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### The best kind of team!

Are you and your spouse a team? Or do your children and family play you one off the other? Are you working in this life together or against one another? Marriage is the best kind of team, a life long committed team that will practice, practice, and practice some more. In practice you make mistakes, in practice you fall down or forget the game plan, but on game day when the stress is on and your blood pressure is rising you act effortlessly and without hesitation! All that practice comes in handy! Today I pray you would remember what the scripture tells us to do with our spouse:

**Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. (Ephesians Chapter 5 verse 21 KJV)** - you are not enemies, you are not trying to prove who is the “better spouse” you aren't trying to compare your marriage to that of everyone else, concentrate instead on doing your very best, being the very best husband or wife you can be, and at the end of the day as you obey the Lord's command for your marriage and your duty as a spouse you can lay your head down at night knowing that you have obeyed the Lord. Divided a house cannot stand, if you are so busy infighting with your teammate how in the world can you hope to stand against the opponent? Our enemy is a coward looking for families, marriages, and souls to devour! If you forget the game plan...

Today as you enter into day 5 I pray you would know the source of guidance and strength is not in anything but the Lord Jesus Christ, trust in the Lord alone and put your circumstances fully in His hands, He is the ONLY one capable of understanding all circumstances and knowing what choices will be effective and what choices will tear down the progress He has built. Trust the Lord! Obey the Lord! Love the Lord! **Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.** (John Chapter 14 verse 23 KJV)

Please visit [www.myemanuel.com/prayer](http://www.myemanuel.com/prayer) to see the past 3 days of this program for free.

Are you in need of additional or specific prayer? Please contact us at

[dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com](mailto:dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com) with your need or visit us at

[www.facebook.com/myemanuelprayerteam](https://www.facebook.com/myemanuelprayerteam) and leave us a comment we will surely continue to lift you up and your circumstances to the unfailing hands of the Almighty!

## Daily Devotional

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

### The Source

***Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Psalms 119:11***

I have lived a blessed life. I grew up in a home that my mom and dad loved God, they loved each other, and they love us. I didn't know that there was any other way to live. When I started going to school, I found out that not every person was as fortunate as I was. I also found out that hurting kids liked to hurt other kids. I remember a conversation that I had in school where another kid tried to make me mad about my parents. He tried to make me believe that my parents were not really my parents and that they had been lying to me my whole life. In response to his lie, I told him I knew they were my parents. First of all, I knew they were my parents because I looked like they did. Second of all, I knew they were my parents because they loved me like a son. Finally I knew they were my parents because they corrected me like a son. I came to the conclusion that day, that even if I had been adopted, that in my heart I belonged to my parents.

Ever since God gave us His word, hurting people have tried to disprove it. They say it isn't true. How do we know that God's word is true? First of all, God's word reveals the very nature of God. We can see the fingerprints of God all over this world. There is no contradiction. Secondly, I can feel the love of God that is revealed in His word every day of my life. Finally, when I mess up I experience the correction of God that is taught in His word. I know God's word is true because I have accepted it and experienced it in my heart, and when I do, He keeps me from sinning against Him. Why don't you let the truth of His word be real in your heart today?

## Food for thought

by: Daniel Higginbotham ([dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com](mailto:dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com))

Have you ever asked yourself how is it that the Bible, the Word of God, is so perfect and reads like such a thriller from Genesis to Revelation that it seems as if the same person wrote it? The Bible is unique from any other book or collection of books in a way that reveals such a powerful truth that many men and women spend their entire life fighting it and trying to disprove it only understanding that much later that it can't be disproved, it can't be undone, it can't be explained away, and the powerful truth is greater than anything man could ever have done alone. The word Bible actually means "collection of books", it has 40 authors, some were kings, some were fishermen, shepherds, priest, and prophets. The Bible was written in 3 different languages, on 3 different continents, in times of war and in days of peace. It is sufficient for all of life's questions, it gives us the perfect picture of our God and the mercy and love that He has for us. Why are so many people afraid to admit that the Bible is something special? I suspect it is simply that if they admit the Bible is something greater than a collection of books they would have to examine their lives and begin to ask themselves some very hard questions... if the Bible is the Word of God which we know that it is... then everything it contains must be true? It is, and because it is I pray you would understand Bible study is critical to our walk with the Lord and bringing us closer to the peace and mercy we seek!

**For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews Chapter 4 verse 12 KJV)** – if we do not surrender to the power which is the Word, which the Word is Jesus Christ then how can we hope to know our God? How can we hope to know His call on our lives? I can call myself a lawyer all day long but unless I studied hard and know the letter of the law I won't be very good in fighting for a client... just as you study to be great in school or at work you must learn about God! You must seek Him out in His word, you must know who, what, why, and how you are to serve the mighty Jehovah and His word and prayer go hand-in-hand!

Do you know that you have power? Do you know that Jesus Christ died not only to give us freedom, mercy, and grace, but also through His death and as we are given the Holy Spirit as we discussed yesterday we are given a direct channel to speak to God. When have you go on your knees and really just poured out your heart? The scripture teaches us: **Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (Philippians Chapter 4 verse 6 KJV)** – again and again we are taught that prayer is a must! God reveals to me His desire and the actions He would have me do through prayer. When I pray and trust God I make good, God honoring, God conscience decisions... when I don't pray and trust God? I fail. I make commitments that I struggle to keep, I make poor choices that lead to failure and pain! When is the last time you not only poured out your heart to God but listened to His response? When you hear that voice in your mind saying "don't do that" or "please stop what your doing" do you equate that to your "conscience" or as a born again Child of God is that the Holy Spirit crying out for us to walk in God's statutes? **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. (Revelation Chapter 3 verse 19 KJV)** – as you enter into

day 5 of the 30 day challenge I pray you would do three things:

1. Examine your prayer life and habits, do you only pray to God when you need something? Aren't you truly always in need of something? Know that God wants you to talk to Him daily, wake up talking to Him, talk to Him relentlessly all day, tell Him good night! Prayer is our greatest power as Christians and Christ died to give us the ability to speak to Him without a priest or anyone else.
2. Examine your study habits. This is the greatest test we will ever endure, how in the world can you ever hope to pass the test if you don't know the course material? Shouldn't you be studying like your life depended on it? In the case it does! Get in the word and seek out God's desire and plan for your life.
3. Accept the rebuke of the Lord. No one likes being told their wrong, especially when you are really really wrong. Sin is sin, trust God when He corrects you and don't continue to sin against Him. Sinning against God over and over again will grieve the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit will leave you, repent of your sin and walk faithfully determined to honor and glorify the Lord in all you do!

## Meet the family

Last time we heard from our brother in Christ Jason and how the Lord loved him even before Jason knew Him as Lord and savior. When we last left Jason he shared his thought “without God's love in my life nothing is possible” and as we continue tonight I pray would understand how Jason, how his wife Kimberly, and how every born again child of God comes to that truth: experience. Tonight we pickup where we last left off with brother Jason.

“I never was a good kid and neither of my parents were Christian church going people. I took after them in their ways of doing drugs, lying and cheating and thought that’s the way life is supposed to be. My mom and dad divorced when I was young and their marriages they had when growing up was no way to lead my life, but I didn't know that then.”

“So I got married the 1<sup>st</sup> time and was a cheater. I lied, cheated and stole all through my marriage. I didn't know the meaning of being faithful. I cheated with anyone and everyone I could and rubbed it in my wife’s face. At the age of 21 I had a heart attack and almost died. The doctors could not explain or figure out why I was having heart attacks and complete blockages, on my 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday I had to have bypass open heart surgery. The doctors where stumped, they didn't know what was wrong or how to fix it. The bypass blocked back off. I had a daughter with my 1<sup>st</sup> wife and it didn't change who I was or the way I treated my wife. And I continued to have heart problems, I didn't know it then but God had some work he wanted me to do.”

*Tonight as you read through brother Jason's testimony I challenge you to examine the circumstances. Already you have seen that God has impacted this brothers life in a powerful, unbelievable way and I pray as you learn more about his testimony you would understand: God can save anyone and everyone. Tonight I pray you would begin to realize as brother Jason now knows, God has a plan for you, He has something wonderful in store for your life and your marriage if you would only trust in Him. Tonight as you ponder about Jason's testimony I pray you would do so knowing that God's plan may take you through dark valleys and pain but when you come out on the other side the blessings and faithfulness of God is beyond your wildest dream! **Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee... (Jeremiah Chapter 1 verse 5 KJV)** – if you are reading through Jason's testimony today and you feel the Lord pulling on your heart... answer His call! You will be eternally glad you did! Please visit [www.myemanuel.com/iamready.html](http://www.myemanuel.com/iamready.html) to begin a healing that millions before you have known in Jesus Christ!*

## 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:

- Pray that God would remove doubt from your life and give you strength to trust in Him
- Pray that God would remove any stumbling block and reveal any sinful habit or vice that He would have you stop
- Pray that God would continue the healing in your heart and that of your spouse
- Pray that God would continue to bless you to lead your children and be an example for everyone around you
- Pray that God would give you wisdom and understanding as you pray, read, and study to know Him more



## 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).**