

The Good news of My Emanuel

First Edition

www.myemanuel.com

11/06/11

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1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, 2 as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" 3 "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" (Mark 1:1-3 NIV)

Our first edition

Welcome to The Good news of My Emanuel! This newsletter has been created to compliment our growing on-line ministry and to provide readers with a one stop source of powerful scripture, sermons, suggestions on new Christian music, books, movies, etc. As well as any ministries we may find that we would like to share with you!

The Good news of My Emanuel has been created to help worship Jesus Christ and glorify his name! For those who do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ, you are reading this newsletter so you must be seeking something! We cannot promise the road ahead is easy but we can provide you with the truth, the light, and the way to eternal life, a relationship with Jesus Christ!

Know this truth, Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Jesus Christ died a painful and torturous death, so that we may have a relationship with our Heavenly Father! To learn more about Jesus Christ and how he has given you the most precious gift you will ever have please visit our website at www.myemanuel.com.

Welcome to the Good news friends! The Good news that Jesus Christ died, rose again, and has forever set us free from the bondage of sin! May God bless you and your family, and if you would only call on his name, he is there for you! Ha lieu and praise the Father, creator of all things, who has power over all things! Amen.



Sections

The Good news of My Emanuel is split up into several sections to make what you are looking for easy to find! The sections of our newsletter are:

- Weekly sermon (red)
- Weekly life impacting scripture (blue)
- Testimony (green)
- Newly found ministries (yellow)
- Reviews (pink)

This color coded section should allow you to gain quick access to any portion of this newsletter, we know that some days you will have time to read all the way through, other days you will want to jump directly to something in the newsletter.

Get involved!

My Emanuel is a personally funded ministry and we strive to provide a fresh approach to your walk with Jesus Christ but we are always working to grow to touch more believers and non-believers so that we may spread the Good News of Jesus Christ! If you are interested in helping us in anyway please contact us at dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com – Currently we are seeking pastors and ministers of all types to get involved with our web ministry and to provide weekly sermons and life impacting scripture and explanations and positioning of scripture! We hope you will pray about getting involved with our ministry and may the Lord touch your heart to help spread his message!

14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (John Chapter 4 verse 14 NIV)

Please visit www.myemanuel.com for more information about our ministry and how to help!

Weekly sermon

Daniel Higginbotham – My Emanuel – <http://www.mymenauel.com>

Have you ever been there, scratching off the lottery ticket, praying “God just let me win, I'll share it with those in need!”? When you don't win you think to yourself how the Lord did not answer your prayer! What is the use of praying if nothing happens? Perhaps put a different way, have you ever found yourself praying that the guy or woman you really like will ask you out, or how about “Lord just let her say yes!”? We are so quick to blame the Lord when our “prayers” are not answered but perhaps it is because we don't want to understand what prayer is all about!

In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus talks to his disciples about the fact that if they “ask, they will receive, if they knock the door will be opened” (7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. - Matthew Chapter 7 verse 7-8 NIV) but does the Lord really hear your prayers? **YES!** God hears every prayer that you pray, every plea as you lay there at night begging, on your knees in the floor crying on his Holy name. So if God hears my prayers why aren't they answered, was Jesus talking about something else? **NO!** Jesus Christ said it very plainly “ask and it will be given to you”! So whats the deal?

It is important for you to make yourself understand that **you do NOT** know more than God, and that just because your prayer is not answered immediately does not mean that God has not heard or does not plan to honor this vow. God does not work on our time, God does not serve us, we serve God! God provides for us as we provide for our children or our family. Take for example the next verse: 9 “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? - Matthew Chapter 7 verse 9-10. So just as our earthly fathers have provided for us and we provide for our children, God wants to provide for us! **NOT** out of guilt or requirement, God is not required to do anything, he tells us “ask and it will be given to you” because he **WANTS** to bless you and shower you with love! So back to the lottery, why haven't I won a couple million dollars yet?

What you pray for and how you pray for it are very important! If you pray for something sinful such as winnings from the “lottery” you are gambling, and many different ways in the Bible God commands us to make our own way, for example: 11 Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow. (Proverbs Chapter 13 verse 11). If you pray for that “hot” guy or woman to say yes when you ask them out because you have thought about what you would do to them you are praying for something sinful, even if you have no real intention of acting on your thoughts! Remember God knows your heart, he knows your mind! He knows what you think, what you feel, what your intentions are, what you would do with what you seek! Don't try and play God, he is all powerful, you pray to the one who created all things, including what you are praying for! Don't assume he doesn't know why you are praying for it! Remember what Jesus said about prayer: “*When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*” (James Chapter 4 verse 3)

So what if I am praying for something that isn't sinful but my prayer still isn't answered? For example I prayed that my mother or father would not die, and yet here we are, they are gone and I prayed for nothing! **NO PRAYER IS IN VAIN!** 4 He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. 5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit (Psalm Chapter 147 verse 4 and 5). God knows all things, he may not have answered your prayer in the way that you thought but trust his judgment! God is just, true, loving, and he does care for you! If your loved one passed away there is a reason! (See this weeks testimony from me as I share a person tragedy that the Lord blessed me with!)

Friends it is important to remember that God has never and will never tell a lie. God was, is, and will be righteous! Jesus Christ made it very clear, if you ask from your Heavenly Father who loves you, he will provide! But he will not provide you with anything that is sinful in nature, he will not provide you a way to sin against him! He knows all things so even when you think your prayer hasn't been answered look closely and realize that he doesn't always do exactly what you think he will when you pray! For example, I prayed to the Lord night after

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night for a woman that I thought I loved to come back to me, the woman was not my wife, she and I were in a relationship that shamed us both and the Lord! I prayed for months to have that woman back... what happened? The Lord did NOT send her back to me, instead? The woman who is now my wife, in my bed was sent to me when I was at my lowest point! Amen!! God provides for all those who call on his name, and ask for those things that are pleasing and worthy of His presence! God bless you all friends and may you always remember, *7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.*

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Life impacting scripture

Timothy Higginbotham – My Emanuel – www.myemanuel.com

The way to God starts at home.

We learn by looking and listening to those close to us. So of course we follow examples of parents, siblings, relatives, and friends. To start in the faith follow parents and godly leaders such as pastors. If you have no one to follow or are grieved by what you see, you can be the one to set the example. Even as a new christian you can begin to pave the way for others! Remember someone somewhere is always watching and may take heart in your pure example. Even the way we treat our parents matters. Our children will follow our example and treat us as we treated our parents.⁸ Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. Never Give up. even 1 person is worth it to god. If 99 sheep are safe but 1 leaves would the shepherd not leave to find and lovingly carry the one back?

Spirit above the love of money.

Sometimes money, finances, and goods distract us from god or make us worry. Why?!

Matthew 6:25-34

Do Not Worry

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life[c]? 28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

We should not trouble but everybody likes more money and stuff right?

Matthew 6: 19-24

Treasures in Heaven

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy,[a] your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are unhealthy,[b] your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

1 Timothy 6:7-12

7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced

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themselves with many griefs.

And lastly be active and don't wait for god !! Do his work willingly and always.

11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Verses used from New International Version (NIV): (life impacting scripture)

1 Timothy 5:8, 6:7-12

Matthew 6:19-34

Testimony

Daniel Higginbotham – My Emanuel – www.myemanuel.com

Our heavenly Father answers all prayers!

My name is Daniel Higginbotham and the testimony I want to share with you is one to demonstrate the grace, power, and all knowing God of heaven and earth, glory to the most high King.

Crying on the bathroom floor of the waiting room in ICU I prayed to God “father in heaven please just take some time from life and give it to my dad, please I cant lose him now!”. I was praying as tears ran down my face, not knowing what I would do if my dad died! Oh Lord please answer my prayer I thought, its not time for him to go! I still need my dad!

Step back a few months, again crying, alone in bed at night begging God “please just let her come back to me God, I don’t want to be without her”. Begging God as it where for a woman to return to me, at the time I was not married and truly thought I was in love! For months I prayed for God not to let me be alone, struggling to understand if I wanted to the woman who had left or if I wanted someone new, as it turns out I found myself praying “just send someone into my life that wont cheat on me and will treat me right!”.

One more time jump ahead a few months back to me on my knees in the waiting room at ICU as my father lay, his life slipping from him. I cant remember exactly how long after that prayer but a day or so later I was at home, on the computer, on My Space of all places, when a woman from my past, my high school sweet heart of all people sent me a message on My Space “Hey Daniel, how are you? I didn’t know if I should contact you but I am doing my clinics at ICU and saw your name on a board in your dads room, how is he? How are you?”. How strange... out of the blue the only woman I think I had ever really loved messaged me on My Space, and even stranger... she was taking care of my dad!? After talking back and forth on the computer and eventually the phone we decided to meet at Starbucks for coffee. I remember thinking and actually seeing in my head our wedding, how corny I know, but I actually saw her dad walking her down the isle.

She and I would meet for coffee and eventually over the next few days realize that we had been looking for each other for quite some time. On January 25th 2008 the first day that we were “boyfriend and girlfriend” we were back at the ICU talking with the doctors. My brothers and I had a terrible decision to make... my dad had gotten worse and the doctors saw no way for him to make it, even know the thought chokes me up, they told us they thought we should take him off life support, that he was suffering. We agreed. They said he would last a day or two off life support...

After they removed his ventilator and all his tubes my family gathered in his ICU room, my heart was heavy and I asked all but my older and younger brothers to leave the room. Everyone left the room to catch their breath, we three held hands and I prayed “Heavenly Father please watch over our dad as he enters into your kingdom. May he finally be at peace. We love you daddy. Amen” he was gone. Not a day, surely not two, just a few minutes after he was removed from life support the Lord welcomed Bill Higginbotham into paradise to spend eternity with his savior, with my savior!

How crushed was I? I had said the last rights prayer for my dad. He was gone. I had my girlfriend, but I was crushed... how could I ever replace my dad? My Son was born less than a year later! My son is now almost 3, he looks so much like his grandpa I will never forget his face! His eyes are my fathers, my dads blood runs through his veins, God answered my prayer never to let my father die! He lives on through my son, and the woman who would never cheat on me? She is now my wife and we are blessed with our marriage and life

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together daily! I Praise God and I thank him for every answered prayer!

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Newly found ministries

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Fresh Manna by Tim Burt – This blog is written by pastor Tim Burt and has some powerful quick reads! Please check out Fresh Manna at <http://readfreshmanna.blogspot.com/>

God Vine – This website has videos of Christian focus and is a very good place to find inspiring and funny things to strengthen your walk! Check out God vine at <http://www.godvine.com/>

God Tube – We love God Tube at My Emanuel! This website is like You Tube for Christians! You can find sermons, music videos, movie clips, etc. Check out God Tube at <http://www.godtube.com/>

Bible Gateway – On-line bible in dozens of translations, languages, etc. Great for studying Bible anywhere! Please check them out at <http://www.biblegateway.com/>

How to overcome temptation! - <http://www.acts17-11.com/tempt.html>

If you would like us to check out your ministry and post on our weekly newsletter please contact us at dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com!

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Reviews

My Emanuel www.myemanuel.com

The views expressed in the reviews section are based on our experience with the product, service, etc. Please feel free to search for other reviews using the sources you prefer!

Spotify – Spotify is a great free music service that allows you to make tracks to listen to hours of music! The service is LEGAL and FREE to use! It is very similar to other on-line radio applications like Pandora or Slacker but you actually get to choose the tracks you listen to! Great for listening to all the Christian worship music you could imagine! Check them out at www.spotify.com

Some music worth checking out:

Josh Wilson- Fall Apart
Josh Wilson- I Refuse
Chris August- Battle
Newsboys- Save your life

Also don't forget to check out the new Casting Crowns CD "Come to the well" <http://castingcrowns.com/>

Some movies worth checking out:

Although we have yet to see the new "Courageous" movie we have been told it is amazing! Also a few movies we hope you have seen but are worth watching are "The Passion of the Christ" and "Fire proof"! If you would like us to review a book, song, album, etc. please contact us directly at dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com

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