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Fight the Good fight!



As we enter into day 3 of the 30 day challenge I pray that you are ready to begin to learn about God's plan for you, the foundation of the family, your marriage and the daily struggle that we face everyday. Today as I met with brother Jason and sister Kim to collect their testimony for the “meet the family” section of the program I was reminded of fighting the good fight! The scripture says: **Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. (1 Timothy Chapter 6 verse 12 KJV)** – today as you start the day I pray you would remember that this is a war, this is a war of Good against evil, those who are in Christ are fighting against a corrupt, evil, and fallen world that hates the light, that cannot understand the light, and cannot understand the truth that Jesus Christ is Lord and the ONLY way to eternal life. Knowing that this is a war, enter in with a battle plan, enter in preparing yourself physically and spiritually to fight the good fight. Prayer is our greatest weapon against the forces of evil, lift up your voices and seek the Lord out! Trust that He will not only hear your prayer but our God is a God of action! He will answer your prayer!

Today as you start the day remember that you are forgiven! Remember that every man or woman in Christ is a new creature, that Christ has done a full work on the cross and no works of your hands could ever justify you! We are justified by faith in Christ alone! Trust the Lord to be your light in the darkness, your strength in your weakness, and your hope in the darkest, longest, most painful valley! Amen.

I love you (I found this inspirational list on back of the testimony brother Jason and sister Kim prepared for this program)

ways to make it work

- Be nice
- Feel love, show love, pray together
- Little things
- Remember why you fell in love
- Be affectionate
- Talk it out
- Don't go to bed mad about anything

To view previous days of the 30 day challenge please visit www.myemanuel.com/prayer

Daily Devotional

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

A Personal Relationship

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)

When I was in 9th grade, I had the privilege to caddy a Pro-Am golf tournament. During the tournament, I was walking to the clubhouse and came face to face with the great Chicago Bears running back Walter Payton. His cousin had coached me in peewee football and I was brave enough to mention it to him. To my surprise, he was a very polite man who stopped to talk to me about it. He talked to me for about 15 minutes. I walked away with no autograph and no football knowledge, but a lifetime memory of meeting him personally. Every time that I would see him on TV from that point forward, I could reflect on the time that I had met him personally. Many people have heard the name of Christ, but they don't know who He is personally. Jesus said, "Unless you enter into a personal relationship with me, you will not go to Heaven." While I'm sure Walter Payton would have never remembered meeting me, Jesus not only will remember you, but He will keep that relationship for all of eternity. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, today would be a wonderful day to meet Him.

Food for thought

by: Daniel Higginbotham (dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com)

Today we are begging a new journey, over the next week we are going to learn about “the foundation” and while this may be a refresher for some of you I pray that you would all take the time to ponder on this quick message. What is the foundation? The foundation in our relationship with Christ is the confession that we made, to see the beauty of the foundation we only need to look at the words of our Lord and savior: **When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.** - Jesus Christ was not telling Peter that “he was a rock” yet that the confession of Jesus as Christ was the rock, the confession, and upon that confession He would build His church... and hell shall not overcome it or prevail against it! As you begin today I pray you would search your heart, do you know Jesus Christ? Notice my question was not “do you know OF Jesus Christ” yet my question is do you PERSONALLY know Jesus Christ? Have you accepted Him? Have you confessed Him? Have you trusted in Him? Do you love Him? Do you follow Him?

Jesus Christ is the greatest part of our foundation and our faith and love for our savior is paramount in understanding everything else. You must trust in Jesus Christ when He promised and warned: **Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John Chapter 14 verse 6 KJV)** – you must understand this one fact before you can understand any other, Jesus Christ is the ONLY way to God the Father and eternal life. You must understand that Jesus Christ the only begotten Son of God left His throne in heaven and fulfilled every promise and word of the prophets in the Old Testament and lived a perfect sinless life, He died in your place because there was no other way for you to reach eternal life... **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John Chapter 3 verse 16 KJV)** – do you want the peace and comfort that I have? Do you want to know that even through the fire and pain and struggle that you are not alone? You can have it, and many of you reading already do have it! For those who know Christ as Lord and savior I say to you REJOICE! Sing praises to the King of Kings and rejoice in the foundation of your faith! To those reading this message a bit confused about this man named Jesus Christ thinking this was only a marriage counseling program I would remind you Jesus Christ is the ONLY HOPE for marriages and for all those reading, this program is about Jesus Christ.

As you start this day I pray you would remember that Jesus Christ loves you, He loved you before you knew Him, He loved you before He spoke the world into existence, God loved you so much that He personally left His throne in heaven to come and to die in your place. He can make all things new... the question is are you ready? If you want to accept Christ this very moment I say amen! Please visit www.myemanuel.com/iamready.html.

Meet the family

Tonight you'll be introduced to Jason Cowart, our brother in Christ and a beautiful example of what God does not only in the lives of those who know Him but those who see all those He has touched! Over the next 7 days they will introduce their story to you and I pray that you would know they have shared their testimony that Jesus Christ may be glorified and after reading it myself I have been touched knowing that every word is true. Jason and Kim Cowart parents of Jason "Jace" Cowart Jr. have been a powerful example to me of what God can do in a family and how He will be known by the works of His faithful servants! May God open your heart as you read their testimony and may you praise and honor Him for His mighty grace and mercy! Amen.

"How I felt before God"

"Today I am unhappy, I hear how great things can be but I'm not so sure about whats going on in my life right now. I just want to be happy, so whats wrong with that? Just wanting to be happy, everybody deserves happiness don't they? I'm not so sure anymore... what needs to happen so I to can be happy? I'm just so confused about everything in my life, in the world, and in the universe. For starters I try and try to make my loved ones happy but it never seems to work. I've been trying to control my temper but it is much harder than I thought it was going to be. I feel so alone, people are all around me yes... but not that kind of alone... alone in my heart."

"Today I'm going to try to make it as simple as I can. Try to do everything in my power to make Kimberly my love, my heart, my soul, happy and make sure she comes first."

"I'm so lost I don't know what to do anymore. Life is getting to be so hard, everything I do is wrong, sometimes I think that my family would be so much better and happier if I were not in their lives... so the question is what do I do? Everything I do just seems to be more wrong, the harder I try the more I mess up and just when I feel like things are starting to look up I get informed that its not better now and odds are they aren't going to get any better. So my options are slimming to almost none anymore, so I guess the only way to make sure my family is happy is not to be apart of my family anymore. So now I have to decide... whats next? I would rather my family be happy without me than to be miserable with me here. I don't think I can live with that loss, dear God please help give me the strength and courage to do what needs to be done!"

"When God entered my life everything changed. I realized that without God's love in my life nothing is possible. God loved and took care of me before I loved him first in my life".

*Tomorrow we will be introduced to sister Kim and over the next 6 days we will learn more about this family, what God has done for them individually and what God has done in their family. As Jason realized and I pray you would realize now: **We love him, because he first loved us. (1 John Chapter 4 verse 19 KJV)** – even if you are reading this testimony and you know in your heart you don't know Jesus Christ as Lord and savior... He is still there with you, waiting for you to reach out to Him, waiting to bring the light into your life! Please join us tomorrow to hear more powerful testimony and learn more about this amazing family!*

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 open your heart to the Holy Spirit
- God to help you pray with your spouse
- God to help you forgive the pain and suffering your family has caused you
- God to help you remember the love you have for your spouse and your children
- God to help you remember that He is always by your side

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).**