



[Today's Devotional](#) | [Food for thought](#) | [Meet the family](#) | [Prayer suggestions](#) | [About](#)



**Welcome to the first day of the rest of your life!**

On behalf of the Lord Jesus Christ, Pastor Richard Webster, and all those who have made this program possible through assistance we welcome you! As you accepted this challenge we pray that you would understand the power of the Lord and the healing, love, wisdom, and absolute transformation that every born again child of Christ can truly experience. How do I know that? How can I say that the Lord Jesus Christ makes all things new? Because He has shown my family, my wife, my son, and myself the greatest mercy: healing. Over the past year I have experienced a transformation in my life at the hands of the Almighty Lord that I can not even begin to explain, the transformation has been absolute, it has been continued, and I have seen the most wonderful love that I had been searching for all my life. I pray as you accept the calling the Lord Jesus Christ has placed on you and your family that you would do so with the understanding that those who accept Christ are totally forgiven, the grace of the Lord covers all sins, and truly all things are made COMPLETE and NEW in the Lord Jesus Christ! **Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Corinthians Chapter 5 verse 17 KJV) - Amen.**

### **What is the challenge?**

To give the Lord Jesus Christ control over your circumstances. To understand that you can't do it alone, that the pain and suffering you have endured is too much for you to overcome on your own, that your family is in desperate need of the love and guidance of the God of creation. This program has been designed to be the beginning of something much greater, planting the seeds of hope and each day allowing the Holy Spirit to water them. As we go through 4 weeks of prayer, learning, healing, and bringing the darkness to the light you would do well to make the commitment to yourself that you will be dedicated to the purpose of this program everyday. The pain and suffering that most families have endured, the hopeless anger, the cry out at night wanting peace and love to find its way in to your heart can be answered through the inspiration for this program: Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus beautifully promises: **Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew Chapter 11 verse 28-30 KJV).**

## What can I expect?

The truth. It is not our desire to let you go through the next 30 days without understanding the truth, Jesus Christ is the only hope. How can I say that? I tried everything else, it didn't help, and I always went back to the same struggles and pain that brought me to the brink of divorce. In September 2011 I found myself laying in my guest bedroom battling anger, hate, vices that I could not overcome and knowing they had taken control of my life, my wife wanting a divorce, hating my job and everything around me... one particular night when I truly realized that that was it, my wife and I were going to get a divorce, I was going to break the commitment I had made to be a better dad to my son than my dad was to me, I was going to lose everything I had worked 25 years to get... bursting into tears I heard a beautiful voice call out through the darkness: **"Is my grace not enough?"**, one year later my wife and I still have our struggles. My son is almost 4 and with a beautiful baby girl on the way I can truly tell you God has made ALL the difference and you can expect brother Richard Webster, myself, and all those who help with the program to share how Jesus Christ saves and how His grace and power can heal even the most desperate and hurt.

Over the next 4 weeks we are going to cover 4 main topics:

1. The foundation
2. The roles and responsibilities of the family
3. Forgiveness and trust
4. Keeping Christ at the center

Everyday we will send out an e-mail containing the following:

- A daily devotional designed to open your mind each morning and get your day started in a joyful way!
- A daily short message designed to introduce you to the plan God has for, for your family, and for your marriage.
- Suggestions on prayer for yourself, for your marriage with your spouse, and for prayer with your children as a family.
- Each week we will introduce you to 4 families who have been touched by the Lord Jesus Christ and how God has been merciful and transformed their lives.
- A video once a week covering and wrapping up the weeks topic

## What can I do?

Open your heart, forget about the pain and suffering for just 30 days, give the Lord the chance to open your eyes to His wonderful grace as He did for me. The Lord Jesus Christ is sufficient in all things and even when you can't begin to understand how you are going to forgive your spouse much less pray with them Christ will prevail and His promise is abundant: **And he said unto 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 Chapter 12 verse 9 KJV)**. I can't begin to imagine what you've been through but I promise you one thing, God knows, He has been

there every step of the way. The one unique thing about Jesus Christ that no other relationship or religion can say is that He NEVER leaves our side! The promise was made thousands of years ago and is fulfilled everyday in my life and I know once you begin to open your heart you will know it is true in your life as well. **Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. (Deuteronomy Chapter 31 verse 6 KJV).**

**This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalms Chapter 118 verse 24 KJV)!**

## Daily Devotional

by: Pastor Richard Webster ([abcpastor@bellsouth.net](mailto:abcpastor@bellsouth.net))

### A Transformation

***...but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Romans 12:2)***

When I joined the Army National Guard, I had hopes of becoming a medic. I went to medic school in San Antonio, TX. One of my personal goals in medic school was to become the best medic that I could be. I studied hard and made good grades, but most of all I was booming with confidence in my medical skills. They had transformed me into a medic in the United States Army. Because I was in the Guard, I came back home and worked most of the time doing a different job and was only a medic once a month. My regular job had nothing to do with my medical knowledge. I only practiced my medical training every now and then. Before long I started realizing that I was having a difficult time remembering the things that I had learned as a medic. I even started reaching a point where I was scared that I would be placed in a situation where someone's life would depend on me. I realized that I either needed a refresher course or a different job. When we first get married, we are transformed from being single to being married instantly. We feel like we have all of the answers. Before long, we realize that we didn't know all that we thought we knew, or that someone changed the questions entirely. We need a refresher course. Today you are beginning a 30 day commitment of renewal to help transform your marriage into a stronger, more secure marriage. Let's ask God to open our hearts and minds to everything He wants to show you over the next 30 days.

## Food for thought

by: Daniel Higginbotham ([dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com](mailto:dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com))

You know I don't think we ever go into a situation thinking "I won't ever do good at this but what do I have to lose?" And yet it seems more and more often men and women start their marriage halfheartedly saying the vows that are meant to be a life long, through hell or high water commitment to do the very best possible, thinking "I can always get a divorce". I know that in our lives we never really start something that is desperately important to us with the thought that we may fail, we start more likely with intentions to do our very best, we start with the understanding that not only can we succeed, but we will succeed. In my marriage I took my vows without affording the thought of what I was truly doing and sometimes I look

back thankful knowing that God had a wonderful plan in store for me even if I have done everything I could to ruin it! Have you ever thought about the scripture that says: **Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians Chapter 10 verse 31 KJV)** – if we had entered into our marriages and better yet if we enter into each day with our spouse and our family with the thought that we must do everything we can possibly do to make sure God is glorified do you think we would have said, thought, or done all the hurtful and painful things we have done? Therefore enter into each day remembering that God is with us, God is watching us, the world is watching us, and in everything we say and do we must do so that God may be glorified!

Enter into each day not only knowing that we must do everything we can to represent the Lord Jesus Christ, after all we are ambassadors for Christ if we are born again and He is our Lord and savior; but also with the knowledge that God has wonderful plans in store for us: **For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. (Jeremiah Chapter 29 verse 11 KJV)** – God's plan for us is so wonderful that we can't begin to imagine what He has in store! The problem is that we forget that God knows best, we start to think that maybe we know better or maybe God doesn't absolutely understand everything that is happening and we start to make poor choices on our own. Trust that God is in control, God does know EVERYTHING that is going on and He already knows everything that is going to happen... once you understand that and accept that it will be that much easier to allow the beautiful promise He has in store for you to come true! Husbands your wife was your dream come true... she is still your dream come true! Tell her everyday. Women your husband was your knight in shining armor... he is still your knight in armor even if it isn't as shiny as it may once have been!

As you enter into this first day of the 30 day challenge I pray you would do so knowing that we must do everything to the very best we have to offer. We must do so that God may be glorified, and as we do everything we can to the glory of the Lord we will see heads turn and eyebrows raised wondering what in the world has gotten in to us! Trust in God's plan, He has a purpose and even if you can't understand it or see the end of it... trust in Him! The old saying "let go and let God" is exactly what I pray you enter into this program with, let God teach you, let the Holy Spirit lead you, give into the peace and wisdom of the Lord Jesus Christ and trust in Him to fulfill His promise everyday: **Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew Chapter 11 verse 28-30 KJV).**

## Meet the family

Over the next 4 weeks you will get to know four families in which the Lord Jesus Christ has forever changed. I have been amazed to watch not only my own family and marriage but those of my family, friends, and even people that I work with in which the Lord has totally transformed and created a sense of healing and newness that none of us could have ever expected. The pain that we accumulate in marriage sometimes can be a burdensome thing in which we think nothing could ever help us get over... the Lord teaches us that in order for our Father in heaven to forgive us we must forgive even the deepest pain we have been caused: **For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

## **(Matthew Chapter 6 verse 14-15 KJV).**

I know sometimes it can feel so lonely like you are the only person in the world going through what your going through but as you will see as you meet four families that have been and in some cases are still walking through the fire I hope that you will understand we all face the same struggle and that our enemy is a common one: satan. We will begin to meet our first family on day 3 and I hope and pray that you would examine the story of these brothers and sisters and know that even through the darkest most painful moments Christ walks by our side and God will always prevail!

## **Prayer Suggestions**

Today is the first day of a beautiful opportunity for the Lord to reveal His beautiful plan for you and your family, today before you pray I would like you to understand the beautiful promise the Lord gives us about our prayer: **Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. (Matthew Chapter 7 verse 7-8 KJV)** – today God is giving you the opportunity to demonstrate His power and grace... will you take it? Bow your head, humble yourself before Him, open your heart and your mouth in prayer!

### **Today pray for:**

- **God to open your heart to His word**
- **God to begin a healing in your marriage**
- **God to teach you how to be a better spouse and friend**
- **God to touch your home and your family**

## **About**

The My Emanuel 30 day challenge came about through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and we pray that God would be glorified and praised as a direct result of this program. It is the deepest desire of all those involved with this program that the healing grace of Jesus Christ would be abundantly felt throughout the families with a member participating in the challenge. The program is a direct result of the power of the Lord and a demonstration of His wisdom and foresight in bringing both the paths of Pastor Richard Webster, myself, and all those who have helped with the program together in a way to use us and our individual talents to profess the wonderful Good News of His salvation and wonderful grace, mercy, and abundant love.

Throughout our lives we have seen and directly felt the chaos and tragedy caused in the destruction of divorce. In interacting with brothers and sisters from all walks of life we have seen again and again the damage caused by the wedge the enemy drives in between a man and wife. It has been our greatest displeasure to see the tragedy, pain, suffering, and grief caused by the life altering decision in which so many couples make out of anger only to realize later that not only was it not what they wanted but so far from what they needed they couldn't even remember what they were separating for. It is our desire for all couples to



understand the truth, God desires marriage to be a life long commitment and made us for this exact purpose: **Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. (Genesis Chapter 2 verse 24 KJV)** – to become one flesh as we will examine later on through the program is a physical alteration that to reverse would be a mutilation and a physical destruction of ones own flesh and is the furthest thing from God's desire for any family. It is our dearest hope that God will reveal His glory and that Jesus Christ will pour out His grace upon all those who participate in this program regardless of the purpose. The truth is that Jesus Christ is not “a hope” He is the **ONLY HOPE** and the only way for families to make it through the stress and destruction of today's society is through keeping Him always at the center.

Pastor Richard Webster is the Pastor of Adairsville Baptist Church in Adairsville, Georgia. Brother Richard has been a powerful influence in my own walk with the Lord and I pray that as God has used this brother for His glory and has shared much wisdom to me through him that you would pay special attention to the message God has blessed this brother to share. Pastor Webster is both a husband, a father, a brother, a son, a friend, and a pastor who is determined to serve the Lord and bring glory and honor to our Savior. I pray that you would understand that this brother has seen first hand the destruction of divorce, the pain and suffering that comes at the hands of the evil of the enemy as satan tries to relentlessly destroy families. Know that the daily devotionals are the ultimate inspiration of Jesus Christ and may the Lord be seen through every word.

It feels strange even now trying to write about myself, my name is Daniel Higginbotham and simply put I am a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is my desire and hope that the Lord God Jehovah would make His presence known and that you would feel the Holy Spirit interacting and interceding in your life. I thank God for this opportunity and I will pray for you and your family over this next 30 days that God would reveal the beautiful truth to you as He has me: **If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. (John Chapter 8 verse 36 KJV).**