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## In to His rest

Perhaps one of the most amazing things we can experience as believers is the peace and rest of the Lord. Regardless of the worldly worries and problems knowing that we can walk through the fire and the Lord Jesus Christ will be by our side, protecting us, directing us, and guiding us along the way. **He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. (Daniel Chapter 3 verse 25 KJV)** - Jesus Christ does not simply walk by our side in prosperity like friends and family, He does not simply stay by our side in sickness and in health like we are commanded of our spouse, He stays by our side through the fire, Jesus Christ is true peace in knowing the God of creation walks by our side and His will be done! As you enter in to day 11 of the 30 day challenge I would have you ponder that truth, if it is true that Christ is walking by your side, what is He seeing? Trust that we are so precious to the Lord that He knows our name, He knows our situation, He even knows the very number of hairs on our head... so again I ask you, what would the Lord Jesus Christ tell you about your life if you asked? Have you asked? To enter in to the peace and rest of the Lord requires that we seek Him with all our heart and strength, in honesty and sincerity, knowing that we do so that He may reveal how we can better serve Him!

Its hard to understand sometimes but God did not create us to be slaves of the world, He created us in His image that we would be sons and daughters, that we would fellowship, worship, praise, and honor Him as He truly deserves. How in the world can I say we are the sons and daughters of God? Do you not know of the precious gift Jesus Christ has given us? **Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will (Ephesians Chapter 1 verse 5 KJV)** – if that doesn't make your heart melt I don't know what will. Jesus Christ died not only to give us freedom from sins but that we may be called sons and daughters of the Lord God Jehovah, how beautiful and wonderful! Just as our earthly fathers it is God's promise and His place to not only love us, teach us, guide us, but also to discipline us, this part of our walk can be hard but it is vital. Has God rebuked you or chastised you lately? Has the Holy Spirit convicted you of your life and sin? Rejoice! Repent! Cry out thank you Lord! For do you not know what the scripture promises? **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. (Revelation Chapter 3 verse 19 KJV)** – therefore repent! Rejoice! Accept and seek His wisdom and teaching, love Him and draw close to Him!

## Daily Devotional

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

### The Dentist

***So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: (Ephesians 5:28,29)***

Going to the dentist is never a fun thing to do. Can you imagine a kid thanking their parents for going to the dentist? That's what I did when I found out how I was able to go to the dentist. In spite of my Dad being a very hard worker, my family never had much money. Because my dad was self-employed at times, we didn't have insurance. Because of our circumstances, going to the dentist was almost impossible. Since we needed to go, my dad would trade firewood for dental work. He would work hard all day long and then go cut firewood after work. What he wanted to do was rest, but the needs of our family were more important to him.

The husband has been chosen by God to be the head of the house. He is supposed to lead the family into a spiritual relationship with God, and he is supposed to make sure the needs of the family are met. When a husband or father makes a decision, he puts the needs and desires of the family ahead of his own needs. He must become servant-centered instead of self-centered. If you are the man of the house, pray today that you will be the leader God wants you to be. If not, pray that God will help the man of the house fulfill his role.

## Food for thought

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

As we've looked over the past few days I pray you would have been comforted and reminded of your responsibility and role in your family. Today I want to move on just a bit and talk about your children, today once again we will find ourselves in a situation where God's word gives us the good way, the right way, the only way to success versus the way of the world, the wrong way, and the way to destruction and damnation. I would remind you that the Lord God Jehovah and this world are opposites and only one can grant you eternal life, only one is right, and trying to serve both is to serve the evil of the world. **Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. (James Chapter 4 verse 4 KJV)** – therefore put away the sayings and worldly wisdom for they have and will continue to fail you and lead you astray. Trust instead in the wisdom of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Word of God, with Him as your guide you will still have fights and struggles but you will have chosen the only path to eternal life and victory!

My purpose today is not to talk about the role of children in your life yet your role in the life of your children. What is your role? All we must do to understand our role in our children's life is to look at the role of God in ours, after all He is our Father, our Abba, and our greatest example of our calling. As we talk about our roles in our children's life let me begin by saying, do you let your children divide you? Do your children play you one off another? Do your children come and ask you something only to find later your spouse gave a different answer? How can you be divided? How can you possibly hope to stand against darkness and evil if you cannot stand firm together? Does not the word say: **And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand (Matthew Chapter 12 verse 25 KJV)** – now the thing of which Jesus spoke was much different than I speak today but the point is the same, a house divided, a family divided, a marriage divided, parents divided cannot stand! You must remember what we are fighting for, the amount of drug use and alcohol abuse by young teenagers, teen pregnancy, teen murder, high school drop out rates, suicide rates, all the most terrible statistics are booming in our children... why? We refuse to accept God's plan and think we know better.

As parents it is our duty to be the provider for our children but not the “giver”, God does not give us all “our hearts desires”. Yet God gives us what we need: **Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? (Matthew Chapter 6 verse 30 KJV)** - let me be clear, spoiling our children can easily slip in to trying to replace love and attention with things... our Father in heaven does not give us our every heart's desire because would we pay attention to Him after that? If God gave us everything we ever dreamed of... we would replace Him with things... it is our duty to our children to provide all of what they need and if able and they EARN to give them some of what they want. SOME OF WHAT THEY WANT. What in the world could possibly be wrong with giving your children everything they want if you are blessed with the ability? **Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.**

**(Deuteronomy Chapter 5 verse 16 KJV)** – giving your children everything they ask for is a slippery slope. Have your children earned it? No? As a modern society we reward those who do nothing with something... we teach our children by our habits that “its OK, you tried” knowing they didn't really try... we feel guilty... so we give. We handicap our children by doing this thing. Knowing full well the word tells us about those who refuse to work for what they need and desire: **For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. (2 Thessalonians Chapter 3 verse 10 KJV).**

Once we begin to understand that you must have a united front with your spouse, once you begin to understand it is your role to be the “provider” not the “giver”, once you begin to understand God is our greatest example of what we should be like to our children you move on to the hard part: discipline. In today's “21<sup>st</sup> century” if you whip you children you have abused them... the cops may get called and the world looks on you like your a monster. When children have done wrong and you have corrected them it is vital to teach them the actions have real, sometimes very painful consequences. Why is it important? **Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him. (Proverbs Chapter 22 verse 15 KJV)** – our children don't understand nor should we assume they should the their actions have real, life altering consequences. And because we don't show them that their “foolishness” or ignorance has real consequences children murder one another... children think its OK to beat those they don't like, they come to schools with weapons and murder those they feel like have caused them pain... they turn to drugs, to alcohol, to cults, to sex... can you not see the problem? The world says “don't whip your children its not good for them” and we see the awful reality of the modern world as parents are asleep at the wheel. God says “but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him” knowing full well that if you teach your children everyday... they will listen and learn!

“I can't do it Daniel, I just can't do it”, do you love your children? It is your role to discipline them. We've read it already but perhaps again: **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. (Revelation Chapter 3 verse 19 KJV)** – Jesus Christ makes clear... those that He loves He disciplines! He teaches! In fact not to discipline your children is to hate them: **He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes. (Proverbs Chapter 13 verse 24 KJV)** – why? How could you possibly hate your child but not disciplining them? You are teaching them that it is OK to do the things they do... you are showing them that it is OK to act that way, that people will yell or put them in the “corner” but they can come right back out. Please don't misunderstand and this is important, beating your children is not OK. Whipping your children is not only OK but vital to their spiritual and mental health. You do it out of love, not anger. You do it calmly after explaining your decision and you stand by it! It is your role to be the disciplinary in the home! Whose role is it? The dad? The mother? BOTH! You are a UNITED front against the foolishness of your children!

As you enter into day 11 I would have you ponder, are you helping our hurting your children? By being a weak parent and letting them run all over you and putting you against your spouse you are crippling them and destroying the trust and relationship with your spouse. Ponder God's plan for you as a parent, be the provider of teaching, wisdom, and needs. You are not your child's “friend” you are their parent. Bring them up in the ways of the Lord and always remember: **Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. (Proverbs Chapter 22 verse 6 KJV).**

## **Meet the family**

**We will soon be hearing from the second family in the “meet the family” section and I pray that you would ponder in your heart God's vision for your own family. Think to yourself today, what has God done in my life? What has He done in the lives of my family? Praise Him and thank Him for every blessing and every second that He has always been by your side! Amen.**

## Prayer Suggestions

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... while you take it? Bow your head, humble yourself before Him, open your heart and your mouth in prayer!

### Today pray for:

- That God would help you to be a parent and not a friend to your children
- That God would help you to be a better teammate with your spouse and show you how to be parents together
- That God would touch your children and open their hearts to the change He is making in yourselves
- That God would teach you His plan for you as a parent and that He would show you how to love as He has loved
- That the Holy Spirit would move in your home and make His wonderful presence known

## 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).**