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Never enough time

One of the battles that we struggle with daily is never having enough time. There is all way more to do than time to do it and it can get overwhelming as we get distracted and pulled in five hundred different ways! With all that we have to do, with all that we must focus on, have we lost focus on what is important? The enemy uses our distractions and our weakness against us everyday and cracks in the foundation can occur if we do not keep our priorities where they should be. As we have before I pray you would understand God's command of our priorities: **Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, **Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.** (Luke Chapter 10 verse 38-42 KJV).**

God must be our greatest priority, our number one priority must be Him and His kingdom and if we keep Him at the top of our list we can never go wrong. As we understand He must be our greatest priority, getting to know Him, praying to Him, working for His kingdom, fulfilling all of His commands, and living our life for Him everything else will fall into place by His grace and mercy. **But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.** (Luke Chapter 12 verse 31 KJV) – after you understand how critical it is to seek and to love God with all our heart, soul, and strength remembering this is the first and greatest commandment, you must understand that your spouse and your family must be next. **But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.** (1 Timothy Chapter 5 verse 8 KJV) – we must be willing to put our family before us, we are commanded to “provide” for them, this is not only physical needs, but emotional, intellectual, and spiritual. We are called to provide for all the needs of our spouse as our own flesh, putting them above our needs, our children above our needs. On the top 10 list of most important things in our life we probably won't make our own list. We must put others before us out of love and obedience to the command of the Almighty God. Once we love like Jesus has loved ready to give everything for those we love... true healing can begin!

Daily Devotional

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

A Drug Problem

And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. (Deuteronomy 6:7)

I know you may have heard this said before but growing up as a child, I had a drug problem. I was drug to church every time the doors of the church were open. My dad was the Sunday School director and my mom was the Vacation Bible School director. I only knew that the Wonderful World of Disney came on Sunday nights, because my friends at school told me. Some people might think that I missed out, but I was blessed. My mom and dad taught me God's word, and when God brought conviction to my heart as an eight year old boy about salvation, I went straight to my mom and asked her what I needed to do. When I was called to preach at 19, once again I went to both of my parents for confirmation.

The job of a parent has many responsibilities. They are the stabilizing factors in a kid's life that is full of instability. They are the instructors, correctors, and disciplinarians of right and wrong. They are teachers of God's word and the principles that He has called us to live by. It is not an easy job, but the rewards are amazing. Yes I was drug to where I needed to be, but I was drug in the right direction. Are you dragging your children to where they need to go?

Food for thought

by: Daniel Higginbotham (dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com)

Over the past several days we have taken a hard look at the Biblical and Godly expectations of our roles in our family, our roles as parents for our children, and our roles as husband and wife. I think it is important that we also know that as children of Christ and not in any worldly way that our spouse is our brother or sister in Christ. As such we are called as part of our foundation for another critical component to keep us on the right track as a Godly home. Keeping Christ at the center is critical and as we enter in to day 13 of the 30 day challenge I pray you would understand that it is ABSOLUTELY our duty to ensure we are living Godly lives. We are absolutely called to help restore and correct fallen brothers and sisters. It is critical that we observe our role as brothers and sisters in Christ: **In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth (2 Timothy Chapter 2 verse 25 KJV)** - it is important for us to have a honest and open line of communication with our spouse and with our children so that as we fight the good fight God can use them to help expose darkness in our lives. It is OK to tell someone, especially those that you love, that they are not necessarily fulfilling their obligation and reminding them of their God given duty and what God has commanded concerning all things.

It is important that if you have to correct your spouse or your children about anything spiritual that you do so in a very gentle, humble, and loving matter. In the heat of arguments we tend to lose our tempers and say things that we can never take back. But if left unchecked many things that we can see in our spouse will grow to become a serious problem that can only be corrected by forceful intervention. After you understand that it is absolutely your responsibility to ensure that your home is living in a Christ honoring way the next question must be, how? How can we effect change in our homes? How can we effect change in those we love? Practice, practice, practice! Lead by example, don't allow satan to convince you its not your role to help your stumbling spouse or your falling children, it is absolutely the role of every brother and sister in Christ to lovingly remind us all of God's command. To share with someone something that you may see that is hurting them or their walk could be a huge relief, some are afraid to ask for help but desperately seek it all the same! **Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. (Galatians Chapter 6 verse 1 KJV)** – consider how many husbands or wives have become addicted to drugs by experimenting because of a spouse, or how many alcoholics took that first drink while with their spouse, we must ensure that not only are we living Godly lives in Christ but as brothers and sisters in Christ we take heart and correct a brother or sister in Christ.

There is an important factor that we must face in this observation, what if our spouse does not believe in God? What if they have not accepted Christ? Never forget what the scripture says: **For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. (1 Corinthians Chapter 7 verse 14 KJV)** – I can't tell you the wonderful joy I have felt seeing the change God has made not just in me but in my wife, in my son, and in my home. If your husband or wife does not believe in Christ you cannot force them to have

the joy and truth that you have. Live by example! Walk faithfully in Christ! Flee sin and temptation! Walk away from fights, love like you are commanded to! Love as you are commanded that one day your spouse may finally start to wonder... what has happened to my wife or husband? They have changed... why? How? When? And as the pieces fall together they will see as millions have before them, Jesus Christ makes all things new! **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).** Don't give up hope! I have heard of men or women praying for their spouse for 20 or 30 years before they came to know Christ. It is possible but you must faithfully obey, faithfully follow, and without doubt or pause follow Jesus Christ!

As you enter in to day 13 of the 30 day challenge I want to ask you, are you just accepting sin? Are you simply accepting things as they are knowing that through your action or inaction you could lovingly force change? We are called to flee sin... we are not called to accept it, justify it, or explain it. **Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. (2 Timothy Chapter 2 verse 22 KJV)** – do all that you do in love, do all that you do in peace and faith. As I have experienced you will not always find love over night by the change that Christ makes in your life but even if you are persecuted everyday in His name knowing that you will enter into eternal life and joy must be enough to give us strength through it! Today treasure in your heart God's plan for you and your marriage, pray that His will be done in your marriage and in your life and may He give you the healing and strength to face the day! Amen.

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 give you wisdom and understand of your duty to your spouse and family
- That God would expose darkness and sin in your life so that you may let Him drive it away
- That God would touch your mind and give you strength to see His will for your life
- That God would give you healing and peace in your marriage
- That the mercy and grace of Christ would flow through your home making all things new

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).**