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We all fall down

As we enter in to day 15 of the 30 day challenge I pray that you would know the truth: we all fall down. It is human nature for us to forget that the secret of our power is in our relationship with Jesus Christ. Through prayer, study, and faith we come to know Him more, all of life's test refine our faith and as we move throughout life we begin to trust Him more and more, but it is in those days where we forget He is God, He is in control, and our peace, security, and success comes directly from His love, mercy and grace that we find ourselves in a fallen situation. As I write today's message I pray you would know that we all fall down, myself included and the devil has been relentless in his efforts to destroy me and keep me from completing this 30 day challenge with you. Should this come of any surprise? **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter Chapter 5 verse 8 KJV) –** but we forget... we serve a God who shuts the mouths of lions... we serve a God who slays the giant, who gives strength to the weak, wisdom to the dumb, mercy, grace and forgiveness to the fallen man and woman who turn to Him through Jesus Christ! Rejoice when you are tempted knowing that temptation is the devil trying to destroy you, when you fall down on your knees know that God is lifting you up! Trust in Him and know that regardless of how dark the valley, the light is just ahead!

As we enter in to the 15th day of the program, is the devil trying to stop you? Does the devil sense that God is gaining an immovable place in your life and home and is he trying desperately to make you forget what you know is true? Tonight I remind you as I have and as I will continue good Lord willing to do so: **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) –** know the truth, admit it, humbly accept it, and move on accordingly: we all fail in a battle of us versus the devil. Satan is a coward but a mighty adversary and the only power we have to overcome him rest in our relationship with Christ. As we draw near to Christ the devil loses his power and as a lion who has been muzzled he has a loud roar but no bite, pray, pray without ceasing, knowing that the God of creation makes all things new. We are His prodigal sons and daughters and we are destined to fall because we learn our faith and are refined through the fire. Today look at your life, are you in the fire? Trust the only hands that can keep you safe!

Daily Devotional

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

The Water Cooler

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: (Proverbs 17:22)

I had mentioned in an earlier devotion that as a young teenager I was able to go to work with my dad. We left the house real early and spent most of the day in the woods pushing up and loading stumps. By the end of the day, a semi truck was loaded down with stumps. While my dad did just about all of the work, I was still exhausted at the end of the day. On our way back to the plant in our home town, it didn't take long for me to fall asleep. My dad's water cooler always rode on the console between the driver and passenger's seat. At some point during our trip home, my dad would turn the spout of the water cooler towards me and hold down the button. I would wake up suddenly to a cold, wet seat and a dad laughing hysterically as he drove down the road. I would laugh at him laughing and in knowing the fact that he has got me again.

A home should be a place of happiness. Most people focus on the 10% that is bad instead of the 90% that's good. Every day is a new opportunity to create new memories and laugh together as a family. If your home has a lot of tension and needs something to fix the problem, God's prescription is a merry heart. What can you do today to make your home a happy home?

Food for thought

by: Daniel Higginbotham (dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com)

With just two more days to go before we move on to the next section I think it is vital to have an understanding of our responsibility to teach our children God's ways, God's expectations, who God is, and everything we can possibly teach them about our Lord and savior for He is the Lord and savior of all persons, not just adults! Jesus Christ reminds us: **But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew Chapter 19 verse 14 KJV)** – it is critical that we teach our children as young, as often, and by obeying the guiding hand of the Holy Spirit everything we can possibly understand about God. Why? The earlier that we teach our children the more likely they are to seek Him in the harder times in their life, the better equipped they will be to battle the darkness and evil of this world by knowing and trusting in the light, and if we are blessed and lucky we can see them give their life and heart over to Jesus Christ. Throughout my dad's life he never stopped sharing the truth about Jesus Christ with me and I look back knowing that God used my dad again and again not just to save my physical life but to show me the way to the eternal life found in my relationship with Jesus Christ.

I once had someone tell me “I'm not going to force my beliefs on my children, I'll let them find God on their own”, as I shared this with a friend in disbelief that someone would leave something so critical up to someone else that same friend told me “that would be like saying, I won't give my kids a coat unless they ask, knowing that its below freezing” as parents we are called to teach our children, to guide them, to do our very best to ensure they have the very best outlook and tools to use in life. Nothing has aided me more than my relationship with the Lord and as I look back I truly know that the scripture is God inspired for it happens so often: **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)** – the bottom line is if we educate our children, teach them about the Lord, they will listen, they will understand by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and God will be true to His word, they will return to Him in their hour of need! It is your duty, your responsibility, and absolutely critical that you teach your children of Christ, that you have them in church, that you give God the proper place of honor and worship in your family. Your children should have no say in the matter for at the end of the day as God knows best in our life we know best in theirs! “I let my children chose what they want to believe I won't force it on them” just because you teach them something... will they listen if they don't think its true? If so there would never be a teen smoker, a teen pregnancy, a teen drug addict, or suicide. Teach your children the truth and God will do the rest!

Do you ever see your children watching you and repeating everything you say? Just like a mirror they do everything you do thinking its cool. Knowing that your children are watching you and doing everything you do... are you leading by example? Are you praying over your meals for your family? Are you saying prayers with them at night? Are you showing the love and respect that God has commanded us to afford all those in our lives? Are you loving like Jesus knowing that the second greatest commandment is to love our neighbor as our self? As you enter in to day 15 of the 30 day challenge it may be time for a honest, hard look at our lives and our relationships. Lead by example, if you don't want to see your children doing it when they grow up... chances are you shouldn't be doing it. A home is a safe heaven for children, a place of love, growth, security, peace, and they should grow up loving

you and loving their home. You are not called to be your child's friend as we examined the scripture just a few days ago, you are called to be the leader of your home.

As you look upon this day I pray you would ponder the truth, you would accept your responsibility, you would repent of any shortcoming, and that you would boldly proclaim the words of Joshua: **And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.** (Joshua Chapter 24 verse 15 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:

- God to show you the areas of need in your life that you can focus on to be a more faithful and full servant
- God to forgive your sin and the shortcoming in your life, that He would give you strength to overcome in the name of Jesus
- God to show you how to teach and guide your children that they may come to share in your joy
- God to give you the boldness to proclaim that your home will serve the Lord and to fulfill that proclamation
- God to give you the wisdom and strength to obey Him more fully and to trust in Jesus Christ

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).**