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Get back up!



We all fall down. We all get battered, bruised, and hurt. The pain that this life can inflict is deep and beyond what we can deal with on our own. So many families, so many marriages, so many situations become worse and worse not because the circumstances are truly that bad but because the perception of those circumstances are that bad. "Perception is reality" as the saying goes people may or may not truly be in the terrible circumstances they feel like they are but if they have it in their mind it is that bad... guess what? Its that bad. As we enter into day 9 of the 30 day challenge I would have you ponder your circumstances, is it as bad as you think it is? Do we not have the greatest hope? The blessed redeemer Jesus Christ died for us to have the hope that no matter what we will spend eternity with Him! **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).**

Last night I fell, hard, the stress and hurt had built up for weeks and it all came crashing down on my head. It was not the Lord's fault, it was my fault, instead of getting down on my knees to pray willingly I was brought to my knees by the overwhelming circumstance. Had I simply got on my knees and cried out to the Lord I would have avoided the pain of the crash, I would have not said things that I cannot take back, I would not have fallen, even as I sit writing this message to you now I understand that every fall makes me stronger. Ever dark valley helps me to praise the Lord for the beautiful mountains, every time I fall I gain wisdom, every time I come closer and closer to the Lord, the enemy thinks he is destroying me... the truth? He is driving me closer to the saving grace and the truth and reality, regardless of your circumstances or your perception the truth and the reality is our only hope is in Jesus Christ. As you enter in to day 9 I pray you would ponder this scripture: **Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew Chapter 11 verse 28-30 KJV).**

Let us draw near to our Savior, let us trust in His strength, let us trust in His vision and His wisdom, He knows tomorrow, He knows a year from now, we must trust in Him and the plan that He has for us. Repent my brothers, sisters draw near to the Lord! Trust in Him, GET BACK UP. This fight is not over, let us fight the good fight!

Daily Devotional

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

The Riptides

...Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles...(I Corinthians 7:28)

Have you ever been caught in a riptide? One summer my family went to Orange Beach, AL for vacation. The red warning flags were all up and down the beach telling people to be careful for a strong riptide current. The waves on the ocean that week were amazing to see as they came crashing into the sand. Because we knew of the danger of the riptide, when we went into the ocean, we knew to not only watch the waves on top of the water, but to pay attention to the riptide below the surface. Many people have drowned because of failure to pay attention to riptides. Your marriage is no different. We truly expect a marriage to be filled with worldly trouble. The problem we have is we watch and work through the problems on the surface, but it is the little problems below the surface that destroys a marriage. It is the things we don't say or do, and the things we allow to build up over time that causes our biggest problems. Those things are the riptides of our marriage. What underlying problems does your marriage have? Unless we realize the problem that is there, we will drown in a sea of trouble and never know what hit us.

Food for thought

by: Daniel Higginbotham (dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com)

After you have read, understood, and accepted that marriage is between one man and one woman as defined not by the world but commanded by God Almighty, it is crucial to understand the role of each family member. Today we are going to start with husbands and I pray that as you read through this food for thought that you will truly ponder these things. Pray over them, ask God to reveal them to you, it is critical for each member of the family to accept and daily walk in the God given command as how we should act, what we should do, and what we are responsible for. As we begin to speak about these matters please understand this publication will not allow for a complete over view of everything that each person in the family should or shouldn't do yet this is what I hope a door for you to study the scripture, to pray together, and to do your best to fulfill your God given command.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it (Ephesians Chapter 5 verse 25 KJV) – I imagine that if men could follow this most basic command that the number of divorces would plummet to well below 10%. Husbands... love your wives. Love your wives how? As Christ loved the church. How as that? How did Christ love the church? Fully. Totally. Christ was both a servant of the church and also the head of the church. He was the master but as the master would show He was not above the service of His own servants. **Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? (John Chapter 13 verse 6 KJV)** – the King of Kings, the Lord Jesus Christ bowed humbly before His disciple Peter to wash his feet... a sign of submission and love... Peter was so amazed that he asked for Jesus not to do what He was doing... why? We find it hard to allow people to submit to us... much less fully submit to them. Jesus was showing His link to His followers, in His love He was showing the love we as husbands must have for our wives. We must be willing to sacrifice everything for them, we must be willing to give our life for them, we must love them so much that we would rather starve than see them go without. Men when is the last time that you have fully put your wife above yourself? Above your own happiness? Is that not what we are commanded to do?

So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. (Ephesians Chapter 5 verse 28 KJV) - I must admit I have fell miserably at this task. My wife will read this and I hope that she can only begin to see the transformation that God is making even in me now. Desperately I try to put her above all worldly things including myself and I do fail. I am an imperfect man and I am humbled to know that God teaches me, that God humbles me, that God shows me again and again I am called to be as the Lord Jesus Christ was and yet I have and will fall, but every time I get closer. Men repent of the shortcomings in your marriage, be a man and stand up. Admit you have been wrong, ask for forgiveness from the Lord and from your wife. Surrender to the Word of God, give in to Christ, remember every time you look at her who she is, remember what Christ did for you, and remember that we are called to love them like Christ loved us. It is your role men, it is your responsibility to provide for your home, to defend your home, to teach your home, to be the Godly leaders trusting in Jesus Christ and ensuring that your wife, your children, and your home know of the Lord God Almighty.

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye

will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. (Joshua Chapter 24 verse 15 KJV) - husband, father, you are the leader of your house. "This is the 21st century Daniel, I don't have to lead my house, my wife is a strong, independent, capable woman" and yet if you were doing your God given duty, if you were keeping your God given role, if you were standing up strong and firm for your family, loving your wife as Christ loved the church, doing for her and until you can't do anymore, loving her like the woman she is and the love she deserves to have... she would have no problem letting you lead as you are called to, she would even welcome it. In the 21st century ladies don't stand up because they want to, they stand up in the absence of God fearing men who will do as God has commanded them. They refuse to be the Godly dad, the Godly husband, the strong head of the home and as a result society is in chaos. **STAND UP MEN, STAND UP FATHERS, STAND UP!**

As you enter into day 9 I pray you would understand and surrender to the truth. You are responsible and on the day of judgment you will be judged as the LEADER of your home. You will be judged according to all your deeds and how you obeyed the God given commands found with-in His word. Ponder it the truth, don't force through a war in your home the needed change yet pray that God would give you the gradual transformation that you are in need of! Don't demand respect and that you are in control... what did Jesus do? **Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. (John Chapter 13 verse 13-14 KJV) – LEAD BY EXAMPLE.** If and when you lead by example, when you obey the God given commands, when you protect and guide your family, when you totally surrender to the Lord you will find yourself fulfilling your God given command and you will understand your role in your marriage and your family. Stand up and have strength and courage in the Lord!

Meet the family

As we heard the powerful testimony from brother Jason and sister Kim last week we will start with a new family over the next few days and I pray that you would consider your own testimony. Has God given you and your spouse a powerful testimony? Has God brought you through pain, suffering, valleys, and darkness to where you are now? Are you still fighting the good fight? Are you still suffering? Never forget that the transition in becoming a God fearing, Christ centered family is a life long journey in which you will have trips and falls but you must trust in the Lord to pick you back up! Let Him put the pieces back together! Trust in the Lord and always walk by faith, never by sight: **(For we walk by faith, not by sight:) (2 Corinthians Chapter 5 verse 7 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:

- That God would open your eyes to your role in your family
- That God would begin a healing and transition process that would find you fulfilling His command
- That God would soften the heart of your spouse and family as you begin to transition into what God has commanded
- That the Holy Spirit would fill you and allow you to both serve and lead your family as Christ served and loved the church
- That Jesus Christ would pour out His mercy upon you and help you to understand what He truly did for you, allowing you to fully love as He has loved

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).**