

Miracles







Do you try and humanize God because you can't understand Him? Do you try to limit His power because the thought of "all powerful" just can't add up in your heart? As we enter in to day 22 of the 30 day challenge and prepare to bring the "forgiveness and trust" component to a close I want you to remember: we serve a awesome God! We serve the God who said: And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. (Genesis Chapter 1 verse 3 KJV) - we tend to try and explain the unexplainable and to humanize the Almighty God and the truth is... we can't. No one understands the depths of our all powerful God: Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. (Isaiah Chapter 40 verse 28 KJV) - as you begin to remember the God we serve is all powerful, all knowing, all present, and sufficient in every situation you must begin to understand: when no one else can... Jehovah can! Our God is the God who spoke existence into creation, our God is the God who moves mountains, our God is the God who parts the seas, our God is the God who drank in our sin, who gave us mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and the same God who is calling out to you now: "trust in me"!

"There is no hope" is the lie straight from the pits of hell that resonates with society, "I am the hope" promises Jesus Christ the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE! "No one understands" you think as you feel hopeless, "I have never left your side and am with you even now" wonderfully our God assures us, "you can't" promises the world, "you will" the God of creation shows you. Are you still limiting God's power? Do you know that in order to see the manifestation of God's wonderful power and grace in your life that you must begin to fully trust in Him? And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. (Matthew Chapter 21 verse 22 KJV) - the same God who created the universe and laid down His life that we may be forgiven by His righteousness makes us that promise... are you trying to humanize and limit the power of God? Do you not understand that our God is fully capable of handling your situation and changing your circumstances? Place them at His feet! As you enter in to day 22 of the 30 day challenge is it time you started looking in the mirror a little more instead of placing the blame everywhere else? Confess your sin and short comings before the Lord, ask Him for forgiveness, pray for His power and grace to fall upon your life and trust in Him to fully fulfill His promises! Trust in the Lord in all things, He does understand, He is capable and willing, and He is waiting for you! Amen.

Daily Devotional

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

Forgetting the Past

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13, 14)

The Apostle Paul had a difficult past. When he focused on his past, he wasn't able to accomplish what God wanted him to do in the present. He realized that God had justified him from his sin. That means that God made him just as if he never sinned. Since there was no way to change his past, he had to press toward doing what God wanted him to do in the present. Because of complete forgiveness, he was able to accomplish great things for God.

Over the years I have sat down and talked with a lot of married couples whose marriages were in trouble. One of the things that I have noticed is that they come into my office talking about one set of problems but they are arguing about something that happened years ago. The problem is that we have buried our problems and pretended that they didn't exist. When they have a disagreement, the past resurfaces in their argument. If we are going to truly forgive and we want the walls completely removed, we must forget the past mistakes. It is not easy but with God's help we can overcome the struggles of the past. What mistakes in your past need to be forgotten?

Food for thought

by: Daniel Higginbotham (dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com)

Once you've begun to allow the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ to flow through your mind and spirit, once you've allowed the grace and mercy of Christ to bridge the gaps in your relationship with your spouse and family, once you've begun to realize there is no other way but through Christ, once you've begun to work on trust in your spouse and in your family you must lastly begin to explore a harder truth: do you trust God? Do you trust the Lord to lead you and guide you? Are you angry at God? Have you held back in your relationship with the Lord out of fear and anger at something that you feel like God has made happen or let happen in your life? It is critical that we be honest in our relationship with our spouse, our family, and most important that we are honest in our relationship with God! On this last day of the "forgiveness and trust" component and day 22 of th3 30 day challenge I am curious: how is your trust in the Lord? Do you begin to understand that our lack of faith and acceptance in God can limit our understanding of His power in our lives? Don't begin to think that our lack of faith can limit the true power of the Almighty but simply how we see and feel His power in our lives!

Does not scripture say: And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching. (Mark Chapter 6 verse 5-6 KJV) – don't misunderstand this scripture, you cannot, no one can limit the power and mighty works of the Lord Jesus Christ but our God is not a God who has to prove His power and might, He is a God who does prove His power and might but all the same does not force us into a relationship or even in to worldly belief in His power and sovereignty. Our lack of faith can limit our understanding and perception of His ability to move the mountains in our life. No where does God limit what we can ask Him for or what He can do in our life and yet everyday I see again and again people who think "God doesn't care about me much less hear or see me" and I am grieved at that kind of thinking knowing that Jehovah knows the very number of hairs on our head! He created us to have a relationship with Him! He created us to love us! That we may love Him and walk with Him! How is your relationship with God? I pray that you would begin to look deep in to your heart because God already is!

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) — Jesus Christ reminds us that our Father our Abba in heaven does not only hear our prayers but as we ask and as we seek that He will answer them and provide for us! Is this so strange? Is this not what as parents we do for our children? How much more will our Father who is all powerful and all knowing provide for us? Have you been praying for something and God has yet to answer that prayer? Do not lose hope! God influences change in a way that those who want to can continue to deny His power but let me guarantee you that God hears and answers every prayer. How can I say that? From my four year old son who God sent me after my dad passed away to the wife that God blessed me with to be a companion and a help meet all of my prayers have been answered and God has poured out His love on me and my family! I could tell you stories that would blow your mind and many would doubt them but the truth is, my God is an awesome God and the only limit to His power is the limit that you can't

see past.

Someone I love dearly once told me "I believe in God but I don't think He is someone who cares about what is going on down here", do you now know the reason that scientist have searched the heavens and never found another after looking at tens of thousands of planets is not because earth is some unbelievable anomaly in the heavens, God created this planet and everything in it just as His word indicates He did. Science can never disprove it and His word fully explains it and demonstrates His power. How is your relationship with the Lord? Do you understand His power? Of course you don't, no one does. Do you understand His love? Even now I cannot begin to understand it, the God of creation who could have destroyed all life because of the evil and sin chose instead to send His son Jesus to die in my place. I have heard one person after another try and claim how God cannot exist, how His word contradicts itself, how it is not fully sufficient and again and again those people have fell silent as God cannot be disproved because He is the very foundation of truth!

Lay your burdens and your pain at His feet. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. (Jeremiah Chapter 29 verse 13 KJV) – are you tired of feeling such anger and hate? Are you tired of feeling lost and lonely? You must desperately seek not only to forgive and forget the sin and pain those on earth have caused you but you must work to let the anger you associate with God fade away. God is so wonderful: 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. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. (Jeremiah Chapter 29 verse 11-12 KJV) – remember your freedom in Christ, remember the love of our Father, seek Him now, fully in prayer without ceasing, trust in Him and walk faithfully with Him, He will never leave nor forsake you! The last and greatest "forgiveness and trust" must begin from the inside out in your personal relationship with Jesus Christ! 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:

- God to give you true healing, peace, and joy in your relationship with Him and all those you love
- God to give you strength to take a honest look at your relationship with Him and return to a full and loving relationship with Him
- God to give you understanding of the peace and security you have in Christ
- God to continue to heal your relationship with your spouse and children
- God to continue to move through the Holy Spirit in your home

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).