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Getting better all the time!

How do we learn in life? How does the Lord bless us with wisdom? Do we wake up one day and realize that we suddenly know everything there is to know about everything? Or do we learn by studying, trying, failing and falling, dusting off our knees and trying a different way. I have heard again and again that marriage is the most difficult experience you will ever go through, I know that to be true after 2 wonderful years of marriage and let me be frank with you: becoming one flesh is not easy! As we enter into the fourth day of the 30 day challenge I pray you would understand that if we could simply be obedient to the Lord and love as we are commanded, keeping the Lord at the center of our marriage and constantly as our first priority I can't begin to believe one single marriage would ever fail. How can I say that? What does the scripture teach us about marriage?

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it (Ephesians Chapter 5 verse 25 KJV) – how beautiful... husbands, men, fathers would you leave Christ? Would you give up on the Lord? Would you scream at the God who died nailed to a tree to make a way for you to come back to Him? Would you cheat on Christ and commit idolatry with false gods? Would you scream and treat Christ as a second rate citizen? So why do you treat your wives as anything less than what you are called? Love your wife as Christ loves you, as Christ gave everything for you!

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. (Ephesians Chapter 5 verse 22 KJV) – wives I know you enjoyed the paragraph above... so what about that scripture? Do you think your in charge? "Its the 21st century Daniel men aren't in charge of the home anymore"... says who? If you expect your husband to love you as Christ loved the church should you not be expected to support your husband and allow him to fulfill his God given command?

As you enter into this day four I would have you ponder on the thought, God has a plan for you, He has a plan for your marriage, He has a plan for your family, are you fighting it? Are you desperately trying to piece together scripture to justify your means? Stop. Examine your heart and realize that we serve a God who expects us to trust and serve Him fully we have no right to only surrender to what feels good, we are called to surrender all!

Please visit www.myemanuel.com/prayer to see the past 3 days of this program for free.

Daily Devotional

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

The Trinity

But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. (Galatians 4:4-6)

As we read the Bible's description of God, we find the number three popping up repeatedly. For example, God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. We find the number three representing God as if it was His trademark. The curious thing about this trademark is that it shows up in various places... He made the atom with three parts (electron, neutron, proton) and used it to create a world with three parts (land, sea, air), all within a universe with 3 parts (matter, time, space). He created time with 3 divisions (past, present, future). He created matter with its normal, you guessed it, three states (solid, liquid, gas). His greatest creation, man, was made in three parts (body, soul, spirit). While we worship one God, He is in three persons. Each part of the triune Godhead has a part in our salvation. The Father has chosen us and oversees the whole process. The Son has purchased us with the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and the Spirit transforms us from the inside out and seals us as children of God. Isn't it great to know that God loves us, and He has gone to such great lengths to ensure that we can be eternally secure in Him?

Food for thought

by: Daniel Higginbotham (dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com)

I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. (John Chapter 14 verse 18 KJV) – serving Christ is not a burden as the world must think, it is not something that I do just because I have to I serve Christ, I accepted Christ, I loved Christ, and I walk faithfully with Christ because He has blessed me to do so, He loved me first, and when I accepted Him as Lord and savior He came to me. Should it be of any surprise I say that “he came to me”? Does the scripture not plainly say “I will come to you”? As we enter into the fourth day and the second about the foundation of our faith I pray you would know that every believer, every born again child of God has the comforter, the promised Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God that dwells with-in us, that leads us, guides us, teaches us, directs us, and allows us to understand and discern many powerful things. Do you feel like your walking alone? Do you feel hopeless? Are you so afraid you don't know what you'll do? Are you lost? Have you accepted Christ? Cry out to Jesus Christ for He will fulfill His promise again and again if you would simply trust Him!

One thing that has often puzzled me is how in the world in rough times can people turn their back on the one thing that is constant and never failing? I remind you of the story of Peter stepping out on to the waves: **And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? (Matthew Chapter 14 verse 31 KJV)** – we have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ, we know that He is the only begotten Son of God, we know that He is true and eternal, His word and our profession of faith is the rock upon which all else is built, and yet we don't trust Him... why? How? Today as you enter into the fourth day of this program I would have you ask yourself, “do I trust God?” If the answer is not a clear cut ALWAYS YES we may have something to work on... I don't know about you but I know I have something to work on! Trusting in the Lord does not always come easy but as God demonstrates without fail... if we trust in Him He will always provide and we will only prevail in Christ! This is not some great mystery... trust and have faith in Christ and His plan in your life, seek out His guidance and trust in the Holy Spirit, trust that God is watching and waiting, He is listening and wants to pour out His guidance upon you and may even be trying to lead you, are you fighting Him?

This morning I leave you with this: Jesus Christ loves you. How could you ever doubt it? Jesus Christ suffered an unspeakable, unimaginable, terrifying, beyond painful death at the hands of the evil that was meant for us. He was sin free, He was innocent, we are guilty. Why in the world did He do it? He did it because He loves you so desperately. As you enter into today I would have you remember His last words on earth before His death on the cross: **"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..." (Luke Chapter 23 verse 34 KJV).**

Meet the family

Last night we had the pleasure of being introduced to brother Jason Cowart and the begging of the transformation Christ has played in his life, tonight we will begin to meet his wonderful wife sister Kim Cowart and how God is fully true to His word, never failing, always having the best purpose in mind for all those who seek Him out.

“Almost 8 years ago I went to bed every night and prayed to God that He would send me someone to love. Someone who would love me. I was a single, divorced woman and was all alone. Then one day a friend from work asked me to meet her brother-in-law. As it turned out God answered my prayer.”

“Jason and I fell in love. Then I prayed for a baby. God again answered, but that was not to be. We lost that miracle. My whole life I had been led to believe that I couldn't have children but God wasn't the one who told me that, because then we were blessed again but not right away. We struggled and life happened and we fought, struggled and life happened and we fought and almost walked away from each other a few times. By the grace of God we stayed together and had a baby. He is 4 now. As much as I loved God I hadn't yet asked God to live in my heart. Jason started going to church down the road from our house and asked me to join him. At first I made excuses and wouldn't go. Then a little over 1 year ago I went, I fell in love with our pastor and the people and our church was now our home. For that year I prayed but mostly at night when I remembered or when Jason and me where in a crisis. Then a couple of months ago I was brought to my knees by God.”

*As you read tonight's introduction to our sister in Christ Kim I pray you brothers and sisters struggling right now, fighting to keep God in your family, fighting to keep yourself in church, faithful and worshiping the Lord, don't lose hope! God is using you! The scripture clearly teaches us what our sister in Christ Kim already knows: **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) – don't give up hope on your spouse or your children, live for Christ fully, live for Christ in every moment and every second of the day, be the shining light and never hide it from anyone! Pray without ceasing and be faithful to God's promise, He can reach your spouse or children that is not your job, you lift them up and live your life as a living sacrifice and example to all those who can see you, God will do the rest! If this morning you are struggling and you know that God is calling out to you... answer Him! Please visit www.myemanuel.com/iamready.html to learn how to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and savior! Tomorrow we will continue to learn about our brother in Christ Jason and how God's plan has progressed in his life.***

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 expose your flaws and your short comings in your marriage and relationship with your children
- God to reveal to you anything limiting your relationship with Him
- God to continue healing the pain caused by years of neglect and anger in your marriage
- God to give you strength to fully forgive and to be free in the forgiveness of Christ
- God to give you peace and an open heart to His calls

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).**