



[Today's Devotional](#) | [Food for thought](#) | [Meet the family](#) | [Prayer suggestions](#) | [About](#)



### So much to do, so much to do!

Are you ever distracted as you move throughout the day? Do you ever get home from work, get ready for bed, and remember something you were supposed to do that day and realized you totally dropped the ball? Distractions are the devils play things, with so much going on we tend to worry about the things that are least important! Think about it, did you pray today? Did you open your Bible and study? Did you share the Gospel with someone? At the end of the day has God become more of a nuisance and inconvenience in our life than our only hope? Lets look at it honestly as we enter in to day 7, understand that today is a beautiful day to remember the Lord for today is the day of rest, the Sabbath, and as someone once beautifully put, even God rested after the first 6 days!

Ponder this scripture: **Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, **Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.** (Luke Chapter 10 verse 38-42 KJV) – what is important in your life? As Jesus Christ purely demonstrated here and as we are reminded throughout the Word God must be number one, He must come before our spouse, our children, our friends, and everything else in our life! Why? It is when we humbly realize that God has put us above everything else that we understand the kind of love He has for us. We cannot question if God would lay His life down for us, He has. We cannot question if God would take a beating and suffer knowing that He didn't have to, He has. **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).**

As you enter in to day 7 of the 30 day challenge I pray you would rejoice in serving a Lord who put us above all things, who gave His life to demonstrate His love, who calls us friend if we would simply obey and trust in Him! Rejoice and rest on this Sabbath! Spend the day rejoicing for we have 6 days of our own we are commanded to give this one back to the Lord! Do so joyfully and totally, for did He not put you above even His own life? Amen.

## Daily Devotional

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

### Building with Sand Castles

***Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. (Matthew 7:24-27)***

While visiting the beach for vacation one year, my son and I had decided to build a sand castle. He was five years old, and I thought it would be a good father son activity. We hadn't been building too long and my OCD kicked in. Before long he was only allowed to put sand where I told him he could put it. After about an hour of following my instruction, he decided it wasn't fun anymore and quit. I had been telling myself that I was building him the perfect sandcastle, so my passion to build kept me building. It wasn't too long after that he asked me the craziest question. He wanted to know if we could tear it down. It was at that point I realized our project had become my project and I said, "Have at it." In less than two minutes, the sand castle was gone.

We have the same problem in our marriages. We build our marriages out of our own desires and wishes. We don't stop to consider our spouse or our God. We build what we want, how we want, and where we want, without regard to their opinion. When we do that, we are building our marriages out of sand. When the storms of life come, our marriages just will not stand. Christ is the solid rock, and He said that when we build upon the rock, it will stand against the storms. What is in your marriage today that is built upon sand? Where should you be building?

## Food for thought

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

My brothers and my sisters our God in heaven hears your cry, He feels your pain, He knows that even when you hide it so carefully with a smile and pretending that all is perfect that you cry all alone at night! You do not have to hide your heart and your pain from our Lord and savior, I pray as you read these words you would know they are meant for you! God will have mercy on you and will forgive you if you would only take the freedom that He has promised: **And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John Chapter 8 verse 32 KJV)** – that truth is one that you already know, the truth is one that you have heard about, this last 6 days you have read about it, you have dabbled around the edge of this truth wondering what in the world are these crazy men are talking about... but you have yet to accept it, to embrace it, and to proclaim it. Why? What are you waiting for? Do you think you stumbled across this program by accident? Do you think these words are meant for many people and that God has not specifically blessed me to write them for you? The walls will come crashing down, the only question is what will replace them?

In September of 2011 I was living the picture perfect life outside my home, I was happy, I had a home, a beautiful wife, a wonderful son, new cars, new clothes, nice food to eat, watches, TVs, new everything, and all was well... outside the walls of my home. Inside it was a war zone, in my heart it was a war zone, and in September of 2011 the walls, the sandcastle I had built came crashing down with a great fall. I was blessed, the broken walls were swept away by the mercy and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and what can I say now? **If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. (John Chapter 8 verse 36 KJV)** – I am free by the blood of Jesus Christ and I am far from perfect, but each day the Lord Jesus Christ comforts me, guides me, directs me, rebukes me, teaches me, loves me, and pours out blessings upon me that I can not begin to understand or imagine. He is in control, I know He is in control, He has replaced the ravaged, false hope, castle in the sand with a much simpler, much easier, much fuller life built simply upon the rock. He is the rock of my salvation and He is reaching out to you even this very day. As you enter into this 7<sup>th</sup> day I pray you would look in the mirror, truly look deep into your eyes, pause and search your heart and mind, are you fully living for God? The answer for me this night is no, I admit it to you and I am ashamed of it but God has revealed it to me, I will pray that God touches my heart and allows me to fully live for Him and to do the things I do, to say the things I say, the do the works I do for His glory and beg of Him for forgiveness for not doing so every second before.

The question remains for you today... are you ready? Are you ready to stop playing OK?? Are you ready to stop pretending? Are you ready to reach out and take the hand of the Savior who died for you? The God who knows you by name? The God who knows the very number of hairs on your head? Stop running, He has caught you, let Him pour out His love upon you, He knows your every sin and mistake and even so He cries out for you: ...**Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do...** (Luke Chapter 23 verse 34 KJV).

Please visit [www.myemanuel.com/iamready.html](http://www.myemanuel.com/iamready.html) because I know running all these years have been so tiring... where have you gotten? It is not to late, all things are made new in Christ, cry out to Him now, He is waiting.

## **Meet the family**

Over the past 6 days our brother Jason and sister Kim have shared their testimony, tonight we will conclude this courageous testimony and as sister Kim searched for the strength to complete her testimony knowing that she feels convicted even now to continue to work on her marriage I promise to tell you the truth: this is not the end. Becoming one flesh is a life long event that just when we almost have it perfected... we go to glory to be with the King! Rejoice that God has given you this opportunity to know your love more and know that it won't always be easy but God has promised to stand by our side! Amen.

### **Brother Jason's conclusion in testimony**

“Now with God's help I know the mistakes I made in the past can be forgiven. I now know that with God anything is possible. Happiness is achievable and life can be great. I realize now without God's love I couldn't truly know how to love anyone including myself. I had to pray for God to show me how to truly love and now that He has I know anything is possible. And my marriage can make it through anything with God's grace. I'm not as good as I want to be but I'm better than I once was!”

### **Sister Kim's conclusion in testimony**

“My biggest issue in my marriage is trust. To give up control and let some one have the power to hurt you. Would you close your eyes and fall backwards and know that you will always be caught? To be honest I came into this marriage already bruised from falling to many times and nobody catching me. It kinda feels like in the back of my mind (and heart) that I'm always waiting for my next fall and bruise. I have a very controlling and needy personality. Not a good combination. I married Jason expecting him to fail me. I looked for ways to provide to myself that I and all the women in my life were right. That men sucked. They will use you, beat you, cheat on you, and leave you. I twas like I had a pre-made check list and always had my pen ready to check off my list. So for years I saw suspicion in everything that Jason did. I checked and rechecked caller ids. I listened to voice mail and thought to death about every single word and what was said and unsaid. I checked call times and how long they took. And I became the queen on questions and doubt.”

“I would leave work early to try and catch Jason doing something. Anything. I would call him over and over. I would listen to background noise. And when Jason got a phone with a camera and internet I could have chewed nails in two. I worried constantly. When I met Jason he had a routine already setup where he and his daughter spent every weekend with his brother. His brother had a new wife who had 2 very beautiful teenage daughters. And I had a crush on Jason. She loved to be on Jason's 4 wheeler, her mom wouldn't let the girls ride alone. In Ellijay where they would go on a ride it would kill me. Inside me lives another me that is crazy. And my other me can find fault in anything. Did I know if anything was happening on these trips? No. But I expected it to. I did everything I could to keep us from going there.”

To keep us from spending the night. So I wasn't surprised when Jason told me something happened, because I already knew it was going to happen. I was waiting on it.

Then in my mind and heart I had to justify what happened. How much will I put up with before I leave him. Does one kiss end a relationship? Does the good still out weight the bad? And do you believe him? Did she start it and he responded? How much really happened? I wasn't there. Life moves on and I got over it and we stayed together. But I watched even closer now."

"Me and Jason move around a lot. We settle for awhile in Jasper and my mom moved in with us. Jason got a job at a cabinet shop and only worked with 6 or 7 other men. I think I was in heaven. Then they hired one women to answer the phone and work in the office. At first I was OK with her working there, well kind of anyway. I still had that voice in my head you know, the other me, that's crazy. And then it was time to go to a office party and I got to meet her. She was cute, small and petite, everything that I am not. I thought I saw her flirting with Jason, but no way, I mean out of the 7 or so men that work here she couldn't really be interested in mine. But yes she was... so to forgive again, but never to forget. Years went by and we moved again to Adairsville. By this time we had fought over everything under the sun. Some fights were getting violent on both sides. Does the good still out weight the bad? Now we had a miracle baby and we know he is miracle. But we still hadn't given our lives over to God."

"With-in walking distance Jason had found a church he liked and started going without me. So I went with him, Jason turned his life and soul over to God and confessed his sins to me and God, he pleaded with us both to love him and forgive him. It seemed to me that he might be telling the truth this time and by now I had also given my life to God. So we worked it out and made it work. Two days ago my crazy self thought Jason was getting to friendly with the neighbor. We fought,s creamed, punched things and go the local police called. Luckily by God's grace neither of us went to jail but not from lack of trying on our parts. So I packed my baby, my mom, and myself and left."

"I thought for ever after... but God knew better and brought us home the same day, just much later. We talked it through and we are still trying. Everyday is a struggle. Being married happily is the hardest thing I have ever done. I get in my own way a lot. But God always saves me. And always brings me and Jason back together."

*I pray that as you read through both the testimony of this brother and sister you would know that their marriage is not perfect, far from it, but their marriage is real. Their marriage is what none of us want to admit ours is, a fight, a struggle, a war, a war against each other, a war against God, a war against satan, a war against darkness and evil. In this war their will be ups, their will be downs, it is not how we fall but where we land that makes all the difference. Tonight I pray you would understand that God is not a one stop solution to your problems, Jesus Christ is not a magic fix for all life's worries, He is the begging of healing, and if you have faith and stick to your walk with the Lord you will find forgiveness and healing that you could never imagine... God has demonstrated it in my marriage, in the marriage of Kim and Jason, and millions of marriages around the world that have found the scripture is beautiful and true: **Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Corinthians Chapter 5 verse 16 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:

- Pray that God would reveal any weakness in your walk and faith, that He would bless you and convict you of your sins
- Pray that God would show you mercy and grace as He gives you wisdom and understanding to draw you near to Him
- Pray that Jesus Christ would find you more, that He would pour out His great mercy and love upon you and open your eyes to His presence
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would purify and cleanse your body as His temple and that He would dwell with-in you
- Pray that our Father in heaven would do a mighty work in your life and that it would be for His glory and honor and praise!



## 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).**