themselves. They think of others and put others' needs before their own.

They are happier because they have discovered the joy that comes from giving. They even enjoy better health!

It is in giving of ourselves that we find the truest joy.

It is in opening our hearts to others that we find the FULLNESS of God.

Affirmation:

I help others without seeking anything in return.

“He that plants sparingly shall reap also sparingly, but he that plants bountifully shall reap also bountifully.” (2 Corinthians 9:6)

IF I WERE GOD

“If I were God I wouldn’t let people suffer.”

You hear this all the time. That’s people’s attitude! They are always accusing God of being unfair, unkind, unloving.

If they were God they would do things differently. What they are saying is that they are more righteous than God. Imagine that!

Man’s natural mode is to get proud sometimes, to get arrogant. We think we know more than God. We think we know how to do things better.

Well, God doesn’t expect us to be perfect. But He does expect us to be yielded. And it is as we become yielded that we begin to see God’s love for our lives.

It’s only when we are yielded to Him that we see the wisdom of His plan.

Affirmation:

Only you are wise, O God. I trust Thee and Thy plan for all mankind.

- - -

“Now we see through a window dimly, but then we will see clearly. Now I know in part, but then will I know fully.”

(1 Corinthians 13:12)

TO BE CONTINUED

We should all ask ourselves: “What are we doing now in this world that we will be able to take with us into the next?” That is the question.

If we are happy with the answer, and if we think we will be comfortable when we stand before God’s throne some day, because that day will come, then we have nothing to worry about.

A very wise person once said:

“We cannot be selfish and unloving in this life, and unselfish and loving in the next. The two are too closely linked. One is but a continuation of the other.”

Affirmation:

I live my life every day in such a way that I will not be ashamed when I appear before God.

- - -

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”
(Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

STOP THE NOISE!

Sometimes we don't know what to do.
Sometimes we don't know where to go.

Life is full of uncertainties, surprises, curve balls, and detours. And so much noise!

We often feel lost, or at least not sure as to which course of action to take.

At times like these we must make a real effort to not lean to our own understanding, but to get down to business with the Lord, and seek His solutions in prayer.

God always answers the hungry heart. God never fails to show the way. But we've got to first stop all the NOISE, get quiet...

And wait for HIS answer!

Affirmation:

When I don't know what to do, I seek Your help and guidance, dear Lord.

- - -

“Ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13)

DIFFERENT PATHS

Many of our problems in life come from trying to control people. Many of our heartbreaks come from expecting things of them.

We try to control things. We place expectations on people. Family members do it, sometimes even those we love the most.

It just seems to be human nature to want to take charge and be in control. But often that only leads to stress and frustration for all.

We must remember that each one is here on their own personal mission, and God doesn't force anyone to do anything.

Each of us has a life to live. Each of us walks our own unique path in life. We should support each other along those paths.

And let God have HIS perfect way in people's lives.

Affirmation:

I leave everything in Your hands, Lord. Only You know what is best for every one of us.

“The Lord will perfect that which concerns each one.”
(Psalms 138:8)

HOW MUCH DO YOU LOVE?

When this life is over and the angels beckon you, the only thing you will be able to take with you is what you have done with love.

No matter what anyone says, in spite of all the great things you may have done, in spite of all the money and material wealth you have accumulated in this life, if you didn't have love you didn't accomplish much. Because only love will last.

Mother Teresa unselfishly loved the most needy in one of the poorest countries on earth. Mother Teresa was a good example of love. She gave her life for love.

Imagine how she must feel now that she is in God's presence!

Mother Teresa sure was a smart woman!

Affirmation:

I believe in love. I know that God's love is the answer to all of man's problems, and I am a good ambassador of His love.

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

THAT THING YOU DO

Someone once said: “Don’t tell me what you believe. Tell me what you DO all day and I’ll tell you what you believe!”

Our lives speak so much louder than our words. No matter how you see yourself, no matter how many lofty ideas you have, what you actually DO is what’s important. That’s what defines you. You become the things you do day in and day out.

We all, each and every one of us, are creating our eternal destiny at this very moment by the things we do.

We can live selfishly, or we can have the life we long for by being loving and giving and caring.

And that begins with how we live, and what we DO, today!

Affirmation:

I am creating the life that I want to live right now, every day by the things that I do.

“Be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” (James 1:22)

JULY 18

THE PATH TO CHANGE

People are so afraid of saying the wrong thing, of doing the wrong thing. People are worried about being politically correct. And it is stifling us all!

We are all afraid that anything we say may be misinterpreted, or blown out of proportion. It is becoming ridiculous.

Yet this is the world that we are creating. We are responsible for many of the very chains that bind us. Only man is to blame for having let himself get to the state he is currently in.

We are not getting better. We are getting worse. Things have got to change.

But that change must begin with US!

Affirmation:

I focus on doing what I know is right, and I don't worry about what others do or say.

- - -

“We ought to obey God rather than man.” (Acts 5:29)

WHO'S WAITING ON WHO?

Many people say they wonder why they are here on earth. They say they are waiting for God to show them.

They are waiting for God to give them some big sign, a flash of lightning or something. But they aren't doing anything meanwhile.

God doesn't work that way.

God doesn't want you to just sit around doing nothing. He wants you to get busy and be a blessing to someone else.

We are here to be a channel of God's love.
We are here to serve others.

It is when we get busy doing what we can do, that we put ourselves in a position where God can start moving. And, little by little, His path for our life becomes clear.

God is only waiting on YOU!

Affirmation:

As I do what I can today, God shows me the next step.

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7)

IT'S A CHALLENGE

It's nice to get away from all the confusion, rest in the Lord, and find the peace He gives when our minds are stayed on Him.

The challenge is learning to take that peace with us and spread it throughout our day to others, especially in situations that would otherwise try our patience. It's not always easy.

That's the problem most of us have.

But isn't that what life is really all about?

Learning to be like Him and being a living example of His love?

It's that simple.

But oh, at times, how hard it is!

Affirmation:

I meditate on the Lord and let Him fill me with His peace as I go through my day.

“The peace of God which passes all understanding will keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7)

SETTLE DOWN

You see it everywhere these days: People getting hysterical. Hysteria is becoming the norm.

People get bent out of shape over immigration. They get self righteous over abortion. Not to mention women's rights, gay rights, racism, or a thousand other things.

People shout. They get violent.

The press doesn't help at all. They just make it worse with their hysteria and sensationalistic news coverage.

So much contention is getting us nowhere. People need to just settle down.

But believe it or not, everything is going according to God's perfect plan in spite of man. God is still in control, and He is letting man come to the end of his rope.

Yes, the Lord is letting the entire universe see what happens when man tries to do things his own way, do things in his own strength... Without God!

Affirmation:

I keep my thoughts on the good and positive in the world. I know that criticizing others will not change anything.

"Glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:20)

THE SECRET TO MORE

Some people are never satisfied. No matter what they have, they always want more. No matter where they are, they always wish they were somewhere else.

This spirit consumes them. It overtakes them and robs them of all of life's joys. It is a spirit of discontent. And it is not of the Lord.

The secret to God's blessings is to be content with where we are, and to be grateful for what we have.

When we accept this truth and embrace it, we put ourselves in a place where God can really start moving in our lives.

And give us MORE!

Affirmation:

I am grateful for and content with my life and everything You have given me, Lord. I know You want the best for me, and what will make me the happiest.

"In everything give thanks for this is the will of God."

(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

HOW DO WE SPEND OUR TIME?

We all like to eat. We all like to drink. We all like to have a good time; we like sports, the beach, movies, and more. And, “Oh yes, we believe in God.” Or so people say.

But how is it that we find time for so many things we want to do, but somehow find so little time for God?

It’s not about whether we go to church or not. It’s not about going through the motions.

It’s about letting the Lord lead us throughout our day, no matter what we’re doing. It’s about letting Him use us to be a blessing to others.

How much of our time do we spend on things that won’t last? How much time do we spend on things that are eternal?

That is a question we will ALL have to answer.

Affirmation:

At the start of each day I direct my thoughts to You, Lord, in prayer and Your Word, and You guide me throughout my day.

“Set your affection on things above, not on things of the earth.” (Colossians 3:2)

JULY 24

YOU CAN

People are losing hope. People feel let down with the system, with religion, with other people.

The world has become fake, and the people flakey.

But many are looking for solid ground in this quicksand world, something to hold on to. They are starving for *real*.

YOU can encourage, lift up, and inspire. You can be brave enough to think of others and put their happiness above your own.

You can be a beacon of hope to them.

You CAN!

Affirmation:

I make a real effort to lift up and encourage the people in my life.

- - -

“Wherefore comfort each other and edify one another.”

(1 Thessalonians 5:11)

PATIENTLY HE AWAITS

God never forces anyone.

He is always loving, never condemning. When we seek Him, He is there. He waits for us patiently with open arms.

God loves us. But He cannot make us love Him. Yet that is the only thing He wants of us: our love.

God doesn't try to control us. Yet many try to control Him and tell Him how He should do things.

God's ways are not our ways. And it is only by giving up ours, that we can fully come to understand His!

Patiently He AWAITS.

Affirmation:

I love You, Lord. You are my best friend. I put myself fully in Your hands.

- - -

“My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.” (Isaiah 55:8)

WHAT TO DO?

Sometimes you find yourself with a problem or in a difficult situation, and you want so badly to find the solution, or have the answer. You just don't know what to do.

Well, the Bible says, "They that seek the Lord understand all things." (Proverbs 28:5)

Now the key word here is *seek*. When we seek God for guidance and really want to know, and have no will of our own, He will answer.

Sometimes God answers "yes". And sometimes He answers "no". And yet other times God answers "wait". He always shows you what to do; even if many times He tells you to stop everything and do nothing and wait. Time has a curious way of solving problems.

God will answer your prayer if you will but stop, take a pause, and in quietness and calmness of spirit seek Him.

He always answers the hungry heart.

Affirmation:

When I don't know what to do I seek the Lord. As I follow His guidance He works miracles in my life.

"Call unto me and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not." (Jeremiah 33:3)

JULY 27

YOU THINK YOU'RE COOL?

It seems like everyone these days is trying to be cool.

People seem to be willing to do anything to be cool, to attract attention.

They brag about themselves. They show off their material possessions. They flaunt their riches.

And the sad part is, being selfish is now considered cool. They call it hedonistic!

That's how far man has fallen.

But in God's eyes it's cool to care about others. It's cool to be unselfish and giving.

To God, loving people are the smart ones.

Loving people are the COOL ones!

Affirmation:

I want to be cool in God's eyes, not in man's.

“A meek and loving spirit is of great value in the sight of God.” (1 Peter 3:4)

LIKE A FLOWER

Our lives are like flowers: Our days are numbered.

We bask in the sunlight for a season, but inevitably we must wither and die.

We rejoice when someone comes into this life. We are happy when a baby is born. But we get sad when someone dies.

We are all here on a mission. We are all here to learn. When we learn our lessons, the bell will ring, and we will go home.

Just like when a baby is born, leaving this life should be a day of rejoicing...

It's our graduation day!

Affirmation:

I know death is no cause for sorrow. When I or any of my loved ones leave this earth we will have learned and accomplished what we came here for.

- - -

“There shall be no more sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”
(Revelation 21:4, Matthew 25:23)

THE TWO PATHS

The world says, “Be successful.” (That means make a lot of money and be greedy.)

Jesus says, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon Earth.” (That means invest in Eternity by giving His love to others.)

The world says, “Grow up!” (That means become cold, cynical, and selfish.)

Jesus says we should be like little children. (That means trusting, loving, and pure.)

The world says, “Seeing is believing.” (That means God doesn’t exist.)

Jesus says, “Believing is seeing.” (That means you have ALL of God’s power and promises on your side!)

Affirmation:

I choose to see things God’s way, and not the way of this world. I know His is the right perspective. As I follow Him, He strengthens me.

- - -

“It is God that fills me with strength and makes my way perfect.” (Psalms 18:32)

SLEEPY TIME PRAYER

Sleeping is funny: You lie down, close your eyes. Maybe you have a dream. Then the next thing you know you wake up after having taken a trip to some unknown place. Time has passed, but to you it seems like mere seconds.

Throughout the Bible God spoke to His prophets and children through dreams.

Why do we sleep? Well, other than for the obvious reason of replenishing our energy, some think that God has ordained sleep to keep man from committing too much evil. To keep man in line somewhat, so to speak. Who knows?

Whatever the reason, it is a good idea to say a little prayer before going to sleep to ask the Lord for His protection, to ask Him to protect your dreams.

Who knows? Maybe God will even speak to you through one of them!

Affirmation:

Before going to sleep I ask God to give me good dreams, and speak to my spirit through them.

“In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men... Then He openeth their ears and instructs them.
(Job 33:15-16)

GOD'S ESSENCE

God is love.

And the challenge is: How to communicate that God is love to a world that can't help but see Him as so many negative things religion makes Him out to be!

How do we destroy the false image people have of Him? That image of God as a tyrant who wants you to keep all kinds of dumb rules?

God's only law is love. God's only rule is for us to be loving to each other.

When we come to the end of this life we will see that God was not a tyrant, but the very essence of love itself. And that LOVE was in fact...

The ONLY thing that really mattered!

Affirmation:

By being an example of God's love to all who cross my path in life, I show what God is truly like, and accomplish His highest will.

- - -

“For all the law is fulfilled in this: love thy neighbor as thyself.” (Galatians 5:14)



August

*The secret to God's blessings, both
spiritual as well as material, is to first
share what you have.*

And then God will give you more.

AUGUST 1

LET'S ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER

“To be able to laugh when you feel like crying.” That’s how one person described a sense of humor.

The times we are living in are certainly no laughing matter, but keeping the right balance, counting our many blessings and retaining a sense of humor help us to cope. They give us strength, stamina and the grace to endure.

A sense of humor makes the ride through this life more pleasant.

We are all in this together.

Let’s encourage and support each other... and let’s not forget to laugh!

Affirmation:

I make an effort daily to be a positive influence and encourage those around me.

- - -

“Bear ye one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2)

ALONE WITH GOD!

Everything is noise nowadays! People keep their televisions blaring, or music going non stop. No wonder they have trouble hearing God. The Bible says you have “to be still to feel God’s presence.” (See Psa. 46:10)

You go into the country surrounded only by His creation, and you see His hand in nature, you feel His peace, and then He can speak to your heart.

God is speaking all the time, and every time we get quiet enough and bring a hush to our own spirits we will hear Him.

But you are going to have to get alone with God, some place, some time during your day if you are to find His peace and the guidance you seek in your life. You have to not only stop the noise around you, but also your own feverish activity. And if you do, you will not be disappointed.

God WILL answer. And it will thrill your heart!

Affirmation:

No matter what is going on in my day, I make time for quiet moments with You, Lord.

- - -

“For he that is entered into His rest, has ceased from his own efforts.” (Hebrews 4:10)

JUST DON'T

“Judge not!” People say that all the time. They also don't like you telling them anything: “Don't criticize me.”

So people say we should not criticize others. We should not be judgmental. They get all self righteous about it. Yet they think nothing of criticizing others!

A lot of people spend a significant amount of their time criticizing celebrities, sports figures, and artists. They criticize their presidents, mayors, congressmen, neighbors and bosses. They think that's ok.

Well, negative thinking is more detrimental to us, than to anyone else. The Bible says we are not to cut down people. Speaking against people is simply not of God. It really accomplishes nothing.

We need to criticize people less and PRAY for them more!

Affirmation:

Only God can judge others, because only He sees everything. I wait on Him and do not speak negatively of others.

“Speak evil of no man.” (Titus 3:2)

AUGUST 4

MAN'S WORLD

We have no more circus.
Fur coats are out of style.
We want to save the whales, snakes
and alligators.

We pollute our cities.
We deforest the jungle.
We dump plastic into the seas.
And we mow down our neighbor.

Our press is biased.
Our religions meaningless.
Our music is noise.
Our systems corrupt.

Earthquakes abound.
Hatred, anger, and greed.
Morals decline.
All around decay I see.

Welcome to MAN'S WORLD!

Affirmation:

Only God can set things straight. Only He can make it all right.

“And God said... let man have dominion over all the earth.”
(Genesis 1:26)

SERIOUSLY NOW!

Life can get serious at times.
It can get downright scary!
But worrying about it really doesn't get us
anywhere.

They say that laughter is the best medicine.
That may be true. And the world would probably
be a better place if we all laughed more!

God has given us a sense of humor. He wants
us to be happy, trust Him for our lives, laugh
more...

And not take ourselves so SERIOUSLY!

Affirmation:

I know God is in control of my life, and I am so grateful and
happy that He is.

- - -

“The joy of the Lord is our strength.” (Nehemiah 8:10)

WHY DO WE WORRY?

Have you ever noticed that most of the things we worry about never happen?

Why do we worry so much?

We can stop worrying, and find the rest that we long for.

God IS in control.

And things will turn out all right!

But first we must surrender everything to

Him,

And TRUST!

Affirmation:

I give all of my problems to You, dear Lord. In Thee do I trust.

- - -

“Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy burdened. Learn of Me... and ye shall find rest.” (Matthew 11:28-29)

INTEGRITY: IN DANGER OF EXTINCTION

We often hear people say, “Our thoughts and prayers are with you.”

But saying that doesn’t do anything unless you get down to business with God and specifically pray for that person or situation.

People also say, “We love what you’re doing.” But that doesn’t mean much either if they aren’t willing to lend a hand or chip in to the cause.

Words are cheap nowadays, and smiles are fake. We live in a world full of BS, lies, deception and sham. Superficial, fake, phony, and false dominate the media.

Integrity, humility, and truthfulness are virtues that are quickly vanishing.

Let’s be more honest with our words, pure with our thoughts, and sincere with our compliments.

Affirmation:

My actions back up my words. I not only say, but also do.

“Show me your faith without your works. I will show you my faith by my works.” (James 2:18)

LASTING WORTH

People are busy getting an education, furthering their careers, looking for mates, starting families, raising children. They have hopes, dreams, projects, and plans.

Many people have high and lofty goals. Some are good, and some not so much.

So what's the yardstick as to real worth?

When we get to Heaven I think we'll see it was not so much about WHAT we did, but rather if we did it with love and an unselfish giving of ourselves to others.

Those are the only things that we will be able to take with us when we die. Those are the only things that will have eternal worth.

Those are the only things that will LAST!

Affirmation:

My success in this life and all my goals and plans are of little importance, compared to the love I give and the kindness I show.

- - -

“The world passeth away and the things thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.” (1 John 2:17)

INVESTING IN ETERNITY

We travel a lonely road here on earth. Sometimes it's a solitary journey.

Let's face it, in this life you will never get the recognition you deserve. No one will ever fully appreciate even a fraction of the sacrifices you make. If you are looking for the praise of man, you will be disappointed.

But we are investing in Eternity with every kind word, every good deed. And the time will come when we will see that we did the right thing by being loving.

We are not to look to others for help. We are to look up. Up to the Lord, where we will find the strength and comfort that only He can give.

Some day our sacrifices WILL be acknowledged!

Affirmation:

I look to You alone for the strength I need, dear Lord. I know You see my sacrifices of love, and my reward is waiting for me in the next life.

- - -

“We look not at the things which are seen but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

(2 Corinthians 4:18)

WILL YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR

They say, “The only sure way of getting rid of an enemy is by making him your friend!”

Imagine if everyone believed and practiced that.

Let’s just imagine what the world would be like if instead of spending such vast sums of money to protect ourselves from each other, we spent it on helping each other, on making life easier for each other.

Imagine more parks, museums, concerts, and leisure time. Imagine food and shelter for all, education, amusement, and fun.

The real challenge is to stop treating others like enemies and to start treating each other like neighbors.

Mr. Rogers sure had that RIGHT!

Affirmation:

By showing love and reaching out to others in friendship I am making the world around me a better place.

- - -

“Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another.” (Ephesians 4:32)

THE TRUTH ABOUT TELEVISION

We were watching some old television shows and thinking about how much nicer people were back then.

They were kinder. They had morals. They had more integrity. How times have changed!

People say that television is bad today. But it really isn't any different than it ever was.

It's not television that is bad; it is US that have gone downhill.

The world is not becoming better. The world is becoming worse and worse, and television is merely reflecting the present state of man.

And it will only get even worse...

As long as man glorifies HIMSELF, more than God!

Affirmation:

I keep my eyes fixed on You, Lord, and let You use my life for Your glory.

- - -

“Evil men shall become worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.” (2 Timothy 3:13)

HOW INSANE ARE YOU?

Why do people talk so much!

Some people talk and talk and talk. And they don't even seem to think there is anything wrong with it.

They can go on for hours incessantly. They are so full of themselves.

The world is full of selfish people.

They say the insane only think of themselves. They rarely think of anyone else.

They live in their own little worlds where everything revolves around them.

How insane are YOU?

Affirmation:

I show others that I care more about them than myself by being quiet and listening to them.

“He that hath knowledge spareth his words, and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.” (Proverbs 17:27)

THE OLDER WE GET

The world has gotten complicated, complex. Many things have become so multifaceted that none of us can presume to know everything about hardly anything anymore!

When we were young we thought we knew everything. Most of us did anyway. We didn't realize how little we knew.

The older we get the more we should realize, "We don't know."

It takes a lot of hard knocks to bring us down and make us realize that we need an attitude adjustment.

The Bible says that we should not lean to our own understanding.

And it is only when we have no will of our own, that we can see GOD'S plan for our lives.

Affirmation:

I surrender my pride and my way of thinking to God. I know He often works in unexpected ways.

"If any man think that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he thinks he ought to know." (1 Corinthians 8:2)

WHAT REALLY MATTERS

There are a lot of people in this world who don't go to church.

We recently read that a lot more believers in God don't go to church, than do.

Today many people equate pleasing God with going to a church and following what it teaches.

But whether you go to a church or not, Jesus said what really matters is that we love God, and that we love each other.

In God's eyes love is what's most important.

So then, Love!

And you'll be OK!

Affirmation:

I know that as long as I show love to others, even when it isn't easy, I am pleasing God.

“Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart... And love thy neighbor as thyself. These two commandments cover all the law.” (Matthew 22:37-39)

OUR DAILY CHOICE

Gossip,
ungratefulness,
finding fault,
complaining,
worry,
and negativity:
Defeat, stifle, and kill!

Dwelling on the positive,
speaking kindness,
counting your blessings,
seeing the good,
and being grateful:
Build, prosper, and bring life!

There is only ONE healing energy: LOVE.

Affirmation:

I choose a positive, uplifting, happy life by living in love.

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

FINDING PURPOSE IN LIFE

They say that to be happy you need: something to do, someone to love, and something to hope for.

We all want to feel useful. We find satisfaction contributing to a project or being part of a team. That's why many people decide to become cops, firemen or join the armed forces. They find satisfaction in being part of a noble cause and helping others.

Jesus said we should love our neighbor. Because it is in thinking of others and not of ourselves that we will find true happiness. It even cures depression!

Only God and His love can fill the heart of man. And it is only in giving His love and helping others that we can find true purpose in our lives.

Affirmation:

When I help others, my own problems fade away. I know I am being truly useful and fulfilling my purpose in life, and I do not feel lonely.

- - -

“Pure religion before God is this, to visit the fatherless and the widows in their affliction.” (James 1:27)

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

God wants us to draw closer to Him.

But most of the time when God is blessing us greatly, we tend to forget Him. We don't find time for Him. We don't seek Him, His help, and His strength when things are going well for us.

That's why God sometimes permits illness, bereavement, or troubles: to get us to cry out to Him, to get us to stop thinking of ourselves and start thinking about Him.

But He would prefer that we come to Him in the good times as well as the bad. He wants us to come to Him out of love and gratitude for His many blessings.

One way or the other, it will happen:
If we don't draw closer to God out of love,
circumstances may force us to...

Out of necessity!

Affirmation:

I seek Your help in the good times, Lord, so that You don't have to get my attention through troubles.

"Whoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder."

(Matthew 21:44)

WHEN WE DON'T KNOW

What is prayer?

It's not telling God what you want. It's finding out what God wants.

It's creating an empty place in your heart, and wanting God to fill it. It's realizing you don't know, and acknowledging that you need Him.

It's when you want an answer, and come to God with no will of your own, and no preconceived ideas of how things should be. You are open to Him and whatever His will may be for you.

God doesn't answer when we think we have the solution, but when we know we don't!

When we know that we don't have the answers...

That's when God will answer!

Affirmation:

I come to God with a blank page waiting for Him to fill in His plan. I know He will answer and give me what's best for me.

"We know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us." (Romans 8:26)

LOOKING FOR A MATE?

Did you know that Jesus never said we should seek a mate?

Yet that is what many people are doing these days. That seems to be the main focus in their lives.

Television and movies only make it worse with their fairy tale depictions of finding someone and living happily ever after.

More often than not people end up disillusioned when their would be partner doesn't live up to their unrealistic romantic expectations.

It really is sad that so many people are lonely.

But whether we want a better job, or healing, or freedom from debt, God's formula remains the same:

If we put Him first in our lives, He will supply ALL of our needs, --including a mate!

Affirmation:

I am waiting for the perfect mate in Your perfect time, Lord, because I am putting You first in my life.

"Seek first the kingdom of God... then all things will be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

BE THE EXAMPLE

You can't make people be good.

You can't force people to not be racist, not be sexist, not be prejudiced, nor be critical or judgmental.

You can't force to people be *good*.

We each individually need to work towards being the way we wish others were. We need to be the example.

The only way to get rid of darkness is to let in the light. Only with His love can we ALL have a better world!

Affirmation:

Today I will let the light of God's love shine through me, and influence others by my example.

“Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit saith the Lord.” (Zachariah 4:6)

HOW QUICKLY WE FORGET

After a recent devastating hurricane in the Caribbean people had no electricity. They had no television, no Internet. So in the evenings they took chairs out and sat curbside in front of their houses.

Children played ball. They rode their bicycles. Adults played dominoes and board games.

People got to know their neighbors! Life was simple again and people were forced to get back to the basics. They helped each other.

No one denies the fact that they suffered a lot, and that they received a tremendous blessing though that suffering.

But now that it's over, they also acknowledge that the spirit of community they had has largely faded. How quickly we forget.

Let's all make a real effort to have that same spirit of love. Lord help us show compassion to our neighbors not only during the bad times...

But also during the GOOD!

Affirmation:

I am a friend to others in both the good times and the bad.

“A friend loveth at all times and a brother is born for adversity.” (Proverbs 17:17)

FORGIVENESS

We will only be forgiven to the same degree that we forgive others.

That is something hard to accept. Especially when we have been wronged, when we have been treated unfairly.

Jesus did no wrong. He came for love, lived in love and died for love. He was falsely accused. He was despised, abused, and horribly treated.

They killed Him in the cruelest way imaginable. Yet He never stopped loving. Jesus never stopped forgiving.

We will only be forgiven to the same degree that we forgive others.

There's no way around that. It's the only way we can win in the end.

It's the only way we can have the **LAST LAUGH!**

Affirmation:

I need to be forgiven for many things. I follow Jesus' example by forgiving others.

- - -

"If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." (Matthew 6:14)

SPIRAL

Spiraling inflation, natural disasters,
sensationalistic press.

Unscrupulous politicians, perverted morals,
rampant greed.

Everything is spiraling, downward, ever
downward.

Crime is on the increase. Terror abounds.

Fear is widespread, as are plagues, illness,
and drugs.

Looking for answers and a reason to live.

Many are lost, nowhere to go.

Things get bigger, scarier, faster.

Only God's love can straighten everything
out.

Affirmation:

I share the love of God with others. Only He and His love can
bring peace.

- - -

“The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God,
my strength, in whom I will trust.” (Psalms 18:2)

BLESSED RELEASE

Obedience brings down the power and blessings of God.

It's when we know that we are yielded that anything is possible. It's when we know we are holding nothing back that God can work miracles in our lives.

But you really can't expect God to bless you if you know you are disobedient. How can God bless disobedience?

It is a real liberation when you surrender all to the Lord, when you realize that you can't do it and that only He can.

You find that place of rest. You find that place of peace. You find that release...

That only comes from OBEDIENCE.

Affirmation:

I unconditionally surrender my all to You, Lord Father God, as I walk in the path of obedience to Thy will.

- - -

“If ye be willing and obedient ye shall eat the good of the land.” (Isaiah 1:19)

TALK IS CHEAP

“Everybody’s talking, can’t hear a word they’re saying...” So go the words to a popular song. Do you ever feel that way?

Sometimes you find yourself with someone who chatters incessantly. Then when they leave you realize: You didn’t get to say anything at all!

The Bible says that we should be “swift to hear and slow to speak.” What words of wisdom in such a noisy world as we are living in today.

To hear from the Lord we have to first bring a hush to our own spirits. We have to get quiet before Him.

We would all be better off if we spoke less and listened more. That’s not only how we learn more, but people will also like us more!

Affirmation:

As I quiet my spirit, I hear from God. And the less I talk the more I learn.

- - -

“Let every man be quick to hear, and slow to speak.”
(James 1:19)

WHAT FUN!

There's nothing more fun than serving God.
There's nothing more exciting than watching
Him work.

To see your life take shape according to His
plan is the coolest thing imaginable.

To have His presence in your everyday life is
peace.

God will guide you. God will provide. He
will protect, and keep you throughout your day.
God encourages, lifts up, and soothes.

Serve God, and He will serve you!

Nothing is more FUN!

Affirmation:

I find tremendous joy and satisfaction in living for God,
following His plan for my life, and seeing Him work.

- - -

“Know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord, for
you serve the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:24)

BE STILL

Some people are always busy: Working, making, coming, going.

They no sooner arrive, then they have to leave.

Month after month, year after year their lives pass them by. They spend their whole lives moving but never reaching their destination.

How sad.

But God is hardly ever in a big hurry. He takes His time to make a baby, a diamond, or even the tiniest flower.

The Bible says that to know God we must first of all, **BE STILL!**

Affirmation:

I rest in the Lord and trust in Him, letting Him work everything out in His perfect time.

“Be still, and know that I am God.” (Psalms 46:10)

WHY ARE THEY AFRAID?

A lot of people fear death. A lot of people are afraid of dying.

But Jesus' followers weren't afraid of dying. When they were persecuted by the Romans they went to their deaths singing and rejoicing! They were not afraid of death.

They didn't fear death, because they knew they were living the TRUTH. They knew that they were in the RIGHT.

So it's not surprising that so many people today are so afraid of dying.

Now we know why!

Affirmation:

I am living the truth that God has given me, and look forward to being reunited with Him when the time comes.

- - -

“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10)

THE MONSTER OF JEALOUSY

Jealousy is not a virtue. Jealousy is not proof that you love someone. Jealousy is selfishness.

Jealousy is the spirit of feeling that you've been mistreated, that you deserve better.

Jealousy is a monster. People have even killed the person they say they love, out of jealousy. Imagine that!

Jealousy is not of God.

Jealousy is not love: It is the opposite of love. Because love is preferring someone else's happiness over your own, even if it hurts.

And that kind of love requires the divine supernatural love of Christ.

Only GOD can give us that type of LOVE.

Affirmation:

Help me Lord to not be selfish and to be a living example of Your love.

- - -

“Love beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never fails.” (1 Corinthians 13:7-8)

LIFE'S WRINKLES

Wrinkles are inevitable in life.

When we are born we are full of wrinkles. Then we lose them. Over time as we get older we get more and more.

Men don't seem to care much. But women hate them. A woman will even see a wrinkle that no one else sees. A lot of young people today are losing respect for people with gray hair and wrinkles, sad to say.

As we grow old we learn lessons that are not attainable in youth.

How praiseworthy it is to grow in truth and in spiritual things. How beautiful it is to age with dignity, even if it means getting a few wrinkles.

We shouldn't be afraid of wrinkles!

Affirmation:

Lord help me to grow in wisdom and virtue and knowledge of Thee as the years go by.

- - -

“Man looketh on the outward appearance, but God looketh on the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7)

IT DIDN'T MATTER

It didn't matter how smart we were, what we knew, or who we knew. It didn't matter how famous.

It didn't matter what we had, what we were, or where we were, nor our lofty dreams, visions and goals. The good causes we championed, the wrongs we made right. The things we accomplished, the times we shined bright.

It didn't matter which church we went to, or if we ever went. If we didn't have love in our hearts.

What mattered was: helping our neighbor, patience with the ignorant, how giving we were to the needy, how loving we were to the unlovely.

We will ALL be judged by one yardstick.

We will all receive praise from God for ONE thing alone...

How much love we had.

Affirmation:

All my efforts, all my sacrifices, all my good works will be in vain, if they are not done with love.

“Without love I am nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:2)



September

God says, "Talk to Me."

God also says, "Listen to Me."

HIS STAMP

Most people, sad to say, don't really want to do God's will. Most people want to do their own.

Most people have their own agenda and only want God to give His stamp of approval to what they are already doing.

But for those who surrender their own will, God will move mightily. To those few who are willing to put Him and His Work first, God will put them first.

God will show His power and His protection to them like to no others. God will protect them and provide for them.

And the day will come when God Himself shall exalt them and honor them. They will be glad they put Him first.

Then they WILL have God's stamp of approval!

Affirmation:

I only want Thy will, O God. I know this will bring the greatest rewards I could wish for, both in this life and in the one to come.

- - -

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne.” (Revelation 3:21)

TRUE RELIGION

The world has become complex, the problems we face so many, and God is so big that there is no one-size-fits-all set of rules, doctrine, or ideology that we should all follow.

None of us should expect everyone else to adhere to our beliefs, because we each, as individuals, are at different levels of spiritual growth.

We all have varying degrees of enlightenment, and we cannot expect anyone else to think and behave like us. Much less that everyone should believe like us.

When unbelievers do by nature the things that please God, when people who don't even know God and the Bible live loving lives, they are more pleasing to God than believers who are unloving.

True religion in its highest state is LOVE,
Pure and simple.

Affirmation:

I follow the truth that God has given me, and demonstrate true religion by being loving and accepting to all.

“For when unbelievers, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these having not the law are a law unto themselves.” (Romans 2:14)

LOVE IS SPELLED T-I-M-E

You know the easiest way to show someone you love them?

The easiest way to show someone you care? It's by spending time with them!

That's what little children want the most: to spend time with Mommy or Daddy. To be close to them.

So, let's show people we care. Show them we love them by spending time with them, by making time for them.

Love is spelled T-I-M-E.

Give them your time!

Affirmation:

I make time for the people who are important in my life.

"There is a time to every purpose under Heaven."

(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS

Many people have problems with their mate, their children, parents, co-workers, or neighbors. And they are desperate to find a solution.

Well, it may not be all that simple. With the complex dynamics of relationships these days, things are seldom simple and clear cut. There is almost never just one easy answer. But that's no reason to give up on someone you love.

If you seek Him, God will show you what He wants you to do. God will show you day by day how He wants you to handle your situation.

If you are faithful to pray for your loved ones, read God's Word, and follow His guidance daily, God will have His highest will in your lives, and work out your personal problems.

What more can you wish for than that!

Affirmation:

As I follow You, Lord, I know you will give me Your solutions.

- - -

"The path of the just is as a shining light that shineth more and more and more unto the perfect day." (Proverbs 4:18)

WHY WORRY?

Why do we worry so much? Worry has never solved anyone's problems. Worry has never helped anyone do God's will.

Worrying has destroyed more lives, lives that could have been productive, lives that could have been fruitful. Worrying kills.

We can't worry and trust God at the same time. We are either doing one or the other.

Give God your problems. He loves you. He cares for you.

Stop worrying!

Affirmation:

I give You all my problems, cares, and concerns, dear Lord. I know my life is safe within Your hands.

"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee."
(Psalms 55:22)

IN A MOMENT

A careless word spoken, a sudden act done,
in a moment can change a person's life.

It takes a long time to build. But everything
can be lost in mere seconds if we are not careful.

People are fickle and life is short.

We must stay in prayer, be led of the Spirit,
and be careful with our words, our thoughts, our
deeds.

We all have more influence than we realize.
And our words have power to build, or to destroy.

God help us to always be kind...

Motivated by His LOVE!

Affirmation:

I guard my words and actions carefully, making sure all I say
and do is done in love and not in haste.

- - -

“No man liveth unto himself and no man dieth unto himself.”
(Romans 14:7)

NOTHING BETTER!

You go to a concert, pay for a ticket, enjoy the show, and the next day you've forgotten it. You go to a football game, buy a ticket, see the game, and the next day you have forgotten it. You go to church, enjoy the music, the preaching. You put something in the plate. The next day you have forgotten it. That is *not* what it is to be a believer. That is what it is to be a mere church-goer.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than being in a garage makes you a car, or drinking milk makes you a calf.

Religion has become little more than a social event for some people. The world doesn't need more church-goers. It needs more real Christians.

True Christianity is having an individual and personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is connecting with God and letting Him take the reigns of your life. It is having God's love for your fellow man. Nothing is more praiseworthy.

NOTHING is higher, or more noble.

Affirmation:

To know You more and more is my one desire, Lord Jesus.

“Follow Him and serve Him in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24)

CROWNS

Salvation is a free gift. You can't "work" for it.

You don't have to worry about being "good enough" to "make it into Heaven". You can never be good enough to deserve to go there anyway.

You get there by simply accepting Jesus.

But your CROWN is another thing.

A lot of people seem to be confused about this one.

Your crown is your reward for being faithful.

It is not your salvation. It is the prize for putting Him first, sharing His love, and being a blessing to others.

So, be faithful, day after day, in whatever place God has placed you.

Remember...

Your "wings" are free.

But you are going to have to EARN that CROWN!

Affirmation:

I share God's Word and am a true example of His love to those around me.

- - -

"The Son of Man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works." (Matthew 16:27)

BIG IN GOD'S EYES

A lot of people say they are waiting for God to use them. They are waiting to do some big glorious mission or job for God.

It's almost like they are waiting for God to show them with a flash of lightning or do some big miracle for them like He did for Moses.

Well, God doesn't do it that way. He doesn't just take a man and make him great overnight. We don't get to be nothing one day, and big and famous the next without going through the grades.

Don't forget, Moses had to watch over sheep for 40 years before God could use him.

Before God can make you really great, He wants to see if you will be faithful right where He has you now. He wants YOU to start being a blessing to those around you. THAT is *big* in God's eyes.

So, if you want to be used by God in a big way, get started TODAY!

Affirmation:

I know I am in the place You want me to be, dear Lord.

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.” (1 Peter 5:6)

SIMPLE WISDOM

A child is happy, because he doesn't complicate things. He doesn't think things to death. He just observes, learns, enjoys, lives.

Life has become complicated. People have gotten so complicated. They over think everything. And they often create problems where there aren't any.

Such is man's tendency to want to have order in his life, to have everything in its place, for everything to go his way, to control things.

But sometimes that doesn't give much room for God to work.

It's when we relinquish control that God has a chance: A chance to move. A chance to show His power. A chance to bless, to prosper, and to do miracles.

It's wise to be SIMPLE.

Affirmation:

I put my trust in You my Heavenly Father, as a child trusts a parent, and let You accomplish Your will in my life.

- - -

“Except you become like little children you cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.” (Matthew 18:3)

WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?

People talk about leaving a legacy for their children. Usually they are referring to leaving them money, houses, cars: THINGS! How sad.

Some people act as if they were going to live forever, as if they were never going to die.

They amass riches. They ratchet their lifestyles up and up to ever increasingly higher levels of luxury to where it has gotten crazy the disproportionate opulence and waste some of them enjoy. Even sadder is that they teach these things to their children.

Well, they better enjoy it while they can, because it's not going to last.

The day will come for all of us when, if what we did was right, we will forever be grateful: grateful that we had the right sense of priorities.

Grateful that we made the RIGHT CHOICE!

Affirmation:

I live for more than just material things. If I die now I will be happy knowing I have done what I can for the Lord and others.

- - -

“Beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.” (Luke 12:15)

THE JOURNEY

Love is what it is all about. In this life, and in the next, it's all about love.

The only reason we are here, the only lesson we have to learn, and the only thing we can take with us, is the love we give and the love we share.

LOVE and you cannot lose!

GIVE and you will never lack!

LAUGH and you will never be alone!

DREAM big and believe in miracles!

And God will be with you every step of your journey through this life.

Affirmation:

Lord, help me to love those around me with Your pure and unselfish love, so that they may see Your light shining through me.

- - -

“He that plants abundantly will also reap abundantly.”

(2 Corinthians 9:6)

WHEN NOT TO PRAY

I have never been one who prays for hours or even days on end for something as if God didn't hear me.

I do pray, and I absolutely do believe in the power of prayer, and there's a time and place for everything, but sometimes I feel big long prayers, instead of being a sign of faith, are a sign of a LACK of faith.

I know God hears me the first time and I just don't feel any need to ask Him again and again as if He were deaf.

God loves you and hears you the FIRST time.

Believe it and thank Him for the answer even if you don't see it immediately.

Then, get busy doing something else until you do!

Affirmation:

I bring my cares to God in prayer, and let Him fill me with His peace. I leave everything in His hands. It's that simple.

“When ye pray use not vain repetitions as the heathen do, for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not like them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask Him.” (Matthew 6:7-8)

THE WORD

You have to live in God's Word if you want His power and blessings.

Just talking about God doesn't do it. Neither does just praying.

It is His Word that brings life, strengthens, and sustains. If you read it, memorize it, and follow its light you will grow in the wisdom and knowledge of God.

If you don't know where to start, begin with the New Testament.

Read it slowly, prayerfully.

Let it cleanse you, wash you, and free you from old mindsets that would keep you down.

God's Word is TRUTH and it is LIFE.

And it alone is the secret to His power, His blessings, and everything you want in life.

Affirmation:

As I spend time in Your Word, O Lord, it brings life to my soul and light to my way. I read it daily to refresh my spirit and guide my actions.

- - -

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."
(Psalms 119:105)

OUR WORST ENEMY

We become the things we tell ourselves.

We say we are fat, or old. We say we are poor, or dumb. We think we can't do something, so we don't even try. We think we are lacking in some area, so we accept that we will fail.

We become the sum total of the things we tell ourselves, both in word and thought.

We actually are our own worst enemy, because we are the biggest thing keeping us back! Our negativity kills us.

Only faith in God works. Only confidence that His power through us can do anything, guarantees success!

Never fear. Without Him you can't do much.
But with Him, you CAN do ANYTHING!

Affirmation:

I think positive thoughts about myself and my abilities, because I know have God's power on my side and with Him I am strong and capable.

- - -

"Thanks be unto God, who always causeth us to triumph in Christ." (2 Corinthians 2:14)

START PRACTICING!

Science has proven that a tiny newborn baby needs to be touched. He needs to be cuddled to grow healthy.

Yet people are starving for affection. People are starving for love.

With so many of us here on the Earth, and with there being roughly an equal amount of both sexes, why are so many people lonely?

Because many think only of themselves. They are looking to receive. They haven't realized that a happy relationship, a happy marriage, is where two people *give*.

When they both give, then they both receive at the same time. It's really quite simple.

So if you want to find someone special, if you would like to have a lively, fun, rewarding, and satisfying relationship...

Start practicing for it NOW.

Learn to be GIVING!

Affirmation:

I look for ways to give to others, not only materially, but also of my time, attention, and caring.

“The generous soul shall be made prosperous.” (Proverbs 11:25)

NO MORE RULES

Most people equate pleasing God with “legalism”, or a strict, excessive conformity to a set of rules.

That’s because many religions have taught this throughout the ages, and pretty much continue to do so to this day. But that’s not what Jesus taught.

Jesus came to abolish the old law. That means we don’t have to keep a whole big tedious set of religious and moral rules any more.

We now only have to keep one rule. For us now there is only one law: To love God, and love each other.

The **ONLY** thing that God asks of us now is that we be guided by **LOVE** in everything we do.

That’s it!

Affirmation:

I am free from the religious condemnation of the past. Free to do God’s will.

- - -

“The Son hath made you free. Free indeed.” (John 8:36)

KILLING US ALL

People sure complain a lot these days!

It's getting to be the norm for people to protest and complain. Speaking up is what they call it: in defense of an ever increasing number of so-called righteous causes and injustices.

Well, some people say that being passive isn't going to fix anything. And that may be true. But everyone getting mad and bent out of shape over anything and everything all the time isn't solving anything.

It isn't making things any better. It's only filling the world with more and more angry people who are bent out of shape! It's killing us all.

Life is too short to die of the physical ailments caused by all of this stress.

Let's all take a deep breath. Let's all collectively count to ten.

We are better than this.

Affirmation:

I control my emotions and keep a positive attitude, despite the problems and injustices that I see. I have learned that kindness and humility bring more solutions than anger.

- - -

“He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he that ruleth his own spirit than he that taketh a city.” (Pro. 16:32)

AS SERVANTS

Walk humbly with God.

Let His love fill you, shine through you, and overflow in you, that you may be a blessing to others.

Let's help one another more. Let's serve each other humbly, and do it as unto the Lord.

Jesus said that when we are serving another, we are serving (and pleasing) God.

Jesus was a king, yet He walked among us as a servant. He was the greatest servant of all.

Should any of us think ourselves GREATER than Him?

Affirmation:

I serve You and others in humility, O Lord, knowing that any good in me comes from You.

“Let nothing be done in strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem the other better than himself.”

(Philippians 2:3)

WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

Isn't it funny how whenever there's illness or a natural disaster people pray?

When the going gets rough, people who otherwise wouldn't be caught praying, cry out to God for His protection and help.

Problems, illness, and bereavement are the only times some people look to the Lord.

The sad part is, they are missing out on so much by not seeking His help and guidance during the good times.

What will it take to get *you* to pray?

If you are already close to the Lord, you have nothing to worry about.

Affirmation:

I stay close to you, Lord, when times are good, and not only when difficulties come my way.

“As long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper.”
(2 Chronicles 26:5)

JESUS' ONLY MESSAGE

When it comes to God, many people are really screwed up.

There are tons of religious fanatics, extremists, weirdos, and loonies out there!

So many of them are convinced that they are the only right ones. They think that they alone see the whole truth, and that God is with them more than anyone else.

Some promote their political beliefs and bigotry, racism, hatred, war, and violence in the name of religion.

They have lost sight of Jesus' main message...

Jesus' ONLY message:

LOVE.

Affirmation:

I show the world what God is truly like by living in His love, rather than arguing over belief and doctrine.

- - -

“No man has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us.”

(1 John 4:12)

THE POWERS THAT BE

We are supposed to obey the powers that be: our governors, presidents, and kings.

God's Word says we should pray for them.

There is really not much more to say about that.

We, as believers, instead of criticizing the government and our leaders, are here to glorify Christ, to exalt His name, tell others what great things He has done for us, and pray for those that are over us.

That is part of our mission.

That is our strength.

Affirmation:

I don't waste my time cutting down the government, but instead I lift up Jesus, and talk about Him and what He is doing in my life.

- - -

“Let prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made... for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in godliness and honesty.” (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

GOD DOES THINGS DIFFERENTLY

All through life one of the main things God seems to be trying to show us is the difference between how HE sees things, and how we see them.

So often when we don't know what to do and we ask Him, He shows us something completely different from what we would have thought.

And what He shows us always works.

So, to find His solutions we first have to be willing to give up our own preconceived ideas.

When we do, He NEVER fails to come through for us!

Affirmation:

Without You, Lord, I am nothing and don't know anything. Only You see the big picture.

- - -

“God's ways are not our ways.” (Isaiah 55:8)

FALLEN MAN

How far man has fallen!

He makes war and kills his neighbor.

He plays video games of making war and killing his neighbor.

He watches movies and television shows of killing his neighbor.

And he learns martial arts so that he can kill his neighbor. This is justified as self defense, of course.

Man studies war. He builds for war and practices war.

Imagine what the world would be like if man put half as much time and effort into learning to LOVE AND HELP his neighbor!

Affirmation:

I spend my time studying God's Word, and learning things that will help me better the world around me.

"How good and how pleasant it is to dwell together in harmony." (Psalms 133:1)

THIS IDIOTIC WORLD

Have you ever felt like the world was full of idiots?

Everywhere you look people are doing dumb things, saying dumb things. It's enough to drive anyone crazy.

Where can you go anymore to escape such madness? Who can you turn to?

The best thing we can do, the best defense we have, the best coping mechanism, is to be able to detach ourselves at times: Go fishing, have a drink or two, take a trip, get alone for a while. Whatever works for you!

Just please don't forget to include the Lord.

Pray about life. Pray about things. God will answer. God will comfort your heart.

Only HE can give you the GRACE to face this idiotic world!

Affirmation:

When this life seems overwhelming I get away for a while, and find rest, peace, strength, and a new outlook, through quiet contemplation with You, dear Lord.

“In the morning, rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.”
(Mark 1:35)

THINK YOU CAN'T?

You may think you need to be somewhere else.

You may think you need to be with someone different.

You may think you need to be doing something different, or have something else, or something more.

But time, place, and people don't dictate our happiness. Nor do they define our usefulness for the Lord.

Most of the greatest thinkers, inventors, artists, and authors throughout history accomplished their greatest works without even leaving home.

And no man or woman is limited if God is on their side.

“God never puts us in a place too small to grow in.”

Affirmation:

I have everything I need right here and now to be content. With Your help, Lord, I can accomplish great things in my present situation.

- - -

“Godliness with contentment is great gain.” (1 Timothy 6:6)

GET TO WORK!

It seems like everyone is looking for a handout these days.

People want to reap the benefits without putting in the hard work.

But everything that's worth anything, costs something.

Unless you're a tree, you're going to have to get on the ball and make some sacrifices, before you can see any fruit.

You want CHANGE?

Then you are going to have to get to WORK!

Affirmation:

I am creating the life I want through my daily efforts to change my part of the world.

- - -

“If any would not work, neither should he eat.”

(2 Thessalonians 3:10)

BRIDGES

We all make mistakes.

And there are things we wish we could do over in our lives.

Well, we can't do that. What's past is past.

But God is in control, and if we learn from our mistakes, they can become opportunities for growth.

Someone once said: "May the bridges I burn light my way."

And they can!

If we will but let them.

Affirmation:

I know that even my mistakes are something I can learn from, and that God is having His highest will in my life.

"We know that all things work together for good to them that love God." (Romans 8:28)

WHEN PEOPLE LOVE

We believe in love. We believe that God is the spirit of love.

We believe that when people who don't even know God are loving, God is there.

We believe in a greater God, a God greater than church, religion, dogmas and denominations.

We believe in a simple God. We believe in a God that even a child can understand.

We believe that where there is love, *there* is God.

We believe that God is the spirit of love. We believe in love.

Affirmation:

I live in love. God's love is the guiding factor in all my actions and choices.

- - -

“We have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.” (1 John 4:16)

HURRY HURRY

This old world is getting faster and faster every day. And people are in such a hurry. They eat in a hurry. They drive fast. They shop in a hurry. They talk fast.

Music is loud. Patience is thin. Health is made worse. People never stop moving.

Why are we in such a hurry to get nowhere? Why are we afraid to stop, slow down, and enjoy life? It's a vicious cycle, and we'll get caught up in it unless we make a break!

To learn from the Lord we have to go slow, stop everything, and listen. And when we do that, He brings peace to our souls.

But WE'VE got to stop the noise, get quiet, and tune in... to HIM!

Affirmation:

When my world starts spinning out of control, I stop everything and get quiet with God. Slowing down and spending time with Him brings peace and order back to my life.

- - -

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



October

*Many of the greatest lessons we learn
in life come through heartbreak and
loneliness.*

*We learn lessons of brokenness,
humility, and utter dependence on
God: things we often forget during the
good times.*

IT WORKS!

If you want to have a closer walk with the Lord, YOU are going to have to make more of an effort.

God doesn't force Himself on anyone.

It is as we draw closer to Him that He reveals Himself more and more in our lives.

It is as we read the words of Jesus that we get to know Him better.

It is as we memorize His words that we become more like Him.

It is as we let Him take the reigns of our lives that He can take over and bestow upon us His love, His protection, His guidance, His healing, and perform MIRACLES in our daily lives.

That's how it works!

Affirmation:

As I seek God's guidance for each step of my life, and draw closer to Him every day, I receive more and more of His blessings.

- - -

"Draw nigh unto God, and He will draw nigh unto you."
(James 4:8)

HAVE FUN!

When we come to the end of our lives God isn't going to ask us who had the best time here on Earth!

He's going to ask, "What did we do with our lives?" And it's not going to be enough to say we had fun.

We are here for one thing: To glorify God in everything we do. We are here to learn to love God and love our neighbor as well.

We CAN have a good time while we are doing that. We can and should have fun while we're here.

Let's just not lose sight of the right perspective!

Affirmation:

Loving God and helping others takes first place in my life.
That is my greatest joy.

- - -

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."
(Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

WHY DOES GOD? - Part 1

People ask all the time why God permits wars and bad things.

That's a dumb question because if God stopped man from doing these things He would be controlling us. And we wouldn't like that. People would sure complain then!

God gave man a free will. He doesn't make us do good. And the hell the world is in today is the direct result of man's ungodly and selfish choices. It's that simple.

It is time we realize that being loving has its consequences, and being selfish and unloving does too.

Man is seeing the fruits of his choices today on earth: The results of selfish living and a lack of love toward his fellow man that have been going on for a long time now.

We can change all that.

But God won't force us to!

Affirmation:

Rather than questioning God, I use the free will He has given me to be part of the solution to the problems in this world.

"God will give unto everyone according to their works."
(Revelation 2:23)

WHY DOES GOD? - Part 2

Some people ask why God permits wars and bad things on earth, but they don't really want to know why. Their minds are already made up.

They blame God and imply that He is unjust. Their attitude is: "If I were God, I wouldn't permit these things."

They are basically saying that God is wrong. God is unfair. That they are better than God. What arrogance!

Man himself has created the world's injustices. Man by his own selfish choices has created the mess we are living in today. Not God.

There cannot be change without love. And things will not get better without God. Because only God's pure love in man's heart can ever make man do the right thing, love his neighbor...

And break this vicious cycle of GREED!

Affirmation:

I shine the light of God's love in this world to break the cycle of selfishness and greed that has brought about so many of man's problems.

- - -

"From whence come wars and fighting among you? Come they not of your lusts?" (James 4:1)

EAT OR DIE

We eat. We grow.

We eat. Our bodies rebuild. We stop eating, we die.

We need healthy food. Junk food will take its toll sooner or later.

It's the same for us spiritually.

We are surrounded by all types of spiritual junk food and tempted to eat it.

We find time for everything besides reading the Bible.

But God's Word is our spiritual food. We eat it, we grow spiritually. We don't eat it...

We die.

Affirmation:

I dedicate time to reading and learning from God's Word, because I want to grow spiritually not just physically.

"How shall a young man cleanse his ways? By taking heed to Thy Word." (Psalms 119:9)

AT THE HELM

God wants to guide your vessel.

But you must let Him take the helm. You must let Him steer and not try to steer yourself.

He can guide you through the storm. He can keep you away from the reefs.

Only God can bring you to a safe harbor.

Cry out to God.

Seek His help and guidance. You will never make it on your own. It is a liberation to give up our own stubbornness, our own ways.

It is only then, that we will find that place of peace, that place of rest.

But we've got to let GOD take the helm of our lives.

Affirmation:

I give you the helm of my life, Lord. Guide me through the stormy waters of life.

- - -

“I will instruct and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go. I will guide thee with mine eye.” (Psalms 32:8)

THE WAY WE LIVE

True religion is having a personal and individual relationship with the Lord.

It is to open our lives as well as our hearts to God and each other.

It is not about being all holy and looking down on people who don't meet our standards.

It's about humbly seeking God's guidance and letting His love direct our actions, our words, and our thoughts.

True religion is having compassion for the weak, helping the needy, accepting those who are different, and forgiving those who have wronged us.

True religion is about breaking down walls, talking less, listening more, teaching with meekness...

And showing God to others by the way we LIVE our lives!

Affirmation:

I am teaching more by example than with my words.

“Be ye therefore followers of Christ as dear children, and walk in love.” (Ephesians 5:1-2)

STAY LOVING

The planet is starving for love. People are starving for tenderness, for compassion and warmth.

People try to replace love with power or position, knowledge, and any number of things that don't satisfy.

Then they toughen themselves and harden their hearts, and put on a pretense of lacking nothing.

Love is often despised. It is seen by many today as a weakness.

But the day will come when love will win. We will see the day when light will conquer the darkness, right will straighten all wrongs, and the meek will be triumphant.

Until then...

Stay loving!

Affirmation:

I know love will always triumph. Fill me with Your love, Lord, that I might pour it out to others.

“Love never fails.” (1 Corinthians 13:8)

PRAISE

Praising the Lord is a funny thing.

Most people seem to not praise the Lord. Why is that? It's like they are uncomfortable for some reason. Maybe they worry about what people will think.

Maybe some don't do it because they don't want to look like some denominations that make a lot of noise and racket shouting to the Lord in their church services. Whatever the reason may be, we really should praise the Lord.

We praise the Lord because He likes it and there is no quicker way to obtain His favor. We please Him by praising Him and thanking Him for our many blessings.

There are two times to praise the Lord: When you feel like it. And when you don't feel like it.

So then, we really have no good excuse to NOT praise the Lord!

Affirmation:

I praise You, Lord, because I love You and I want to make You happy

- - -

"I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth." (Psa. 34:1)

"Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord." (Psa. 150:6)

A SHOULDER

Everyone wants someone to talk to. Everybody wishes someone would listen to them.

When someone cares enough to listen, it makes us feel like we're important. It somehow validates us. It makes us feel like we're needed here in this world.

When we find someone who is easy to talk to we immediately like them. And there is no greater snub than to feel that someone is intentionally ignoring us.

We all want a shoulder to lean on. We also all sometimes need a shoulder to cry on. So deep is this desire in man's heart. So profound is this basic need.

Some of us never fully find it in this life. That's because God wants to fill all our needs. He wants us to find comfort in Him. He is our refuge.

God wants us to lean on Him, not man.

Affirmation:

You, Lord, are the only one who is always here for me, loves me unconditionally, and never lets me down.

“I love the Lord, because He hath heard my voice and my supplications, because He hath inclined his ear unto me. Therefore will I call upon Him as long as I live.” (Psa. 116:1-2)

HALFHEARTS

Whatever we do, we should do with all of our hearts. If we are going to do something we might as well do it cheerfully.

That's the problem nowadays: Everywhere you look you see people going through the motions. They are looking at the time-clock just waiting to go home.

The world is full of half-hearts.

If you want to stand out as exceptional, start doing everything wholeheartedly. Start doing everything with love. Go the extra mile.

People will like you more. You will like yourself more.

And God will bless you more!

Affirmation:

Whatever I do, I put my whole heart into it, and really give it my best effort.

- - -

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do; do it with all thy might.”
(Ecclesiastes 9:10)

YOU HAVE IT BAD?

You think you have it bad? You don't have it bad! Just read any history book.

Since the beginning of time war has been waged. Countries were invaded. Their cities were plundered and burned. Their men killed. Their women raped and taken into captivity. All kinds of ugly things happened. You can read all about them in history books.

But now people whine if their train is late, when the Internet is slow, if their coffee is not hot enough, gas prices go up, or they don't get the window seat on an airplane.

People complain about all kinds of frivolous things. They are easily offended. People call *foul* for the most ridiculous reasons.

If we say we love God, let's be better examples to the world by being more forgiving, more tolerant, not whine, and by taking things more in stride.

We never had it so GOOD!

Affirmation:

I stand firmly upon the Rock. I do not whine or complain, because I am mightily blessed.

“Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

MERE WORDS

How did Jesus change the world?

With His words.

Jesus changed the course of mankind with His words.

How can we change the world?

We can spend our lives trying to feed the poor. We can spend our time looking for a cure to cancer, AIDS, malaria, or depression.

We can throw trillions of dollars at scientific research, political parties, space exploration, or war.

But we will never come close to making an impact anywhere near as big as Jesus did in only three years with nothing more than His words.

His words made the difference.

And it's only by spreading His Word that we can TOO.

Affirmation:

I believe in You, Lord, and the power of Your Words. I am doing my part to share them with those around me.

- - -

“The words that I speak unto you are spirit and they are life.”
(John 6:63)

THE ONLY THING

Man has followed his own path for so long now, that even the most basic truths and knowledge of God have become foreign concepts to many.

Morals have eroded. Integrity is growing scarcer. Religion has so many people confused as to what God is really like and what He expects of us all.

In such a rapidly changing world as ours, what can you hold on to?

LOVE is the anchor.

LOVE is the answer.

LOVE is the only thing that brings meaning and hope to man's heart.

LOVE is the only thing that matters.

Affirmation:

When I give love, I can't go wrong, because love is the most important thing in life.

- - -

"He that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love."

(1 John 4:8)

TALK TO GOD

When you don't know what to do, the worst thing you can do is to share your problems with everyone around you.

Your friends, co-workers, and relatives, more often than not, can't help you. They have their own problems. They really can't begin to fully understand your situation and what you are going through.

Only God knows. Only God understands. Only God walks ahead of you and sees the pitfalls, knows where the dangers lie, and only He can lead you to your safe haven.

So when you have a problem, the first thing you should do is take it to the Lord in prayer. God wants a little credit.

Talk to HIM!

Affirmation:

I seek counsel and guidance from You, dear Jesus. You help and instruct me like no other ever can.

- - -

"I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel, and instructs me in the night seasons. I have set the Lord always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." (Psalms 16:7-8)

DON'T LISTEN!

It's not wise to engage in gossip.

Some people spend their lives talking about others, complaining about their mate, child, friend, neighbor, or loved one.

If you listen to them and try to get involved, you will be the only one to lose. You may even end up losing a friend.

The only way you can win is to not take sides. Don't even listen to gossip in the first place.

Change the subject. Think of something urgent you have to do, and walk away. Do this consistently. Let it be known that you are not interested in criticizing others.

People will respect you more. They'll know that you will never be talking about THEM behind their backs.

As Christians, we should lift people up in prayer. We should PRAY specifically for them.

Enough said!

Affirmation:

I don't participate in gossip. I refuse to even listen to it.

“In the multitude of words there lacketh not sin. But he that closeth his lips is wise.” (Proverbs 10:19)

LIKE WATER

Many people keep God out of their decision making process. No wonder they fail. They cause themselves needless pain.

They may listen to God once in a while, and then He helps them. He solves their problem, or gets them out of some mess.

But they forget Him quickly, and the next time around they go ahead without Him and they fail. They don't learn.

God wants to help us in our daily lives, but we have got to let Him.

His Holy Spirit is like water. It flows to the lowest places. And it's when we realize we don't have all the answers that He has a chance to work in our life.

When we seek God's help He answers.
Not before.

Affirmation:

I can't do anything without You Lord. Thank You for always being there for me.

- - -

“Seek the Lord and His strength. Seek His face continually.”
(1 Chronicles 16:11)

HOW WE SEE GOD

You can tell a lot about where a person is at spiritually by the way they pray.

Some people pray to God as if He were high and lofty and distant. They see God as strict, rigid, formal, and far away.

That describes their relationship with God.

Others pray to God like they would talk to a dear friend. They feel relaxed, comfortable, and at home with Him. They see God as someone close, someone who is always there for them.

That describes their relationship with God.

Yes, you certainly can tell a lot about where a person is at spiritually, by the way they pray.

Affirmation:

I know you are always near, dear Lord, that You hear me, and I have nothing to fear.

- - -

“How far away God seems to you is a measure of the distance YOU have put between yourself and God.”

ONE OR THE OTHER

A Christian is either: Looking for encouragement, or encouraging others.

Murmuring about what he *thinks* he lacks, or counting his blessings.

Wasting time trying to find *the way*, or being a blessing right where he is at.

Seeking to be fed spiritually, or feeding others.

He analyzes, or he enjoys.

He agonizes, or he lives.

He is restless, or he has peace.

His life is drudgery, or a dream.

He is one or the other.

How do you know which one you are? By the WORDS that come out of your mouth!

Affirmation:

Thank You for how wonderfully You are moving in my life, Lord. I testify of Your goodness to others.

- - -

“Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.”

(Romans 14:19)

TOO LATE

When we grow old and tired and our usefulness is waning, what kind of memories will we have of our lives?

We have visited many nursing homes and seen a lot of sad and lonely people. Some are sad because they have been forgotten by their families. Others because of failing health. But saddest of all are those who realize it's too late. They wasted their lives and now realize that time has run out for them to do anything significant for God or His Work.

They may have lived selfishly making a lot of money. They may have wasted their lives on drink. They maybe had been powerful and commanded respect of everyone around them. But now they are all in the same boat and the clock is ticking.

NOW is the only time we own.

What will YOUR memories be?

Affirmation

I am putting You, Lord, in first place during my life here on earth.

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not. Before the silver cord be loosed, and man goeth to his long home. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

(Ecclesiastes 12:1,5-7)

WHO CAN UNDERSTAND?

Some things can't be changed.

Many things we may never fully understand in this life.

Men will never completely understand women. Nor will women ever understand men. And none of us can understand all the mysteries of the universe.

Here on Earth natural disasters, famines, man made calamities, and wars seem to only be more common every day. And who can understand them?

The bigger man's woes grow, the smaller we feel.

We may not fully understand God, but that doesn't mean we cannot benefit from His help.

God did not promise that we would understand it all. He just promises to be with us every step of the way.

Trust Him.

Affirmation:

There are many things in life which I will never understand, but I know my God has never and will never let me down.

“For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed, but my kindness shall not depart from thee.” (Isaiah 54:10)

THE YARDSTICK

Some people say that drinking is “a sin”, or dancing, sex, or any number of other things. They get so critical of what other people are doing. Even breast feeding a baby is dirty and shameful to these people. They are seriously messed up.

It's really not the things we do that matter to God as much as if we are obeying Him and have love in our hearts, if we do things with love, or with a lack of love. God's only law is love.

Love is the **ONLY** yardstick by which our lives will be judged.

If people spent less time condemning others for things that maybe for them are not even sins, if they spent even half their time focused on being more loving, the world would be a much better place.

And we would **ALL** be a lot happier!

Affirmation:

What we do doesn't matter as much to God as whether or not we do it with love.

- - -

“Let all your things be done with love.” (1 Corinthians 16:14)

COME EMPTY, LEAVE FULL

If you seek an answer from the Lord you will find it. If you knock, the door will be opened. If you really want the solution you will have it.

But the key is: you have to really *want* it.

You must want it enough to be willing to give up any preconceived ideas and conditions you have.

You must be open to God's answer.

You must come to Him with an empty heart, an open heart, and accept whatever He wants to show you.

If you do you will not be disappointed.

God always answers the hungry heart.

ALWAYS!

Affirmation:

I come to You, Lord, with an open heart, willing to do whatever You may ask. I know You will not fail to answer and show me Your way.

- - -

“Ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you.” (Matthew 7:7)

HARD OR SOFT?

We have hard liquor, hard lemonade, hard bodies, and hard hearts.

We are supposed to be “tough”, not let anyone “push us around”, and “show no mercy”. Guns are “great”, so are fists and big bikes. Being hard is “cool”.

“Soft” is weakness. Soft is for sissies, losers and toilet paper. Showing love is “wimpy”. Showing affection is “not cool”.

That’s many people’s attitude today.

But our war is not physical. Our battle is in the spiritual. We are soldiers of the cross. Truth, love, and humility are our weapons.

Real men love Jesus, and love will win in the end.

Until then...

Keep a tough spirit, but a soft heart.

Affirmation:

I stay strong, but am guided by compassion.

“The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy, and good fruits.” (James 3:17)

EACH ONE OF US

We will each be held accountable for the truth we've received.

Someone who lives in the wilderness and has never even seen a Bible will be judged by how much love they had in their heart during this life, by how loving they were in their dealings with others.

And those who know God and His Word, will be held responsible for living up to the amount of Truth they each had.

He who received much will be held more responsible than he who received little.

God is fair. God is just.

Each one of us will be judged equally, by the same yardstick of love: Love for God, and love for our fellow man...

God is good, isn't He!

Affirmation:

I live in love, according to the truth and guidance I have received from God and His Word.

“Unto whom much is given, of him shall much be required.”
(Luke 12:48)

MADE UP MINDS

Do you know why many people don't seek God's help?

It's because they're afraid God will tell them something different from what they want to hear.

Their minds are made up. They have their own agenda, and they want to do things their way. How sad it is that they don't realize His love for them. They miss out on so much.

God can't bless you as long as you think you can do things without Him.

It is only when we forsake our own will that we can find His. It is only when we give our all to God that He will give His all to us!

Affirmation:

Have Your way in my life, Lord, and may Your will be done, not mine.

- - -

“Cast all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you.”
(1 Peter 5:7)

IN THEIR SHOES

People criticize their neighbors. People criticize the government. People criticize law enforcement. People just like to criticize.

Cops don't have an easy job.

It's probably not easy to run a government. And who knows what your neighbor is really going through?

We need to show more compassion. We need to show a little more understanding, and not be so quick to judge.

And instead of being so quick to criticize people...

Put ourselves in their shoes!

Affirmation:

Instead of criticizing others I speak positively of them, and try to put myself in their shoes.

“Speak not evil of one another, brethren.” (James 4:11)

DON'T NEED THEM!

Many people go to church on Sundays.

But for every person you see in church there are a dozen more who don't want anything to do with church. Why is that? They are fed up with people telling them what to do.

Some people say that organized religion has turned more people away from God than toward Him.

It sure does seem that some churches are never going to wake up and stop shoving their religion on others. They are never going to stop trying to guilt trip people into their way of thinking.

Jesus said to avoid them. (See Matthew 15:14)

Love God. Read your Bible, the New Testament especially. Get guidance from the source, the pure crystalline water of God's Word.

That's all you need. Not THEM!

Affirmation:

God leads and guides me directly through His Word, and I follow His voice.

- - -

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." (John 15:3)

WHAT WILL LAST

King Solomon said: “The heart of man is never satisfied.” He should know. He could have anything he wanted.

Look at the rich, the famous, the powerful today. They always want more!

Billionaires want to get more and more money. Celebrities want to always be the center of attention. The powerful can't get enough control.

What a sad world. Look at what our world has become. Thank God this will not last forever.

The things of this world are fleeting. They last mere moments and are quickly forgotten.

Only God remembers.

Only what's done for Christ will last.

Affirmation:

You, Lord, are all I want and need in this life. You are the only thing that truly satisfies.

- - -

“The world will pass away and the desires thereof, but he that does the will of God abides forever.” (1 John 2:17)

DON'T LOOK BACK

Are you having trouble letting go of your pride? Do you find it hard to forgive? Are bitterness and negative thinking keeping you back?

You're not alone.

Do you want to get rid of these things? Are you tired of them controlling you? Do you want this change?

You cannot do it alone.

But you are already halfway there. Now, give them all to God in prayer. Ask Him to take them away and to fill you with His Holy Spirit of love.

Let God cleanse you. Let Him set you free.

Believe that He is able. Receive it from Him as done.

Then don't look back.

Affirmation:

I receive Your freedom of forgiveness, Jesus. Cleanse me and fill me with Your Holy Spirit.

“He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.”
(Hebrews 7:25)

DO WHAT YOU CAN

A lot of people seem to think that they're supposed to sit around doing nothing while they wait for God to do something.

They're waiting for God to do something *for* them, rather than with them.

But they are not really waiting on God: God's waiting on them to get busy!

Finding God's will is not just sitting around doing nothing. It's doing what you can. The secret is: to get busy **DOING** something while you're waiting.

If you don't know where to go or how to do something, just get started.

And then God will guide you with the rest!

Affirmation:

I keep busy doing what I know I can today, and trust God to guide my future.

- - -

"Thine ears shall hear a word behind thee saying: This is the way, walk ye in it." (Isaiah 30:21)



November

*It is only as we relinquish control that
God has a chance to work in our lives
and an opportunity to show His glory.*

OUR CHEESE PUFF WORLD

Cheese puffs are a perfect illustration of what our world has become.

Light and airy. Enticing smell. Full of artificial, cheesy, zero nutrition nothingness.

Yet you can't get enough of them!

Everything in this world is becoming veneer. Skin deep. Temporary. Bombard your senses... for mere moments.

All show. No go. Fancy wrappers. Zero substance. Eye appeal. Perfect smell. Tantalizing texture. Empty ending.

Only Jesus offers substance. Only His love can satisfy...

FOREVER!

Affirmation:

Lord, You are the One who brings meaning and substance to my life, and makes everything worthwhile.

“He hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”
(1 Peter 2:9)

THE ROOT

People dream of it. People lust for it. People work for it, play for it, cheat for it, and kill for it.

Couples split up over it. Neighbors fight because of it. Teams compete for it. Nations start wars for it.

It is some people's inspiration. It is others' infatuation. And it is everyone's degradation.

Money has ruined more people, broken up more homes, perverted more hearts, and destroyed more lives than anything else on Earth. Greed is the cause of so much of man's suffering.

The love of money is the root of ALL of man's ills.

Affirmation:

I keep money in its proper place. I do not allow greed into my life.

- - -

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” (1 Timothy 6:10)

PEACE IN THE MIDST OF NOISE

Noise, noise, noise! Everywhere you go these days there is noise: people talking, televisions blaring, traffic raging, music playing.

We went to the mountains the other day hoping to enjoy the peace and quiet. We wanted to hear to the birds singing, to listen to the whisper of the wind through the trees.

But we couldn't get away from the noise! People take noise with them everywhere it seems! And there is not much we can do about it.

It is important that we find a quiet place, some time, somewhere, if we are to hear from the Lord.

It is only when we are still, that we receive His guidance...

And partake of HIS peace.

Affirmation:

Each day I make time to be alone with the Lord, and receive His peace and His instructions for my day.

- - -

“Commune with your own heart, and be still before the Lord.”
(Psalms 4:4)

LOVE HONESTLY

Many people have trouble being honest and expressing their feelings. This is especially true when it comes to love and romance.

We get in all kinds of trouble when we are not honest with ourselves. We create many problems by not being honest with our loved ones and those closest to us.

It is when we lovingly share and open our hearts, that God has an opportunity to work. And it is when we come into His presence in prayer, together, that God can show His power:

Power to strengthen. Power to build. Power to heal.

Affirmation:

With Your help, Lord, I can have open, honest, and loving communications with my loved one and work out all problems.

- - -

“A three fold cord is not quickly broken.” (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

GET IT OUT!

Get out the message! Start today.

The pen IS mightier than the sword.

Getting out God's message of hope and love is the most important thing you can do.

More important than making money, getting things, or having fun.

It is one of the few things you can take with you from this world, and you will never regret it.

What you do to share God's love will last for Eternity!

So, get your priorities straight:

And do something to get out the message.

Today!

Affirmation:

I take each opportunity I can to share God's message of love with others. I know that is the best gift I can give them.

- - -

"They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever." (Daniel 12:3)

NOVEMBER 6

IT CAN ONLY BE EXPERIENCED

The thing about the Lord is...

When you receive Him into your life, you know He is with you. And you know that no matter what could possibly happen, He will ALWAYS be there for you.

This is something difficult to explain to those who don't know Him. But it's true.

It is something that you can't explain: you can only experience.

His is the purest love. His is the truest love.

Open your heart to Him and you will see.

You will KNOW!

Affirmation:

You are the One who gives purpose, meaning, and direction to my life, Lord. Thank You for being my best friend.

“O taste and see that the Lord is good: Blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.” (Psalms 34:8)

GIVE UP!

Until we come to the end of ourselves, God will never be able to use us as much as He would like.

We have to get to the point in our lives where we realize that we don't know. We have got to realize that our best efforts are not enough.

God can't use us as long as we are full of ourselves, full of our own ways, full of our own ideas.

It is only when we surrender all, that God can *begin* to work in our lives.

That's the mystery of serving the Lord.

That's the beauty of God.

Let go. Give up! You have nothing to lose...
And EVERYTHING to gain!

Affirmation:

I give You everything, Lord. I need Your help and Your strength in my life.

- - -

“He must increase, and I must decrease.” (John 3:30)

WHAT ARE YOU PLANTING?

If we plant corn, we will reap corn.
We reap the fruits of what we plant.
How we treat others, affects how others treat

us.

If we treat others bad, we can expect the same. The same holds true if we are kind and considerate.

There's no way out of it.
What GOES out COMES back to us.

Affirmation:

I am investing in the future by planting good, positive things in my life.

- - -

“Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”
(Galatians 6:7)

CHOOSE YE

Devils and demons, witches, vampires, and sorcerers are increasingly commonplace today. “Wicked” is somehow cool now, as are darkness, spells, and the super powers of super heroes.

Kids of course are enchanted with their spell, and parents sit back and do nothing, convinced that it’s all just make believe fun and games.

We are in a battle royal between good and evil for the hearts and souls of men not only in this world, but also in the world to come.

You can laugh and say it’s not so, but in the end you will see how real it all was.

Choose WISELY.

Affirmation:

I glorify God and His works of light. I know the Devil and his darkness is not just a game, and I want nothing to do with them.

- - -

“Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”
(Ephesians 6:10,12)

MANY WAYS

God speaks in many ways.

God can speak through His Word. Sometimes when you are reading the Bible all of a sudden a particular passage may stand out to you. And you just know that at that specific moment in time it is the answer to something you were asking God about.

God may speak through family, a friend or neighbor, sometimes without them even realizing it.

God can speak in funny ways. Maybe you hear a few words in passing by someone on the street, and something clicks: You know it was for you. God can speak through a song, a poem, anything. God can speak to us any way He wants.

The Bible says He even spoke through an ass one time. Read it! (Num. 22:20-35)

Stay close to the Lord and sensitive to His voice, and He will speak to YOU!

Affirmation:

I am open to Your voice, Lord. Thank You for always answering my prayers and speaking to me.

“God answers anywhere, any time. Every time we believe.”

LIFE TO THE FULL

Some people believe in God and the spiritual. Other people believe in science.

But people are mistaken when they think they have to choose between the two. They err in thinking that the two are different, that the two are incompatible. Science and the spiritual are like two sides of the same coin. One could not exist without the other.

We live in physical bodies, and our spirits also live inside these same bodies. We think with our minds, but we also have a spiritual side that feels, perceives, and senses the unseen realities of the spirit world.

Our physical world is a mere reflection of the spiritual. And it is when we are in tune with both that the fullness of life is found.

(See *"I Don't Believe in God, But..."* by same author.)

Affirmation:

I am grateful there is more than the physical, and for the deeper realities of the spiritual realm and their benefits in my life.

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." (Romans 1:20)

STOP CONTROLLING

Many people keep God at arm's length. Even people who profess to know God only give Him a few minutes of their day. That's why God can't bless them more.

How can God lead you and guide you when you don't even take time to look to Him for guidance?

To the degree you put God first in your life, not in word, but by your actions, He will bless you. He will strengthen you, and guide you. He will become real to you.

But you've got to give up your own ways, your own plans. You have to give up your own agenda, and stop trying to do things in your own strength.

You've got to stop telling God how to do things. You've got to stop trying to control God...

And let GOD start controlling YOU!

Affirmation:

I give You my time, my will, and my plans, dear Lord. I need your guidance and help in my life.

"As long as he sought the Lord, God made Him to prosper."
(2 Chronicles 26:5)

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

We each, individually, choose how we see things.

We choose to see things in a loving context and try to relate to people and agree with them, or we find fault, take offense, disagree with something and even sometimes demonize the person who did it or said it.

In general we tend to see either good or bad.

What we see depends a lot on what we are looking for. We can actually sometimes bring out the good or the bad in someone, just by how we treat them and interact with them.

What are YOU looking for?

Affirmation:

I choose to see the good in the people and situations around me, and to show love and tolerance.

“Love... thinketh no evil.” (1 Corinthians 13:5)

THE BIBLE TELLS US SO

Some people have made a god out of their religion, their particular church, denomination or belief. They think they are the only right ones.

But they have lost sight of what God really wants of us. They seem to not realize Christ's teachings: that LOVE is more important. To love God, and to love each another.

They have replaced this truth with trying to be "good" on the outside. They think they can be pure enough, sinless enough, perfect enough, and holy enough to make it into Heaven.

But beloved, we won't be able to take our self righteousness with us after this life.

ONLY what is done in LOVE will last.

Humility will be rewarded.

The Bible tells us so!

Affirmation:

Lord, let all my actions be guided by Your love and spirit of humility, and not by the opinions of others.

- - -

"He that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."

(Matthew 23:11-12)

OH OH!

There are a lot of problems in the world today, and they do need to be addressed.

But it seems like most of the time all you hear are people complaining about petty little things.

A word is misspoken, something's done unintentionally, and they make such a big stink out of it! They get on their high horse and rant and rave... over nothing! People are so unforgiving.

It's really ridiculous.

We all need to take things more in stride. We need to realize that we are all guilty of the same things, and that none of us should think we are any better than anyone else.

Only to the degree that we forgive others, will we ourselves be forgiven.

Oh oh!

Think about THAT one!

Affirmation:

I give my time and attention to addressing the things that really matter, and leave everything else in the Lord's hands.

“For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged, and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.” (Matthew 7:2)

DISCOVER

Stop everything. Get quiet. Ask God to lead you...

Open your Bible to the New Testament.

Read it. Slowly.

Sometimes it helps to read out loud.

If at first you don't understand something, look a little bit further down the page.

You don't have to understand everything. Just look for golden nuggets that hit home. Parts that speak to you. Passages that you like.

Underline them with a red pen. Write one down. Memorize it and review it throughout your day. And you will grow in wisdom and the understanding of God.

Discover the treasures within God's Word!

Affirmation:

The more I read and study God's Word, the more treasures I find, and the more He speaks to me and guides me through it.

“For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

TO DO OR NOT TO DO

When we come to the end of our lives, more than regretting some things we did, we will regret a lot of things we didn't do.

No matter how good our intentions were, we will wish we had sometimes done more.

Lord help us to be proactive and do what we can, day in and day out for You and for others. Lord help us to seek out ways to be a blessing.

Lord help us to serve others with love.

Jesus said to: "Do unto others as we want others to do to us." The key word here is "do".

When we get to Heaven we are going to see that many things that went wrong were not God's fault, nor were they even the devil's, but they were ours because of the things we DIDN'T DO.

How tragic is that!

Affirmation:

I have the power to create change in the world and with Your help, Lord, I am doing it.

"Be ye doers and not hearers only." (James 1:22)

WHICH AM I?

Some people give of themselves unselfishly and sacrificially. They give not only of their substance, but they give of themselves, they help, they put other people's needs above their own.

Others only think of themselves and what's in it for them, what they can get out of it. They are always looking to receive.

Probably most of us are a little bit of both, sad to say.

God is a giver. He is always giving life and light to the world. God is always there for us and quick to respond to our needs.

He understands. His love is never ending. And He always receives us with open arms.

Lord, help us all to be more like YOU!

Affirmation:

God wants me to be more like Him, and it is by giving that I will receive.

- - -

“God loves the cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

GOD HEARS YOU

It is a common belief nowadays that the more people you have praying for a specific thing, the more likely God will answer you.

But God isn't deaf.

You don't have to be down on your hands and knees praying frantically to be heard.

God hears the silent prayer of one little child of His as well as He hears the screaming of a multitude. He's big enough to rule the universe, yet small enough to live inside your heart!

Jesus said, "Ask and you shall receive. Seek and you shall find."

God hears each of our prayers, and He hears yours.

God cares.

God **DOES** answer prayer!

Affirmation:

I know that God hears me always.

"Call unto me and I will answer thee." (Jeremiah 33:3)

THERE ARE PEOPLE

There are people who think drinking is a sin. There are people who think dancing is a sin. There are people who think all kinds of insignificant things are sins.

There are people who are pure in their own eyes. There are people who think they have a monopoly on God. There are people who condemn others and turn them away from God with their poor example.

These are people who haven't figured out what God is REALLY all about.

It's sad.

Don't listen to them.

Don't follow them. Stay away from them.

Love God. Do good. Live in His love.

After all... you will stand before GOD some day.

Not THEM!

Affirmation:

I let my life be guided by God and His love, regardless of what others say.

- - -

“The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.” (Proverbs 29:25)

EASY AS PIE!

Many people work day after day, stuck in the meaningless drudgery of a 9 to 5, month after month, year after year. They have little more than television as an escape to help take the edge off their existence: help them cope with it all.

They wish they could do more to make a difference. But they have so little free time. They have little strength left after the physical toll from their grueling jobs.

If you sometimes feel this way, remember, the Internet has opened up doors of opportunity from which we can touch the lives of many from the comfort of our own homes.

It doesn't take much. A few positive thoughts sent out day after day, over time, can make a huge difference in people's lives. It takes only a moment.

Why not start doing that today? You can make a difference by sharing the truth you already have with your loved ones. It's easy as pie!

Affirmation:

I share with others the truth You, Lord, have given me.

“He that withholds will become poor, but he that shares shall be made rich.” (Proverbs 11:24)

THIN LINES, & THIN SKINNED!

There are so many thin lines in the world today. And we have to walk carefully to navigate them all. You have to walk a thin line when it comes to everything you say and everything you do.

And what seems to be a thin line to you, may not be the same to someone else. You may inadvertently cross a line that you didn't even realize was there!

These thin lines are never well defined. They are not always so black and white. Perceptions differ. Beliefs are defined by upbringing and past experiences. And what seems perfectly acceptable to one person may not be to another.

It's getting increasingly harder to please everyone, and there are some people you can never please.

One thing is certain: All of these thin lines are not making anyone happier. They are just making everyone more miserable.

We need to stop being so THIN SKINNED!

Affirmation:

Lord help me to lighten up, and not take myself or others too seriously.

- - -

“Every man ought not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think.” (Romans 12:3)

MAN'S LONGING

Birds frolic in the sky. Squirrels play in the trees, as do horses in the field, fish in the sea...

Multiplication is the name of the game. From the tiniest microorganism to the largest of jungle animals, each one seeks its mate.

No wonder people feel lonely. Every other creature seems to find their mate.

That's because man's lonely feeling was put there by God. And that deep longing in his heart can only be filled with God.

But once you fill it...

Then God may very well give you the **PERFECT** mate!

Affirmation:

I love You, Lord, and put You first in my life. I trust that You will give me what's best for me in Your perfect time.

“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33)

GOD IS NEAR

You live in a state of constant confusion. Your day is full of noise and people talking. No wonder it's hard to hear the Lord.

You scarcely give Him a few minutes of your time.

You're surprised when things unravel and you are exhausted at the end of your day.

The weeks pass by, the months and years.

Your life is wasting away. Your health too. Something has to change.

You have to stop running. You have to slow it down. You, and ONLY you can make that change.

You are dear to God.

And God is very near to the soul that cries out to Him with their WHOLE heart.

Affirmation:

I am the only one who with God's help can bring the change I want in my life.

- - -

“Those who seek Me early shall find Me.” (Proverbs 8:17)

LOVE IS SAYING YOU'RE SORRY

Have you noticed how some people have trouble saying “I’m sorry”?

It’s sad that people seem to consider it a weakness. How totally wrong that is.

When we feel injured or slighted by someone or something they said or did, it sure means a lot to all of us, it sure does a lot of good to hear those magic words, “I’m sorry.”

Those two magic words can mend many a mess.

Let’s be more generous with our apologies, and not make excuses. Let’s be more loving, considerate, and kind to those around us and truly do as Jesus said: “Do unto others as we would have them do unto us.”

Love is saying, “I’m sorry.”

Affirmation:

I seek forgiveness of others when I have wronged them, because I know I would like to be treated the same.

- - -

“Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.”
(Luke 6:36)

KNOW IT ALLS

Do you know why people are so empty nowadays? It's because everyone is so full of themselves!

People seem to think the whole world revolves around them. They think they know everything. Everybody yaks non stop.

They voice their opinion on all kinds of things, most of which they know very little about. They think they should give their opinion on just about every situation, event, and person imaginable. They think that's somehow cool.

But in God's eyes we would be smarter to realize we know very little and that only He sees everything.

We need to seek Him more, have His mind, and give people His answers.

And not be such "know it alls"!

Affirmation:

Lord help me to be more humble, and remember that only You know and see everything.

"If any man think that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know." (1 Corinthians 8:2)

OUR MESSAGE

There are many people today who want nothing to do with God.

This is largely because they have a distorted image of God as a merciless tyrant who wants us to keep a lot of dumb rules.

This image has been ingrained in us all for generations by over zealous religionists.

People who say they love God should be less critical, less condemning. They should stop thinking they are so right and others wrong.

THEN, maybe people would get a clearer picture of what God is REALLY like.

God is LOVE.

Jesus taught love.

Should not LOVE really be OUR main message also?

Affirmation:

I know that God loves me and I love Him, and that's all that really matters.

- - -

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” (John 13:35)

TO HAVE OR NOT

Have you noticed that sometimes those who have the most to be grateful for, complain the most? And those who have less are often the happiest? They are happy because they are grateful. Grateful for what they have.

It seems like the key to being happy is not having more, but being grateful. It must grieve God's heart to see people who are ungrateful.

So, the biggest sin is not so much *having* things...

As much as not being grateful for what you already have!

Affirmation:

What I have is what God knows I need, and I am content and grateful.

- - -

“Be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” (Hebrews 13:5)

THINK YOU'RE TOUGH?

You have guns and tattoos. You have a fancy new car. You know how to fight. You think you're tough!

You have your job. You have your power and wealth, pretty women, friends, reputation, and pride. People fear you!

Then you get sick. Flat on your back. Down, out, nowhere to look now but up. Your friends desert you!

You whimper like a baby cause you're facing death. Your life's come and gone and you have so little to show.

You finally wake up! And you cry out to God who with His love everlasting picks you up and makes you again. You cry out, God makes you a man, dependent on Him, with love and integrity, well rounded and whole.

Now THAT... took guts!

Affirmation:

Lord, make me and mold me into the person You want me to be.

- - -

“A new heart will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a tender heart.” (Ezekiel 36:26)

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

God doesn't always give us what we WANT.
But God always gives us what we NEED.

We really have such limited eyesight. We
only see the "here and now".

And that's when we want everything: Right
now!

Only God sees ahead. And only God knows
what we really need.

Seriously now...

Shouldn't that be what WE really want?

Affirmation:

May Your highest and perfect will be done in my life, O Lord.

"Commit thy ways unto the Lord. Trust also in Him, and He
shall bring it to pass." (Psalms 37:5)



December

*God loves us with a never ending love,
not because of what we do, or who we
are in this world.*

*God loves us because we are His
children.*

HOMeward BOUND

Every bit of dirt belongs to someone, and you cannot walk on it without their permission. Every bite of food belongs to someone, and you have to pay them if you want any of it.

The few wealthy are getting richer and richer. Greed is growing. Hearts are becoming colder.

Man gets more and more knowledge, yet has fewer and fewer answers. Governments are dysfunctional. Families are fragile.

People are surrounded by a continual barrage of activity, but they are dying of loneliness. Yet, oddly we defend this reality and the very things that contribute to our unhappiness.

Only God's love can set us free. Like a flickering candle the lights of this world are growing dimmer. God's Word shines brighter and brighter.

Only His Word can lead us home.

Stay close to Him.

Affirmation:

God's Word gives me the right focus in my life.

- - -

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."
(Psalms 119:105)

STAY CLOSE

A lot of people are afraid of talking about the Endtime and Jesus' second coming.

Why is this?

Most people have heard a few things here and there about these topics but don't have a clear picture of what lies ahead for us all.

We are living in troublous times, and things are going to get worse before they will get better.

Only a close personal relationship with the Lord will give us the wisdom, strength, and grace we will need to weather the storm.

Put Him first in your life, and He will protect you and keep you. Stay close to Jesus,
He will NEVER fail you.

Affirmation:

You Lord, are my refuge, no matter what troubles I encounter.
I trust in You to see me through.

"Thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. I will trust in the cover of thy wings." (Psalms 61:3-4)

A WORLD OF APPEARANCES

It seems like a lot of people are fake on Facebook and other social media. It's like they are in a contest to try to show everyone how happy and successful they are.

You see this also all the time on television. Celebrities come out grinning, self satisfied with their so called achievements, and then sit and chitchat with the TV host about nothing of any real substance.

We're in a world where people try to outdo each other flaunting their wealth, and showing everyone they have a better life than the rest of us. They even brag about their excesses. Selfishly having a good time seems to be their only goal.

Well, things of this world won't last. They can only be enjoyed for a little while.

Only God, love and serving others bring lasting satisfaction.

Affirmation:

I don't pretend to be something I'm not. What I do for God and others is what really matters.

"This world will pass away and the things thereof, but he that does the will of God abides forever." (1 John 2:17)

WE WILL JUDGE

When we come to the end of our lives, each one of us will see our lives flash before us.

In an instant, and in the Lord's presence we will see everything we did. We will each judge ourselves based our own individual conscience.

At that moment we will see our lives from the standpoint of God's love, and how much love we had, or didn't have. We will realize to what degree we had let love guide our lives. And we will judge accordingly.

How fair and righteous of God to have us judge ourselves.

Who could do it better than us?

Affirmation:

I live my life in a loving way, and I will not be ashamed when I come to the end of it.

"For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither anything hidden, that shall not be known." (Luke 8:17)

GIVE GOD A CHANCE

Do you have problems at home? Problems with your spouse, your mate, your child, or parent?

Here is something that may help. Something so simple, people underestimate its effectiveness.

Take a few minutes before you start your day to share a little something with that person you love. Sit down together and read one of our Reflections. Comment on what you just read. Then say a little prayer together before starting your day.

If you do this, you WILL grow closer to each other. You will start getting along better with that person.

Give God a chance to work in their lives. Give God a chance to work in yours. And He will, through this simple act of sharing together for a few minutes each day. Only God can heal your relationship.

God is the One who unites. God is the One who heals.

But YOU have got to give God a CHANCE!

Affirmation:

Each morning I take time to read and pray together with my loved ones.

- - -

“The family that prays together, stays together.”

LOVE TO THE FULLEST

So strong is the desire to find a mate that we can be attracted to a complete stranger in a matter of seconds.

We get almost hypnotized with a glance. We are infatuated when another soul resonates with ours, however fleeting that may be.

It's crazy when you think about it. But it's also beautiful.

Yet we condemn ourselves. People sometimes relegate these feelings to dark, base, primal instincts that are surely "not of God".

Or so they would have us believe.

We, as God's creatures, are here to love and live life to the fullest.

God does not condemn us.

Why should we?

Affirmation:

Love in all its forms is of God, and is pure and beautiful and praiseworthy.

- - -

"If we love one another, God dwelleth in us and His love is perfected in us." (1 John 4:12)

ONE STEP AT A TIME

You come to points in your life sometimes when you feel you're not going to make it.

Maybe you have debts. Maybe you're overworked, or have problems with your spouse, children, or neighbors. Your car is in the garage, or maybe you don't even have one. Problems seem to surround you, and you see no solution.

Life can be overwhelming at times. But God gives us power for the hour, strength when we need it and not before. He will never forsake us.

The secret is to take it one day at a time.

We may not always see the full path ahead of us, but God is always faithful to show us the next step.

If we get alone sometime, someplace, and seek the Lord, He will give us the grace.

And He will always show us what to do, one step at a time.

Affirmation:

You never fail me, Lord. You are always there for me. I receive Your instructions.

- - -

"This poor man cried, and the Lord delivered him out of all his troubles." (Psalms 34:6)

THE SECRET TO MORE MONEY

Do you want more money? Do you need more money? The simple secret to getting more is: to give of what you already have!

I know it seems illogical, but it's true!

Set aside a portion of every bit of money that comes in over the month. At the end of the month ask the Lord who you should give it to. And do it!

Give it away. And God will give you more!

Just don't forget to tell them that the Lord told you to give it to them. Give God the glory.

Help a friend, a neighbor, a relative, or maybe someone you don't even know, God will bless it. And you will feel good for doing it.

No one is too poor to give. That's the key to God's blessings and provision: "Give, and ye shall receive."

But first YOU have got to do the GIVING!

Affirmation:

I faithfully give of what I have to those the Lord leads me to.

- - -

"The liberal soul shall be made to prosper." (Proverbs 11:25)

GOD'S LOVE

Do you love your son? Do you love your daughter?

Don't you want the best for them? You share their joy, and feel their sorrows.

Aren't you happy when they do something good, and doesn't it tear your heart out when they get into problems?

You feel for them. You love them. Your children are your treasure.

NOW you know how God feels about YOU!

Affirmation:

I know You love me like no other, Lord. Your love is pure and everlasting.

- - -

“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall our Father which is in Heaven give good things to us?” (Matthew 7:11)

EAT, DRINK, BE GRATEFUL

Some people eat only vegetables. Others only meat.

There are so many diet plans, weight loss schemes, and food philosophies out there.

People swear by them.

Then there are people who have seemingly unhealthy eating habits yet live long and healthy lives. Who can you believe nowadays?

We believe moderation is the key.

We pretty much eat everything but just try not to go to extremes... At least not too often.

God gave us all kinds of things to enjoy.

Let's just not forget to thank Him for it all.

Affirmation:

I enjoy this life that God has given me. My heart is full of gratitude to Him.

- - -

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

FREE AT LAST!

The majority of the people on this planet spend their lives working to make someone else rich.

They work day in and day out. They have little time left for the important things in their lives. Their sacrifices more often than not go unnoticed. It's sad.

Man, out of greed, has turned his fellow man into his servant, his slave. And the saddest part of all is that we collectively have grown so used to it that we have accepted this as normal.

How far we have gone astray.

God didn't create us to live this way. We are supposed to help our neighbor, and share each other's burdens, as well as share the fruit of our labors. Not in greedy competition, but in loving cooperation.

Only God's Love can pull us out of the pit that we ourselves created.

And FREE us ALL... at last!

Affirmation:

I am kind, helpful, and giving to everyone I encounter.

“Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2)

HERE? or THERE?

Our legacy depends on the things we do in this life, day after day, deed after deed, as much as it depends on the things we don't do.

We can glide through life filling it with temporary excitement and food, fun and games, or we can get down to business investing in things that will last, things of eternal value.

That's why Jesus said to labor not for the things of this world, but for the things that we can take with us to the next.

That's why we are here. It's our choice.

It's never too late to begin!

Affirmation:

I am investing in the world to come by putting God first in my life, and helping others.

- - -

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon Earth. But rather lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven.”

(Matthew 6:19-20)

NO HIGHER CALLING

Many people throughout the world lovingly help the needy and feed the poor.

God bless them.

But Jesus said that we would always have the poor with us. And no matter how much we give, no matter what we do, as long as man is motivated by greed there will always be many people in great need.

So how can we make the biggest difference? How can we impact people's lives the most?

We can choose to help them materially. Or we can help them spiritually. Which is best?

There are many good causes, but if you help people have a closer walk with the Lord, you not only help them in THIS life...

But also in the world to COME!

Affirmation:

I share my knowledge of God and His Word with others, that they may come to know Him and His love.

- - -

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.” (Proverbs 11:30)

IT'S ALWAYS FOR THE BEST

God always answers prayer.

Sometimes He says “yes”. Sometimes He says “no”. And sometimes He says “wait”.

God answers prayer but not always in the way we think He should.

People equate God answering prayer with them getting what they want. God may not always give you what you want. But He does always give you what you need.

Every time I've wanted one thing and God gave me something different, the day eventually came when I saw that God was right. I realized God had given me something better, something that I, due to my nearsightedness was unable to see at the time.

God will deny no good thing from the man or woman who puts Him FIRST in their life.

Everything works out for the best... in the end!

Affirmation:

I know You always have what's best for me, Lord, and what will make me the happiest.

- - -

“The Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.” (Psalms 84:11)

SOLID GROUND

We live in a world where one news organization can find nothing good to say about someone. And then another news outlet can find nothing but good things to say about him.

One country accuses another of using underhanded online tactics to hack their computer systems, yet they themselves do these same things to other countries that are perceived as their enemies.

We constantly hear of the positive or negative effects of a certain food, drug, procedure, habit, or concoction on our health, only to have it refuted months or years later.

Big business, governments, religions, ethnic and special interest groups, and loonies are pushing their agendas on us, some with good intentions, others bad.

So how can you know “up from down”? Good from bad? Which is right? What is true?

Where can you find solid ground? There is only one way: You are going to have to get it straight from God, in prayer. Man will let you down.

Only in GOD, can you trust!

Affirmation:

I trust in God alone for truth in the shifting sands of this old world.

UTTERLY DEPENDENT

You know what to do. You know what God wants you to do, what He expects of you. Yet it is really hard at times doing it!

We know we are supposed to be patient, loving, considerate, nice, kind, and gentle... But sometimes it's just not easy!

The apostle Paul in the New Testament had the same problem. He knew what God wanted him to do, but he sure sometimes had a hard time doing it. He felt frustrated. He felt like a failure.

But he also knew he couldn't do it. He realized that he couldn't do it on his own. He realized that he needed God's help. He realized he needed God's strength, and God's grace.

He realized the nothing he was and depended utterly on God for Him to do it through him.

That's why God mightily used Him!

Affirmation:

I let you live and move and think through me Lord. With Your strength I am strong.

- - -

"My strength is made perfect in (your) weakness."
(2 Corinthians 12:9)

WHO'S RIGHT

A lot of people in this world think that their religion is the only right one. They say everybody else's is wrong.

There are Catholics who think that they have the only true religion. And evangelicals believe that only they are on the right path.

Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Pentecostals, Adventists, Baptists... the list goes on of all the people who think they are a notch above the rest of us because of their beliefs.

Jews are the same way. And Muslims. And Hindus. But they can't ALL be right!

Why are people so obsessed with trying to prove that their religion is right, and everybody else's is wrong? How weird is that!

They are ALL wrong!

God doesn't want us to compete with each other... God wants us to LOVE one another!

Affirmation:

All that matters in this life is the love we share with others, not which church or religion any of us belong to.

"This is My commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

LITTLE MAN. BIG GOD.

What is one tiny grain of sand compared to all the sand in the sea?

How tiny is our planet Earth when compared with not only the vastness of our own universe, but with all other possible universes combined?

Think of all the fish in the sea, all the animals on land, and the birds in the sky. Think of all the ants in the ground, bugs that crawl, and insects that fly. Think of all the hairs on your head. Think of all the hairs on all the heads of everyone that has ever lived!

Think of the vastness, of the “bigness” of everything that exists and has ever existed.

Now, think about this: It’s only when a man or woman realizes how little they are...

That they are on the path to discovering how big GOD IS!

Affirmation:

God is greater than anything and everything I can even imagine.

- - -

“When I consider the heavens, the works of Thy hands, the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained, what is man that Thou art mindful of Him?” (Psalms 8:3)

WANT THINGS YOUR WAY?

Atheists have all kinds of excuses for not believing in God. And they are not the only ones. Many Christians really don't believe much either, sad to say!

That's because they all want God to do things *their* way. They're insisting on God doing things the way they want Him to, the way they think He should do them.

But God doesn't work that way. To say God should do things your way is to say He should be bowing down at YOUR feet, that you know better than Him. What arrogance!

God has His conditions.

It is in keeping them, and tuning in to Him, that we discover His wonderful loving plan for us all!

Affirmation:

I trust in Your plan for my life, Lord. I know You will guide me as I surrender my all to You.

- - -

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”
(Isaiah 55:9)

LIKE THE MASTER

Jesus was meek. Jesus was humble. Should not these two traits most characterize us as Christians?

Should not a meek and humble attitude be the main focus of the church?

Should not meekness and humility be their main teaching? Should not the church be an example of meekness and humility to the world?

As followers of Christ, shouldn't we each follow Jesus' example of meekness and humility?

Shouldn't these two things be our main focus? Shouldn't we be like this above all else?

Meek. Humble. Like the Master.

Affirmation:

By having a humble attitude and a meek and gentle spirit I show others what Jesus is like.

- - -

“Let this mind be in you which also was in Christ Jesus, who took upon him the form of a servant, and humbled himself.”
(Philippians 2:5,7,8)

ANGER

It's hard not to feel anger at times. It's hard not to feel bad when someone mistreats us.

It's hard not to be mad at someone who ignores you or turns a deaf ear to you.

That's why people get mad and explode at their mates, neighbors, or government. They feel they can't take it any longer. Some misguided souls even take it to extremes of violence, sad to say. But getting mad isn't God's solution.

Life is unfair. And people can be insensitive, even cruel at times.

And most of the time, in most instances we will never be able to set things straight. We will never be able to right all of life's wrongs.

At these moments of frustration we must draw closer to the Lord. There, we find that safe place, the refuge that we all seek. The haven of peace... where all is well.

Affirmation:

When I feel frustrated and upset, I run to You, Lord, and find Your grace and peace.

- - -

“Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee.”
(Psalms 55:22)

THE ROAD TO HAPPINESS

People are in such a rush today. They are always in motion, going, getting.

But are they any happier? Are they really getting anywhere?

Happiness is not a destination.

Happiness is a means of transportation.

Life is NOT in getting everything you think you want...

But in appreciating the many things you already have!

Affirmation:

I am happy because I have so many things to be grateful for.

“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

MANY REASONS TO SMILE

Life is not always easy, and being able to smile even through difficulties is a great quality.

It gives strength and encouragement to someone who may be going through hard times too.

Someone once said, “Nothing is more beautiful and powerful than a smile that has struggled through the tears.” That’s so true.

A ray of sunshine is even more beautiful in the midst of rain.

God has blessed us with so much in this life.

Surely we ALL have many reasons to smile!

Affirmation:

I smile because God is real. I have the Lord in my heart and His help every day in my life.

“In His presence is fullness of joy.” (Psalms 16:11)

CHRISTMAS EVE

Today is Christmas Eve.

This is the day that Joseph, along with Mary, his pregnant wife, couldn't find a place to stay. This is the night they couldn't find "room in the inn".

They couldn't find anyone to take them in, on this, of all nights. No one had pity on a poor carpenter and his pregnant wife.

How short sighted they were. Little did they realize what was happening before their eyes. This very night Mary would give birth to the savior of all mankind.

We, today, get so caught up in our lives that we sometimes fail to appreciate our many blessings, we don't acknowledge our friends and loved ones, or recognize the beauty that is within our midst.

Life is fleeting. So quickly passing.

May we not forget God and His love for a moment.

Affirmation:

Open my eyes Lord, to see the greater things going on around me.

- - -

"And Joseph went to the city of Bethlehem to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child." (Luke 2:4-5)

SOMEONE'S BIRTHDAY

Today is Christmas. Jesus was born today. It's His birthday.

The Christmas season is a festive time of the year. In the weeks leading up to Christmas we decorate trees, our houses, our offices, and even ourselves.

December is a happy and joyous time with Santa Claus and his flying sleigh taking center stage, followed by Frosty, Rudolf, and a magical winter wonderland. And let's not forget all the elves, the Nutcracker, Grinch, or Scrooge.

In the stores we find chocolates, fine pastries, candies, and imported delicacies that are only available at this time of year.

We make cookies and cakes and bake hams, turkeys, and pies. We lay out for ourselves sumptuous feasts which we share with family, friends, and loved ones while we watch our favorite sport on TV and sip eggnog, beer, fine spirits, and wine.

We buy and give each other any number of presents and gifts, ranging from the inexpensive to the extravagant.

Christmas is a time of sharing, a time of

giving, and a time for receiving, feeling warm and fuzzy inside and wishing everyone, “Season’s Greetings.”

It is about having a good time.

But in all the noise and confusion of the season we seem to forget that today is someone’s birthday.

Christmas is the only birthday where people FORGET whose birthday it is!

Affirmation:

Happy Birthday dear Jesus. Thank You for coming into this world to save us from our sins.

- - -

“And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, ‘Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.’

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.’” (Luke 2:7-14)

LEARNING, LEARNING, LEARNING

All through life we are learning. From the moment we are born we learn.

We learn to recognize our mother. We learn all about our new surroundings: smells, sights, and sounds. We are like little sponges, taking it all in.

But as we grow older some people stagnate. They lose their curiosity. They stop growing. They dry up. When we stop learning we die. So sad.

We have to always be open to learning new things. We have to stay open to change. That's what keeps us alive. That's what makes this life interesting and such a happy, fun experience.

And it doesn't stop here:

We will keep learning, exploring, and growing, throughout all ETERNITY!

Affirmation:

I am open to new things, and embrace each opportunity to learn.

- - -

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled.” (Matthew 5:6)

INTEGRITY GONE

We are living in a world where you buy something, and then you hope it works by the time you get home. It's crazy!

Think about it. You buy a car, a computer, a phone, or something electronic. You spend good money for it. You are bombarded by slick and cunning advertising. You take it home... and you hope it works!

When it doesn't, you may face an uphill battle to have it made right.

Integrity has gone out the door. Might is right. Money is king. Greed reigns supreme.

In this quicksand world only God remains true. Only He will always be there for you.

His love is everlasting. His mercy sure.
Keep your eyes on HIM!

Affirmation:

God alone is my rock and my strength, the only one I can count on in this crazy world.

“Jesus says, I am the way, the truth, and the life.” (John 14:6)

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

A Christian is a follower of Christ.

It doesn't matter if he is Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical, or nothing. If he accepts Jesus he is a Christian.

A true Christian is a follower of Christ's teachings. And those teachings can be summed up in one word, love: Love for God, and love for your neighbor.

Are you a Christian? Do you love the Lord and follow His commandment to love others. If you are, you are already living in the blessings and favor of God.

Isn't it great!

Affirmation:

I want to be more like You, Jesus. Thank you for Your example of love for us to follow.

“But be ye doers of the Word, not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” (James 1:22)

IT'S THAT IMPORTANT

Do you want more peace?

Do you want more strength?

Do you want more love? Spend more time in the Word.

Do you want more friends?

Do you want to know how to get along with your mate?

Do you want more out of life? Spend more time in the Word.

Do you want to know God better?

Do you want more of God's blessings?

Do you want to know what life is all about?

Spend more time in the Word.

It's that important!

Affirmation:

God's Word is a very important part of my life. I can't even go one day without it.

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

HOLD ON TO LOVE

A man and a woman meet. They embark upon a romance that may end up lasting only a short while instead of many years.

But when a relationship doesn't last as long as what we hoped for, it doesn't mean it was a mistake. Just because what started as a loving relationship didn't play out as we wanted it to, doesn't mean it was wrong.

God is love. Jesus came for love. He showed us how to love. Things sure didn't turn out very nice for Him in the end, did they? But His loving us wasn't a mistake. Jesus didn't stop loving and neither should we.

So, love! And don't look back with regrets. Don't listen to the enemy's lies that would rob you of God's blessing.

Whatever you do for love will last forever!

Affirmation:

I know that the love I give will come back to me some day.

- - -

“Cast thy bread upon the waters, and thou shalt find it after many days.” (Ecclesiastes 11:1)

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Today is the day so many have waited for.
Tonight is the night to go out and celebrate
with family and friends...

Or stay at home.

Whichever you do, let's not forget how much
God has blessed us this last year.

Let's not forget His goodness.

Affirmation:

Thank you, dear Lord, for my many blessings, for Your help,
protection, and abundant care for me throughout the past year.
Keep me close to You in this coming one.

- - -

“Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence
with singing. Know ye that the Lord, He is God: it is He
that hath made us, and not we ourselves. For the Lord is
good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all
generations.” (Psalms 100:2,3,5)

*Additional
Readings*



HEARING FROM GOD IN THREE EASY STEPS!

1. Come into God's presence in prayer, with quietness of body and spirit, and with a clean heart.

We must come to God in quietness of mind and spirit. We will never hear from the Lord as long as we are in the midst of physical as well as mental noise and confusion. We have to stop everything else and get quiet.

Be open to anything God may want to show you. If your mind is made up about something, you need to let it go. We can't be holding anything back from the Lord when we come to Him.

Nor can we be holding on to any unconfessed sin in our hearts. The Bible says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me." (Psalms 66:18)

For example, if you have something against someone in your household, maybe you should go to them and try to make things right between you. That sort of thing. At least give it a try.

So you have come to God in prayer with quietness of spirit and with a clean heart...

The next step is:

2. You must have no will of your own and be open to whatever God has for you, whatever that may be.

As long as we think we have all the answers God will not answer. God *cannot* answer.

He WILL guide us, if we seek His help. But we must seek it willingly and unconditionally. He never forces us to do anything.

So, it is when we have no will of our own and realize that we can't do it, that God shows us.

Ok. You have come to God with quietness of spirit, you have no will of your own, and are open to whatever God has for you... now,

3. Accept the first thing that comes to mind as from God.

That first impression, thought, words, or idea is God. When you ask God for an answer, expect Him to answer and believe that the first thing that comes to mind is from Him.

As long as you are empty, as long as you know that you don't have the answer and create an empty place in your heart God will fill it. He will show you the solution to your problem, the words to say, or the next step to take, whichever the case may be.

That first thing that comes to you when you cry out to Him is of the Lord and it will encourage your heart. It will guide you back to His will if you have gotten sidetracked, or it will keep you in His will if you are already there.

Summary

1. Come to God in prayer with quietness of spirit and with a clean heart.

2. Have no will of your own. Be willing to accept His answer whatever it may be.

3. Accept the first thing that comes to mind as from God. That first impression, thought, words, or idea is from the Lord.

THIS is how to receive from God.

Ask God to show you how these three points work. Ask Him to teach you to hear from Him.

These things at first may seem a little fuzzy, but as you try them God will show you how it works.

Just remember, God always speaks FIRST. Then the devil will try to come in and make you doubt what God has said.

Resist the temptation to over-think it, analyze

it, question it, or delay in obeying it. Don't listen to him! Don't doubt what God has said.

As you put into practice these guidelines God will lead you, provide for you, and make you a blessing to many.

Our God is alive and He still speaks today. He gives the very best to those who seek Him and put Him first!

Hearing from God is EASY!

- - -

“What things ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.” (Mark 11:24)

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” (Luke 11:9)

“Whatsoever ye ask in My name, that will I do.” (John 14:13)

“If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” (John 15:7)



BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

Worldly voices are winning the young.

Today's kids are being influenced and sucked into all kinds of negative, self defeating habits and mindsets.

Narrow minded, inflexible church going fanatics turn young people away from God. The new resists the old and their worn out religion.

But young people are not really against God. They are just against the false image of God created by these religious fanatics!

We speak to the young in spirit of all ages. We want to help them see that God is not a cruel tyrant and that not everything fun or pleasurable is sin.

God's Truth is as good for us today as it has ever been. We must adapt if we are ever going to reach our younger generations.

Before it's too late!

Affirmation:

I am flexible and change and adapt to meet the needs of today.

- - -

“Behold I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; saith the Lord.” (Isaiah 43:19)



PRAYER LIKE PIZZA

People trust Pizza Hut more than God. People believe in Pizza Hut more than in God's Word. How is that?

You make a phone call, place your order, hang up and wait for the doorbell to ring. You don't keep calling and calling and calling them over and over and over again! How ridiculous would that be?

Yet that's what people do to God. They pray for something, then they keep asking and asking, begging and pleading as if God were deaf. To make things worse they will often get everyone they know on board begging and pleading, often for days or weeks or years at a time!

All of their praying isn't a sign of great faith. It is a sign of their great disbelief.

God isn't deaf. He heard them the first time. They aren't waiting for God to answer: God is waiting for them to start trusting!

So, next time you pray, do as you do with pizza... Pray for it once. Then wait with quiet assurance until your doorbell rings!

Affirmation:

I know you hear me Lord. I know the answer is on its way from the very first second I pray!



WHILE YOU STILL HAVE TIME

To a baby there is nothing better than being held in his mother's arms.

I think a mother is the single greatest influence in a child's life, second only to God.

Mothers are nice. Mothers represent everything soft and pure, good and noble. Mothers are there to heal your wounds, sew your clothes, and tuck you in at night.

No matter what you do, your mother will always love you. And you know that!

Mothers are the best cooks in the world. Mothers set the standards of what we seek in a wife, consciously or subconsciously. And a mother only wants the best for us... If we would but listen.

My mother died peacefully in her sleep not very long ago.

Enjoy yours while you still can.

Show her that you love her!

Affirmation:

I love my mother and I show her that I do.

“Her children arise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.” (Proverbs 31:28)



HOLIDAY TWISTS

Over the years Easter has become less and less about Jesus, and more and more about a rabbit and eggs. How did that start?

And what do an egg and a rabbit even have in common?

Thanksgiving, the day the Pilgrims gave thanks to God for making it through their first winter in America having fled religious persecution in England, has now been reduced to gorging on turkey and watching football.

Then of course there is Christmas: Jesus, the manger, and the almighty God of all creation have been replaced with trees, snowmen, and a kindly old gentleman in a flying sleigh who brings everyone gifts.

These things started so long ago that we don't even question them anymore.

What is happening here? Things have become so twisted.

No wonder people have stopped believing in Jesus, when He is placed on the same level as the Tooth Fairy!

...



GOOD READING

The book of Ecclesiastes has always been one of my favorite books of the Bible.

King Solomon wrote it and aside from being the richest man at the time he was also the wisest.

Ecclesiastes is a short book of only 12 chapters but there is some real meat packed in them.

I like to take my time and read it slowly and have enjoyed memorizing much of it over the years.

The book of Ecclesiastes has a lot of good and wise advice.

But most of all it helps me to keep the right perspective on what life is really about...

And why we are all here.

Great memory verses from Ecclesiastes:

1:9, 1:18,	7:1, 7:3, 7:5, 7:8-10, 7:20,
2:24, 2:26,	8:1, 8:5, 8:11, 8:15,
3:1-8, 3:11, 3:14, 3:16,	9:9-11, 9:16-18,
4:1, 4:5-6, 4:9-12,	10:1, 10:6-8, 10:11-12, 10:19-20,
5:2-3, 5:5, 5:8, 5:12,	11:1, 11:4-5, 11:7, 11:9,
6:7,	12:1-8, 12:12-14



THE CHRISTIAN WORLD TODAY

The Christian world is divided into three groups:

1. THE ARROGANT (*Appalling!*)

These are the condemning, self-righteous who think they need to tell everyone how to live.

They see this as their job, nay, their “God given duty” to play the role of their religion’s morality police. They want everyone to think like they do and aggressively try to foist their beliefs on others using fear and intimidation while looking down on them from their lofty spiritual pinnacles.

These are the implacable, the unbudging “legalists” who place more importance on their narrow-mindedness than the greater values of love, compassion, and mercy. Avoid these people!

2. THE CLUELESS (*So sad!*)

This is the largest group, those who really have no idea of what Jesus lived and taught, because they don’t know God’s Word.

To them, being a Christian is based on “going

to church” and the things they have heard in church throughout their lives: what others say God expects of them.

Because their religion is built on the sand of man’s teachings, swayed by other people’s opinions, and mingled with their insecurities, fears, and indifference, there is often very little to distinguish them from unbelievers.

These are the majority of Christians today. Try to be compassionate and tolerant with them.

3. THE HUMBLE *(Yay!!!)*

Last, but not least, are the relatively few, who, through prayer and careful study of the Bible have come to know Jesus’ life and teachings.

Through their yieldedness to the Lord, and in an honest and pure heart, over the years they have come to a place where they realize that being an example of love and acceptance is not only the best testimony, but also the most effective way to exercise the greatest positive influence in the lives of others.

When you find one of these, rejoice!

- - -

“Be followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” (Hebrews 6:12)



EASTER SUNDAY

Easter is the day that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. The day that our Lord conquered death, vanquished Satan, and gave us the power to do the same.

Our God is not dead, but alive, empowering us and blessing us as we yield to Him and let Him use us as instruments of His peace, of His mercy, and of His love.

Our God is a happy God who wants us to be happy too, and enjoy the wonderful life He's given us, along with the pleasures, rewards, and fruits of our labor.

Our God is a God of love, who loves the unlovely with endless mercy and compassion, because He knows what it is like to be human, having walked this earth himself.

Our God is not dead but alive and living in the hearts of everyone that receives His free gift of salvation. Alive in the hearts of all those that love.

“Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen. Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures. And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

(Luke 24:5,6,45 & Mark 16:15)



THROW 'EM OUT?

We drink a soft drink and throw away the can. We eat a candy bar and throw away the wrapper. We throw away an old toothbrush. We get rid of old shoes. We no longer want last year's phone or our older model car.

Yesterday's treasures have become today's trash. Disposable silverware, plates, glasses and cups, disposable bottles, bags, boxes, and stuff that we no longer need or want or can use. Toilet paper and razors, motor oil and gloves... The list is endless of things we throw away.

People end a relationship over some little misunderstanding. They disown a friend over a small difference of opinion, or sometimes even for a few dollars! People are not supposed to be disposable.

Friends, friendships, people, and relationships are the most important things in God's eyes.

The day will come when we will all meet again face to face in God's presence. Including those we despised.

...



FALSE CHRISTS

Jesus said that in the Endtime, “Many will come in My name saying I am Christ; and will deceive many.” (Matthew 24:5 & Mark 13:5-6)

Where are the false Christs that Jesus spoke about?

Most churches preach a legalistic gospel.

They guilt trip you and condemn you. They equate the keeping of rules with Godliness.

They teach that to be acceptable to God we have to be all “clean and pure” by THEIR standards. (See Matthew 23:25-28)

But that’s not what Jesus taught.

They give people a false image of what God is, and of what God wants of us.

They are teaching a FALSE CHRIST.

Churches like this abound.

Affirmation:

I study God’s Word so that I can tell the difference between the truth and lies.

- - -

“Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.”
(Matthew 24:11 & Mark 13:22)



DUMB PEOPLE

Someone once said, “God must like dumb people because He made so many of them.”

The thing about dumb people is, they don’t even realize how dumb they are! And that’s what makes it so hard for the rest of us who have to put up with them.

God uses dumb people though. He uses them to teach us patience, tolerance, and love. Or so we hope.

I’m not sure what God teaches dumb people in this life. That’s always been a mystery to me.

And the thing that really bothers me is how HAPPY they can be.

Come to think of it...

Maybe they are not so dumb after all!

Affirmation:

I continually remind myself that I am not as smart as I think I am.

- - -

“God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.” (1 Corinthians 1:27)



TWO THINGS

A lot of people complain that they don't have more money. They think they have it hard.

But if you have the Lord and do two things, God will not only bless you, but He will also cause you to grow and multiply. He will give you more!

FIRST: give a percentage every month of everything you make to someone else, to someone more needy, or to some good cause.

SECOND: start doing something concrete to share the Truth of God's Word with those around you.

If you do these two things, God will never fail to bless and prosper you.

This simple rule remains the same: "Give, and ye shall receive."

But you have to first start by doing the **GIVING!**

Affirmation:

I give of what I have both materially and spiritually, and God blesses me abundantly.

- - -

"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which He hath given thee."

(Deuteronomy 16:17)



THAT PIECE OF PAPER (From “I’m a Bad Christian”)

Why are so many people obsessed with trying to control who has sex with who?

If you are not what they call *married*, which means simply having a piece of paper, then you are “living in sin.” Yet so many people only have that piece of paper. That is the extent of their marriage!

According to most religions, you get that piece of paper and you are ok with God to have all the sex you want. Then, when you get bored, just get another piece of paper, and split up!

But then of course sex is out of the question they say, because if you don’t have that piece of paper you are *living in sin* again! To them, desire and sex are ok as long as you have a paper. But they become “lust and fornication” without that paper. How ridiculous.

God doesn’t care about a piece of paper. God looks at your heart. God’s only yardstick is love. All God sees are two people who love each other.

And two people who love each other, see a little bit of God!

- - -

“God is love. He that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.” (1 John 4:16)



THE TIME IS NOW

Worldly preachers and New Age voices vie for our attention.

Too many of God's own people seek treasure where there is only trash. They seek to quench their spiritual thirst with waters from worldly streams. Hence they never grow up spiritually.

Leadership training is long over. The school bell rang a long time ago.

God now wants each of His children to go straight to the source, receive their spiritual nourishment directly from Him, and share those things with this desperate, needy world.

“Feed His sheep” was Jesus’ commandment to His disciples then.

“FEED HIS SHEEP” is His commandment to us TODAY.

Affirmation:

As I give out God's life giving words to others, I too am fed and blessed by Him.

- - -

“I have not hid Thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared Thy faithfulness and Thy salvation.” (Psalms 40:10)



ISN'T IT GREAT!

No one makes coffee like my daughter.

My daughter hits the nail right on the head with the most perfect combination of coffee, milk and sugar. And she serves it to me at just the right temperature. A real treat.

And I can't seem to ever get it wrong when I make coffee for her, although every single time I make it different!

I play it by ear and vary something every time so as to create some variety, so I say. (Or might it be out of laziness?) No matter what I do, I just never get it wrong.

She always says I make the yummiest coffee!
So what's the lesson?

I don't think there is a lesson here.

But isn't it GREAT to feel LOVED!?

Affirmation:

Thank You God for Your love in my life and in my heart.

- - -

"Ah, sweet mystery of life, at last I have found thee.

At last I have found the reason for it all.

'Tis love, and love alone, the whole world yearns for.

And 'tis love that bids them to heed Thy call." (Robert Burns)



THE TRUE CHURCH

Jesus never said to build church buildings.
In fact Jesus even spoke against building
church buildings!

But they never tell you that in church.
Because church buildings are the very
backbone of the false churchianity system.

The only church recognized by God is one
made up of living stones; those who have received
Him and His free loving gift of salvation through
Jesus, His son.

That's the only true church.

There is no other.

Affirmation:

I am a part of the true church of God, the body of believers.

“Ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will
dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and
they shall be My people.” (2 Corinthians 6:16)

“The Most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands.”
(Acts 7:48)

“Heaven is My throne, and Earth is My footstool: what house
will ye build Me? saith the Lord.” (Acts 7:49)



MISFITS

Many people today feel like outcasts. They are misfits.

They have never really fit into the System's squeaky-clean image of what a believer in Christ is *supposed* to be. They love the Lord, enjoy a cold one while watching the game, think fishing is fun, dancing is cool and don't believe everything pleasurable is a sin. They like most things everyone else does, but they still somehow never quite fit into the religious system.

That's because God is calling them out.

God is calling out a people unto Himself. People who do not fit in. People who are looking up and seeing something more. People who are seeing something greater. People who are catching a glimpse of God's loving plan of universal restitution and eternal happiness for all of mankind... God's happy ending. That's what's happening.

Do you feel like a misfit?
Welcome to God's Kingdom!



CLOSE TO HIM!

The planet is warming. The ocean is rising.
The ozone is depleting. The coral
disappearing.

Earthquakes are increasing. The forests
depleting.

Crime is increasing.

Fear is increasing.

Greed is increasing.

Love is decreasing.

God's grace is increasing.

Stay close to HIM!

Affirmation:

All I ever wanted was You, dear Jesus.

“My soul trusteth in Thee, O God. Under Thy wings I will
make my refuge until these calamities be past.” (Psalms 57:1)



START TODAY

The winds of change are blowing upon our planet. We're living in a world different from the one our parents knew. There is an ideological war being waged, not only for the hearts and minds of men but also for their usefulness for God during this life.

But the majority of people have been lulled to sleep by the cares and worries of their everyday lives. They spend their time in frivolous pursuits and don't see the storm clouds forming over the horizon. The day will come when we will not enjoy the freedoms we now have.

It's time to get down to business for the Lord. It's time to stop living selfishly and start thinking of others. You will receive more only as you start learning to give. You will receive the spiritual feeding you seek only as you start giving out to others.

One way you can do this is by reading these Reflections with your family and praying together before starting your day, and then getting online and sharing them with your contacts and friends and encouraging them to do the same.

START TODAY, and God will start moving more in your life.

What are you waiting for?



PARTING WORDS...

No one could more beautifully or eloquently sum up life, love, and what our sojourn here on this earth is all about than Betty J. Eadie. We close with the following passage from one of her wonderful books:

“As I stood in the presence of Christ he spoke these words: ‘Above all else, love one another.’ He was firm, emphatic.

This was the most important truth I would learn in my experience with Him, and He wanted me to understand it, to feel its full impact. It is the most important thing we can know.

To love is the reason we exist. To learn to love more fully is the reason we have come to earth. Love is the energy which holds the universe in place. It is the gateway through which we return to our Creator.

Love can conquer any problem, ease any suffering, heal any disease. Love creates and magnifies the joys of life. And at the moment of death, love turns all earthly pain into indescribable bliss.

We were conceived in Love spiritually, and

Love is the center of our beings. It is the energy of our souls, the spark of our divine nature.

Being made of love, we cleave to it and seek it in all that we do. When we do not have it, or when we have lost it, we grieve.

Its presence or absence colors our every action. It is life. It is happiness. It is salvation itself. ‘God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.’ (1 John 4:16)

On earth our spirits miss the electrifying power of God’s love. Our minds are veiled, but our spirits remember His love, and silently we cry for its comfort and soothing warmth.

Some of us spend our lives weaving in and out of relationships, searching for the essence of this divine emotion, hunting it, craving it, but never finding it in this world.

Some of us cry to God for this love, expecting Him to send it to us through another person.

But it first must come from ourselves.”

(Betty J. Eadie “The Ripple Effect”)

A SIMPLE PRAYER

Lord, open my mind, open
my heart and open my eyes that
I may see the bigger picture, Your
greater plan, and how I fit into it.

In Jesus' name, amen.

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Tis love the whole world yearns for....	Feb 14
Where there be hate, may I bring love...	May 9

ABOUT US

“The world has known too much religion and not enough love. We need to get back to caring for our fellow man. Love... is greater than religion!”

As an overseas aid worker and independent missionary in the eighties, Gary Britton taught his children the rewards of serving others. As small children they fed the hungry in Costa Rica, distributed shoes to street children in Paraguay, and helped supply basic needs to the elderly in five Latin American countries.

Gary has long since retired, and his daughters now head up Sponsors of Hope. Their messages of hope and love now touch the lives of tens of millions of people daily the world over.

Sponsors of Hope is a 501(c)3 non-profit registered in the state of Florida 18 years ago and maintains a permanent base there as well as an ongoing mobile Caribbean presence.

Sponsors of Hope

“For a kinder world.”

We produce uplifting content for television broadcast as well as printed matter.

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Sponsors of Hope’s mission is two fold:

1. To help people understand God’s true nature. God is not about *rules*. God is unconditional love.

To date we have produced 170+ videos for television broadcast and published 20+ books. Our video PSAs have been aired over 80,000 times on TV channels worldwide.

Our *Daily Reflections* are read by subscribers in 41 countries, and we wrote & developed the screenplay for a feature film titled: “Boricua”.

We maintain a Facebook page and are on Instagram and TikTok.

2. We have hosted or participated in over 350 activities for nursing homes, children’s homes and schools in six countries.

We have distributed containers of food, clothing, household items and toys to hurricane

and earthquake victims in Puerto Rico and Florida, medical equipment in the Dominican Republic, and aided over 50 local area non-profits.

We have provided financial assistance to charitable works at home and in 10 foreign countries.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. “WHERE ARE THE TWINS FROM?”

Sally and Silvie were born and raised in Costa Rica. Their mother is from Spain, and their father is from the U.S.

2. “HOW MANY LANGUAGES DO THE TWINS SPEAK?” The girls speak Spanish, English, French, and Portuguese.

3. “ARE THE TWINS MISSIONARIES?”

Yes, but not in the traditional sense. They describe themselves as “Internet missionaries”.

4. “WHEN WAS SPONSORS OF HOPE FOUNDED?” SOH was founded in 2004.

5. “DO YOU BELONG TO ANY CHURCH?”

No, Sponsors of Hope is not affiliated with any church or denomination.

6. “WHERE DO YOUR DEVOTIONAL WRITINGS COME FROM?”

We write our own material.

7. “I AM HAVING TROUBLE WITH MY SPOUSE.” (KIDS, JOB, NEIGHBORS, ETC.)

Sorry, we do not offer personal or individual counseling and advice. Nor can we accept personal

chats, phone calls or video calls.

8. “WHERE DO YOU FILM THE VIDEOS?”

We produce our video PSAs in different places. Wherever we happen to be.

9. “WHERE CAN I SEE YOUR VIDEOS ON TELEVISION?” Please ask your local TV station to contact us if they are not already airing them in your area.

10. “WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT BAPTISM?” (ABORTION? GAYS? ETC?)

We are not interested in arguing doctrine with anyone. Nor politics.

11. “CAN I SEND THE REFLECTIONS TO MY FRIENDS?” Yes, please do. You can share the readings with anyone, anywhere!

12. “YOU ONLY RECENTLY STARTED ASKING FOR DONATIONS. WHY IS THAT?”

Sponsors of Hope was founded 17 years ago and it has only been since Covid 19 that we started soliciting donations. We are all volunteers. No one receives a salary.

13. “DO YOU REALLY THINK THERE WILL BE A HAPPY ENDING?” Yes! We TRULY

believe that LOVE will reign in the end!

Years ago we started sending out a little daily reflection by email to a dozen people. Over the years that list grew. Now there's this book. A true miracle!

Never think it's too late to do something.

It's not.

Never think you're too small.

You're not.

Never think there's nothing you can do.

There is.

Ask God to show you.

He will!

WHAT CAN **YOU** DO TO HELP?

We all need to be kinder to each other. Let's spread that message however we can!

You can copy and paste and share portions of the PDF version of this book with family and friends.

See what miracles love can do!

Download the PDF version here:
(www.sponsorsofhope.org/bebold.pdf)

Also by Gary Britton:

- - -

OUT OF CONTROL

Man's greed and waste are taking a toll on all of us!

DEATH: SHOULD WE BE AFRAID?

Love awaits us all at the end of the tunnel!

MANY SHADES OF GRAY

Life in an increasingly polarized world!

I DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD! BUT...

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