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One day at a time!



In this life we tend to lose focus on what is truly important because we look too far down the road, we plan out months in advance only to find that our plans for today truly weren't thought out all that well. As we move through the next few days I pray that you would take it one day at a time, while I can't promise that you are going to hear everything you want to hear I pray that God would use this program and us as His willing servants to profess everything you need to hear! Know that in our marriages we tend to look to our next anniversary, or Christmas, or to when we have children, or to major milestones never really thinking we won't reach those milestones. The statistics don't lie 50% of marriages now end in divorce... you must concentrate on your marriage and enter in each day knowing that even when you face hardship and pain that the person you are going through them with is facing the same battle and struggle, you are not alone. Never forget that even when you are the only one who seems to be walking through the darkness and pain that His words are just as true as ever: **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).**

As you move through today's program I hope that you will do so with joy, with hope, and with confidence in knowing that you are where God wants you to be, you are opening your heart and your family to the healing change, grace, and mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is walking by your side waiting for you to reach out to Him! Today I pray you would remember this beautiful reminder of that truth:

[Footprints in the sand](#)

***One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.
Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.
In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.
Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,
other times there were one set of footprints.***

***This bothered me because I noticed
that during the low periods of my life,***

*when I was suffering from
anguish, sorrow or defeat,
I could see only one set of footprints.*

*So I said to the Lord,
"You promised me Lord,
that if I followed you,
you would walk with me always.
But I have noticed that during
the most trying periods of my life
there have only been one
set of footprints in the sand.
Why, when I needed you most,
you have not been there for me?"*

*The Lord replied,
"The times when you have
seen only one set of footprints,
is when I carried you."*

To view Day 1 please visit www.myemanuel.com/30day/day1.pdf

Daily Devotional

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

Being Committed

***And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
(Galatians 6:9)***

I need to make a confession; I tend to over-commit. I have a hard time saying no. If you need someone to coach a team, I will do it. If you need someone to chaplain the football team, I will do it. If you need help fixing something at your house, just give me a call. The problem is that I can get so busy doing multiple things that I don't have time to do some of the things that I need to do. I can even get so busy doing good things that I don't have time to do God things. I can get so focused on the things that don't matter that I tend to lose sight of the things that do matter.

In our marriage it is very easy to lose focus of what's important. We can rebuild the world and forsake our time with God, our time with our spouse, our time with our children, and our time we need for ourselves. Over the next few days, we need to realize that if we do not make a commitment to God and our spouse to faithfully complete this program, we are not giving them the time they deserve. Let's enter each day with a priority list of things we need to do, and then ask God to help us put them in order.

Food for thought

by: Daniel Higginbotham (dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com)

It is so easy to say “I give up” or “I quit” and to walk away from some of life's most important opportunities, I wonder how many lives have been forever altered by the men and women who have forgotten: without a “test” there is no “testimony”! As you start today I pray you would do so knowing that God does not promise us we won't walk through the valley, God does not promise us we will not face the fire... God only promises that He will never leave our side! **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)** – as you enter in today I want you to remember that even when we face the fire that Jesus Christ is with us! I want you to remind yourself all day today that regardless of what happens you will bring God glory, you will trust Him, and you will know that His plan for you is wonderful. God has given you a special person to walk through all of life's fires with that you can see, you can touch, you can talk to, you can cry with, you can laugh with, today look at your spouse and search them, why did you fall in love? Why did you say “I do”? Today do something unexpected for them knowing that even in the pain and suffering that you do still love them.

Today as you think about your marriage and what God has in store for it, remembering yesterday the food for thought was that God is in control and He has a wonderful plan in store for you, remember to see Him out, seek out His desire, seek out His will, seek out His plan. You must remember that we are sinful, short sighted, wrong, failing people and even when we try our best, even when we fight our hardest, if we don't fight with Christ in our hearts and God on our minds we will fail. We must trust in the Lord and we must seek Him out, the scripture teaches us: **And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. (Jeremiah Chapter 29 verse 13 KJV)**. Today as you enter into prayer for yourself, for your spouse, and for your family I trust you will do it knowing that we all need God and that His hands can and will heal all things if you would only place your trust in Him. It does my heart good to know that God always walks by our sides, that He has a wonderful plan in place for us, and that if we seek Him with all our heart... we will find Him! Today find God in all you do, trust in His ways, and place all you know in His hands for His hands are the only worthy hands that will not fail!

Lastly as you enter in today remember the truth: **Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. (Matthew Chapter 5 verse 7 KJV)** – today do you owe your spouse mercy? Today instead of leaving the house angry thinking all sorts of horrible things remember instead that as Jesus Christ had mercy on you He commands us to have mercy on our spouse, our children, and all those we love! Demonstrate that mercy by doing something you wouldn't normally do today, are you fighting with your spouse? Apologize. “I haven't done anything wrong Daniel” maybe not today, but search your heart... have you caused hurt in your marriage? Have mercy on your spouse and take the first steps in faith, look at them and remind them how much you love them, so much so that you said “in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, til death do us part”...

Meet the family

Tomorrow you will be introduced to an amazing family that I have had the joy of watching as the Lord has shattered the walls built up by Satan and has begun a healing process that is life altering and beautiful. Last night as I spoke with Kim Cowart the sister in Christ and wife of Jason Cowart or brother in Christ she told me "Daniel, I don't know what to say, I don't want to let you down but..." as we talked I could feel that Satan was desperately trying to stop this sister from sharing her and her husband's testimony as a family. As the Lord always does He blessed me in abundance to remind the sister... we are all a work in progress! Jesus Christ is not a magic pill that fixes all life's problems, He is the bridge to peace and eternal life and gives us the ability everyday to face our problems and know that regardless of what happens we must remember we serve and answer to a higher power. After speaking with the sister I am excited to see the God inspired testimony and I know that it will be true, it will be to the point, and it will be for the glory of God!

I pray as you prepare to meet the first family you would search your heart, are you ready to meet brothers and sisters excited for Christ? Are you ready to meet brothers and sisters who are going to pour out their hearts about what God has done and is doing in their life? I pray you would begin to understand over the course of the next 4 weeks that your situation and circumstances are not beyond the hands of grace, your problems and pain are not beyond the mercy of the eternal mercy: Jesus Christ! **I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. (Revelation Chapter 1 verse 8 KJV)**

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 forgive you for any pain you have caused your spouse
- God to forgive you for any sin you have committed
- God to open the heart of your spouse to His word
- God to open the heart of your family to His word
- God to teach you how to be a better spouse, friend, and parent

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).**