

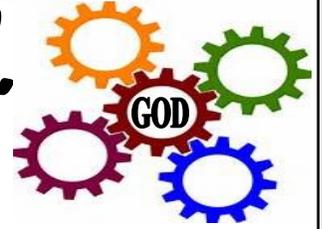
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Life Lessons

W. H. E. E. L.

Women Helping Each-other Enter Life



Life Lesson

January 2014

There's A Work Going On In You!

"...grace wherein we stand, and...tribulation (that) worketh patience." Romans 5:2-3

Dear Friend:

We're too impatient! If God doesn't speak to us in the first 5 minutes of our prayer time we get up, shrug it off and decide "He isn't talking today." Where's the tenacity of our spiritual forefathers who would take hold of God in prayer and refuse to let go until they received "a sure word" from Him? (See 2Peter 1:19).

There are two things you can count on as you walk with God: **trouble that works for you**, and **grace to stand while you're going through it**. Have you been praying for patience? Get ready for trouble! There's no other way to get it. Patience grows in the soil of adversity. How do you test the strength of an anchor? Expose it to the fury of a storm. Understand this: some of the people you can't stand right now are the very ones who'll mature you! Our problem is - we pray for things but don't recognize the answer when it comes. God has a *purpose* in all things, He also has a *process*. As you get to know Him better you begin to recognize both. Here's how it works: you ask God for strength and He allows you to go through times of testing. You ask for wisdom and you get to deal with problems that require solutions. You ask for success and He gives you the ability to work - not necessarily harder, but smarter. You ask for favor and He gives you responsibility. Salvation is a gift, but patience is a reward for overcoming. So stay where God has you today and learn the lessons He wants to teach you; tomorrow you'll be glad you did!

It's a New Season—It's a New Day...There's a fresh anointing coming your way!

In God I trust,

Valarie Ellis

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)

I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)

I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)

I am bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)

I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)

I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt. 5:13-14)

I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)

I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)

I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil. 3:20)

I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)

I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor. 5:17-21)

I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)

I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)

I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom. 8:35-39)

I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor. 1:21-22)

I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8: 28)

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (! John 15:16)

I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)

I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)

I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)

I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). I have been justified (Romans 5:1)

I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)

I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil 1: 5)

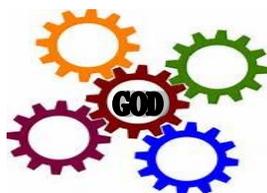
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col. 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph. 1:5)

Quote-meal: "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant."

~ Robert Louis Stevenson ~

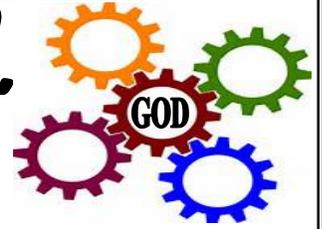
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Life Lesson

February 2014

“You Are Still In His Hand

“As the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand.” Jeremiah 18:6 NLT

Dear Reader:

Jeremiah was told by God to go down to the potter’s house and see how he makes his vessels: “The jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so [the potter] crushed it into a lump of clay...and started over” (Jeremiah 18:4 NLT). *Who* crushed it? The potter! *Why* did he crush it? To make something better out of it! Here’s the good news: life may have crushed you, but you’re still in God’s hands! Your family and friends may think you’re beyond repair but God doesn’t, and His opinion makes the difference. Your life may seem to be out of control today, but in reality you’re still on the Potter’s wheel. “As the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand.”

One day a friend of Michelangelo saw him working on a piece of marble he’d found on a rubbish dump near Rome. When he asked the master sculptor what he was doing he replied: “There’s an angel inside and I’m going to bring him out.” How wonderful! From a rubbish dump to a showcase. From a piece of rejected marble to a priceless work of art. That’s what our God does!

Hannah said “He raises the poor from the dust...To set them among princes” (1Samuel 2:8 NKJV). When Jesus called His disciples He said: “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). You are not born qualified ~ you become qualified. How? By spending time with Jesus! So stay where the Lord has you today and let Him keep working on you. Tomorrow you’ll be glad you did

In God I trust,

Valarie Ellis



Prayer



Father, thank you for always waiting there with Your out stretched hand. . . waiting for us to come to our senses.

We are sorry that it often takes us such a long time to get to that point.

Thank you for Your grace and Your faithfulness, for You never give up on us, no matter how slow we are.

We thank you for our weakness that we may know Your strength and experience true power in our lives.

Help us to relinquish control today and every day that we might have real strength as a reality in our lives.

Amen.

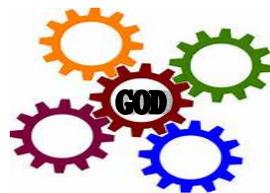


Quote-meal: "The task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us."

~Author Unknown~

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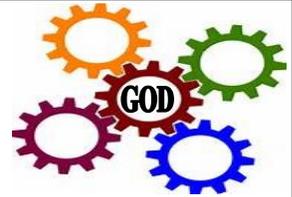
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Life Lesson

March 2014

“Follow The Leader”

“He leadeth me...” (Psalm 23:2)

Dearest Friends:

Aren't you glad He didn't redeem you and leave you on your own? If He had saved you and said, “here's a road map, see you in heaven some day,” you would never make it. Listen to this promise: “He leadeth me beside the still waters.” Why? To restore you when life is too much.

Sometimes we get so busy that we don't take time to read His Word, talk to Him in prayer, or wait quietly in His presence for the strength we need. As a result, we finish up running on empty. At times like this He'll make you lie down, while He does a work of restoration in you. Remember, He's much more interested in what you are to Him, than what you do for Him.

Listen again: “He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness” ~ RIGHT DIRECTION FOR MY LIFE. As I look back at the problems and painful situations I've been in, I confess that it was my best thinking that got me there. So I need His guiding, protecting hand in my life every day. How about you?

Child of God, your Shepherd knows where the wolves are lurking, where the poison pasture is waiting, or how close you are to the ditch. You don't! So trust Him, follow Him, commit everything to Him and He will take care of you.

He's not sending you...He's leading you!

In God I trust,

Valarie Ellis

DAILY PRAYER

DEAR LORD:

CLEAR MY MIND AS I KNEEL BEFORE YOU,

HELP ME TO SEEK YOU IN ALL THAT I DO.

HELP ME TO KNOW WHERE YOU'RE LEADING ME TODAY...

THEN HELP ME TO FOLLOW EACH STEP OF THE WAY.

I PRAY NOT FOR RICHES, NOR FOR WORLDLY FAME...

I JUST PRAY FOR STRENGTH TO LIFT UP YOUR NAME.

IF A FRIEND HAS A NEED OR A BURDEN TO BEAR...

HELP ME TO BE THERE TO SHOW THAT I CARE.

HELP ME TO BE WHAT YOU WANT ME TO BE,

LET OTHERS SEE JESUS LIVING INSIDE OF ME.

AND WHEN DAY HAS ENDED AND SLEEP TAKES CONTROL,

DEAR LORD, HELP ME TO SAY...

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL!



Quote-meal: "The will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not protect you"

~The Holy Bible~

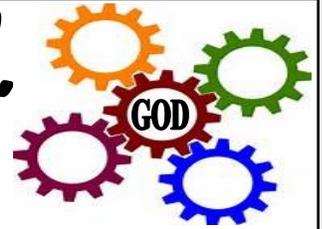
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Life Lesson

April 2014

“This is Good!”

*“...I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.” **Philippians 4: 11)***

Dearest Friends:

An old story is told of a king in Africa who had a close friend with whom he grew up. The friend had a habit of looking at every situation that ever occurred in his life (positive or negative) and remarking, “This is good!”

One day the king and his friend were out on a hunting expedition. The friend would load and prepare the guns for the king. The friend had apparently done something wrong in preparing one of the guns, for after taking the gun from his friend, the king fired it and his thumb was blown off. Examining the situation the friend remarked as usual, “This is good!” To which the king replied, “No, this is NOT good!” and proceeded to send his friend to jail.

About a year later, the king was hunting in an area that he should have known to stay clear of. Cannibals captured him and took him to their village. They tied his hands, stacked some wood, set up a stake and bound him to the stake. As they came near to set fire to the wood, they noticed that the king was missing a thumb. Being superstitious, they never ate anyone that was less than whole. So untying the king, they sent him on his way.

As he returned home, he was reminded of the event that had taken his thumb and felt remorse for his treatment of his friend. He went immediately to the jail to speak with his friend. “You were right,” he said, “it was good that my thumb was blown off.” And he proceeded to tell the friend all that had just happened. “And so I am very sorry for sending you to jail for so long. It was bad for me to do this.”

“No,” his friend replied, “this is good!” “What do you mean, 'This is good'? How could it be good that I sent my friend to jail for a year?” The friend then replied, “If I had NOT been in jail, I would have been with you.”

In God I trust,

Valarie Ellis

Think About This:

*Should you find it hard to get to sleep tonight...
...just remember the homeless family who has no bed to lie in.*

*Should you find yourself dreading getting up in the mornings, don't despair.
There are people in this world for whom movement, of any kind, is impossible.*

*Should you have the opportunity to complain about your food...
...think of the ones who are starving to death because there's no food to be found*

*Should you notice a new gray in the mirror...
...think of the cancer patient in chemo who wishes she had hair to examine.*

*Should you find yourself at a loss and pondering what is life all about asking "what is my purpose?"
Be thankful...
...there are those who didn't live long enough to get the opportunity.*

*Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities;
Remember, things could be worse...
...You could be them!*

 Quote-meal: "Your time is limited...don't waste it living someone else's life."

~Steve Jobs~

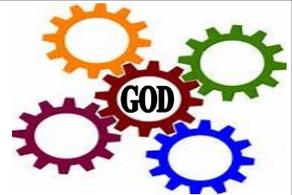
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Life Lesson

May 2014

“Oh, Magnify The Lord!”

“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together.” Psalm 34:3

Dearest Friends:

We can make objects appear larger than they really are with the use of a magnifying glass or a microscope, but we can't make God bigger, because He already is bigger than any situation, problem, or infirmity. God has to hold the place of greatest prominence and importance in our lives before we can see Him as bigger than everything.

It's a daily walk. To walk with God means to be attentive to His Word and yielded to His presence. Though we do not see Him, We know Him. We find our security not in people, places, or things- but in Him alone! *“...Noah walked with God.”(Genesis 6:9)* The name Noah means “rest.” Noah not only knew his mission in life, but he also knew his source, and when you know that you don't have to worry any more.

But knowing God deeply doesn't happen quickly; it takes time. Time spent with Him on the mountain top and in the valley; time spent with Him in joy and in adversity. Time will test the quality of any relationship! Prison, shipwrecks, betrayals, beatings, hunger, and disappointment didn't shake Paul's confidence in God. Listen *“None of these things move me,” (Acts 20:24)*

Another man who walked with God was Enoch. Listen: *“Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took Him” (Genesis 5:24)* Every day he rose and sought the Lord, walking with Him and seeking to please Him in all that he did. Their relationship was intimate. The bible says, *“..before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”(Hebrews 11:5)* Imagine living in such a way that you have a “witness” in your spirit that God is truly pleased with you!

Not only is such a life possible, but it can be yours, starting today. Give God the place of highest prominence in your life. No matter what you're going through, God is bigger

In God I Trust,

Valarie Ellis



Prayer



Dear Lord,

I thank You for this day. I thank You for my being able to see and to hear this morning. I'm blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God. You have done so much for me and You keep on blessing me. Forgive me this day for everything I have done, said or thought that was not pleasing to you. I ask now for Your forgiveness. Please keep me safe from all danger and harm. Help me to start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude. Let me make the best of each and every day to clear my mind so that I can hear from You. Please broaden my mind that I can accept all things.

Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over. And It's the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits. I know that when I can't pray, You listen to my heart. Continue to use me to do Your will. Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others. Keep me strong that I may help the weak... Keep me uplifted that I may have words of encouragement for others. I pray for those that are lost and can't find their way. I pray for those that are misjudged and misunderstood. I pray for those who don't know You intimately. I pray for those that don't believe. But I thank you that I believe. I believe that God changes people and God changes things. I pray for all my sisters and brothers. For each and every family member in their households. I pray for peace, love and joy in their homes that they are out of debt and all their needs are met. I pray that every eye that reads this knows there is no problem, circumstance, or situation greater than God.

AMEN



Quote-meal: "The will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not protect you"

~The Holy Bible~

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Life Lesson

June 2014

“Faith Weathers Every Storm”

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” Matthew 7:24-27 NKJ

Dearest Saints,

A hurricane rages off the ocean onto land. Winds in excess of 150 mph and a powerful storm surge blast the village that sits on the beach, splintering bamboo huts and throwing the pieces in every direction. But in the midst of the destruction, one house weathers the storm intact. The difference? This house is solidly built with a foundation set down into the bedrock. The roof is gone, but not even a Category 5 storm is going to shake the foundation.

All of us know firsthand about the storms in life. Relationship problems. Financial setbacks. Betrayals of trust. Health crises. The awful consequences of bad choices. Everywhere we turn, we see lives and families destroyed by a storm. God’s desire, however, is that our lives and relationships survive the storms because of a strength that fills us from within. That power is released when we step out in faith and let Jesus live His strong life in us. The switch that turn on the power is obedience.

To build “upon a rock” means to be a hearing, responding disciple, not a phony, superficial one. Practicing obedience becomes the solid foundation to weather the storms of life. The wise soul is someone who not only listens to what Jesus teaches but also builds their life on the foundation of obedience, allowing Jesus’ powerful message to make a real difference. The foolish soul doesn’t apply Jesus’ wisdom to the way they live. The difference is revealed when the storms of life rage. The person who lives by God’s Word can withstand any storm.

Remember: “Walking the walk” is what matters, not “talking the talk”

In God I trust,

Valarie Ellis



Prayer



Lord, it seems like the wind never lets up.

Some days it blows so hard I don't think I can stand it anymore.

Please fill me with the strength of Your Spirit.

Help me find the peaceful spot in the eye of the storm

The confidence that comes from trusting You...

...and walking in Your ways.

Amen.



Quote-meal: "Stop looking at what you're going thru, and look at what you're going to."

~Author Unknown~

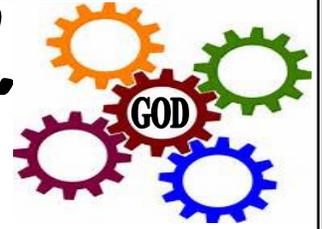
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Life Lesson

July 2014

“Soar Above the Storm”

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as Eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint”.

Isaiah 40.31

Dearest Readers,

Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks?

The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come.

When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages, below, the eagle is soaring above it. The eagle does not escape the storm; it simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm,

When the storms of life come upon us...and all of us will experience them...we can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief toward God.

The storms do not have to overcome us, we can allow God’s power to lift us above them. God enables us to ride the winds of the storm that bring sickness, tragedy, failure, and disappointment into our lives. We can soar above the storm

Remember, it is not the burdens of life that weights us down; it is how we handle them.

In God I Trust,

Valarie Ellis

Prayer

Dear Lord:

We thank You for this day. We're blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God. You have done so much for us and You keep on blessing us.

Forgive us this day for everything we have done, said or thought that was not pleasing to You.

Help us to start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude. Clear our mind so that we can hear from You.

Continue to use us to do Your will. Continue to bless us that we may be a blessing to others. Keep us strong that we may help the weak... Keep us uplifted that we may have words of encouragement for others. Lord, let the words of our mouth and the meditations of our heart be acceptable in Your sight, because You are our Strength and our Redeemer.

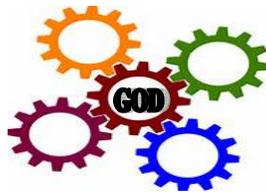
In Jesus Name... Amen!

Quote-meal: "Sometimes God calms the storm, and sometimes He lets the storm rage and calms His child."

~Evangelist Diane Green~

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Life Lesson

August 2014

"Don't Take the Bait"

"It is impossible that no offenses should come." Luke 17:1 (NJKV)

Dearest Saints:

Jesus said that it is impossible to live in this world and not be offended. So why then are we so shocked when it happens to us? The Greek word of "offense," literally means a trap with bait in it, and when we take offense, we have taken the devil's bait, and we finish up in a trap... We become self-absorbed and resentful. We lose our joy and can't function properly.

So what can you do? Jesus told the end-age believers to, "Anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see" (Revelation 3:18). See what? See your own attitude in all of this! You'll only repent when you see your own condition of heart, and stop blaming other people.

The wonderful thing is, when the Spirit of God shows you your sin, you will feel conviction and not condemnation. When He does, don't carry that offense another step.

Forgive the offending party, as God has forgiven you ~ then move on!

In God I trust,

Valarie Ellis

Prayer for Dealing with Anger

Gracious God,

Sometimes anger seems so near to the surface of my life.

An unwelcome word, the remembrance of a past hurt, a disappointment I had not expected, can make my emotions swirl with the force of a small cyclone.

Sometimes, my heart feels hot, my nerves feel edgy, and my mind feels like dynamite.

And sometimes, I just turn silent, go inward, and cut myself off from anything and anyone that could ease the throbbing inside.

I hold on to my anger, as if to let it go, would render the reason for my anger meaningless.

I pray that Your great love will burn away my anger and leave me settled in the cool breeze of Your presence.

Help me let go, not only of the anger, but of what made me angry in the first place.

Let me breathe deep the wonder and peace of love.

Amen

Quote-meal: "You cannot solve a problem until you acknowledge that you have one and accept responsibility for solving it"

~ Zig Ziglar ~

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Life Lesson

September 2014

"Looking Good or Doing Good?"

"Jesus...went about doing good." Acts 10:38 (NKJV)

Dear Friends:

The Bible says, "God anointed Jesus...with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good." When you're led by God's Spirit your focus won't be on *looking* good, but on *doing* good. You say, "But I'm so busy!" Nobody was busier than Jesus, yet He always responded to those in need. In Luke chapter 10 He tells of a Jewish traveler who was attacked by a gang and left to die by the road. First a Levite, then a priest, passed by; **however**, each had important appointments to keep, so they didn't stop. Then a Samaritan came along. Now, he had every reason to look the other way, because the Jews and the Samaritans were long-standing enemies. Instead, "He...came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion" (*Luke 10:33 NKJV*).

Compassion will make you stop and rearrange your priorities. This Samaritan realized that where he was at that moment was more important than his next appointment. What would *you* have done that day? Do you think you'd have acted like him? How about when God tries to interrupt your inflexible, tightly-organized, written-in-concrete schedule and asks you to make time for someone who's hurting? Are you willing to forgo your plans and do what He wants? If you're too busy to reach out to those who are hurting, you're too busy!

There's a story of a woman who was excited because Jesus had sent word that He was going to visit her that day. She cleaned, polished, cooked and prepared a table with the finest of foods. She had everything in it's proper place, because, after all, Jesus had picked HER to visit. This woman was so focused on making the right impression until she actually turned Jesus away three times because, instead of showing up with an entourage, He came needing her help. She didn't have time for the interruption, because she had to make a good impression. Looking good became more important than doing good.

Don't get so heavenly bound **until** you're no earthly good!

In God I trust,

Valarie Ellis

Prayer

Father, I ask You to bless my friends,
relatives and those for whom I care deeply,
who are reading this right now.

Show them a new revelation
of your love and power.

Holy Spirit, I ask
You to minister to their spirit
at this very moment.

Where there is pain, give them your peace
and mercy. Where there is self-doubt,
release a renewed confidence through your grace.

Where there is need, I ask you to fulfill their
needs. Bless their homes,
families, finances, their goings
and their comings. In Jesus' Precious Name.

Amen.

Quote-meal: "The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing."

~Walt Disney~

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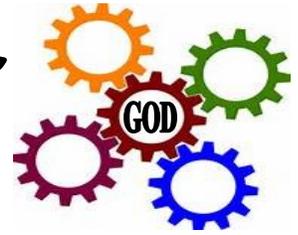
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Life Lesson—October 2014

"The Power of Prayer"

"Pray without ceasing," 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Beloved, when the Bible says, *"Pray without ceasing,"* that means pray every day, not just every now and then or when you're in trouble. *"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much"* (James 5:16 NKJV). The word "fervent" means passionate, persistent, and determined. It's not the arithmetic of our prayers, how many they are; nor the rhetoric of our prayers, how eloquent they may be; nor the geometry of our prayers, how long they may be; nor the method of our prayers, how orderly they be; nor even the theology of our prayers, how good the doctrine is, that God responds to. Fervency of spirit is what 'avails much.'

The most powerful thing you can do is pray! And when you join with a partner, your potential is awesome. *"...If two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven"* (Matthew 18:19 NKJV). It works like this: the less you pray, the less you want to pray; the more you pray, the more you want to pray. Nothing will motivate you to pray like answered prayer. But you can't start with the answer; you've got start with the prayer!

Here's a fact of life: we only keep doing what rewards us. So the key to building a great prayer life is to pray until you get answers. Don't be like the disciples who prayed for Peter to be released from prison, only to reprimand the servant girl when she announced to them that Peter was at the door. Think how deeply rooted doubt can become in our hearts when we're actually surprised to find our prayers answered! We don't want to be like the people of a town that got together and prayed for rain. They prayed for days and weeks, but no rain fell; however, one child showed up to the prayer meeting, and before they could get started, the child said, "Lord, please send down the rain". Immediately the rain came down. When the people asked God why He chose to answer the child's prayers and ignore theirs, God gently pointed out to them that the child showed up with his umbrella. So pray in faith and expect God to answer!

People who don't believe in prayer have never prayed!

In God I trust,

Valarie Ellis

A Prayer Just Because

Today is a special day. Today I feel connected to my source. Today I feel that I am a step closer to what I should and will become. No need to ask for favors, for I know everything comes when the timing is perfect. Today I'm thanking God just because! Thank you God for giving me another day, another chance to become a better individual, another chance to give and experience love.

Thank You God for giving me health, for the food you provide, for the awareness You have awakened in me...

Thank You for the energy that feeds my soul, the sun that warms our bodies and the air that fills our lungs... Because of You, I believe in the good without the bad and the ugly, because of You, I am learning to love and accept myself, because of You, I believe in believing. My God, stay connected to me today and always, for I need You in order to fulfill my spiritual tasks...

God, show me how to love myself, to be able to love others. Help me become the type of person that I would like to befriend, help me forgive myself and forgive others...

God, make me a channel of Your energy and help me understand. I thank You God for giving me another day, another unused opportunity to do it right. Keep us all close to You as You listen to our prayers.

Amen.

Quote-meal:

"I have a great need for Christ; I have a great Christ for my need."

~Charles AH. Spurgeon~

Would you like to contribute ? Send suggestions, prayers, quotes or poems to:



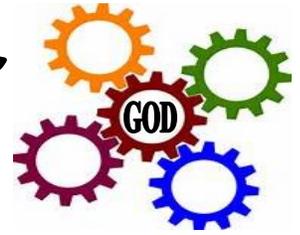
Valarie Ellis - P.O. Box 17991 - Tampa, FL 33682

Email: info@wheelministry.org

Website: www.wheelministry.org

W. H. E. E. L.

Women Helping Each-other Enter Life



Life Lesson

November 2014

"Accepting Others"

"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you." Romans 15:7 (NIV)

Dearest Friends:

Sometimes people don't make it easy to accept them. They can be cranky, selfish, critical, irritating, dismissive, aggressive, and pompous. Sometimes you want to give them a piece of your mind; give them what they deserve—anything but acceptance. The command, "accept one another," is inconvenient, and if Paul had stopped there we might dodge the directive by saying he obviously meant good, reasonable, acceptable people. Alas, he goes on, "just as Christ accepted you." Were *you* good, reasonable, and acceptable? No, but He accepted you—flaws and all—and He still does! You say, "Somebody has to straighten these people out and require them to act right!" You mean like what Jesus required before He accepted *you*? Roman Christians had difficulty accepting their less experienced brothers, and Paul corrected them: "Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment...for God has accepted him" Romans 14:1-3 (NIV).

Straightening people out isn't our department; accepting them is. God calls us to accept messed-up, unspiritual, carnal, obnoxious, doctrinally misled, "just plain wrong" people. You don't have to approve of, like, or agree with them, but accepting them isn't optional. There's no elite, privileged, insider class. We occupy level ground because of two realities: our sin and the cross!

Jews and Gentiles despised each other, even after salvation. Each wanted the other to change and become like them. But Paul laid the axe to the root of that tree: "For Christ Himself ...reconciled both groups...by means of His death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death"

Our job is to accept people—and let God adjust them.

In God I trust,

Valarie Ellis

Thank God!

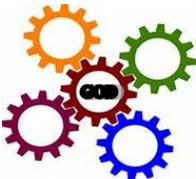
In the moments of turmoil,
In the hours of trial,
In the midst of any circumstances,
You can thank God!
Thank Him for His Son.
Thank Him for His forgiveness.
Thank Him for overlooking your weakness.
Thank Him for the promise of Eternal Life.
Thank God for the opportunity to be a blessing to others,
To be a friend to the friendless,
To be an encouragement to those who have lost hope,
To cheer up those who are downcast.
You can make a difference,
You can be on the Lord's side,
You can be a blessing to someone,
So be thankful for that.
Thank GOD!

Quote-meal:

"Appreciation can change a day, even change a life. Your willingness to put it into words is all that is necessary."

~Margaret Cousins~

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W. H. E. E. L.

Women Helping Each-other Enter Life

*Life Lesson
December 2014*



"Let God Use You"

Mary said...be it unto me according to thy word. Luke 1:38

Dearest Friends:

When God told Mary she was going to have a child, she asked how it could be possible. Perhaps God's been telling you things He wants to do through you, but you're looking at yourself and asking, "How will this be?" (LK 1:34 NIV). You're telling God, "I don't have the training, the experience, the skill or the connections. And I certainly don't have the strength to accomplish it alone." Like Mary, you're thinking only in the natural, that you must have man's help to do it. If you've been wondering how God will make things come to pass in your life, remember, He will accomplish the task. No man will get the credit for your deliverance.

God told Mary, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee" (v.35) The Holy Spirit can impregnate you with a vision, inspire you with creative ideas, introduce you to the right people, and empower you to do the job. God had a special plan for Mary, and He also has one for you. You aren't privileged to see the future. You don't know all that He has in store for you, but He has a plan. After the angel spoke to Mary; do you know what she said? "Be it unto me according to thy word." Not according to my marital status, or my job, or my finances, or what I deserve. No, she was taking an extreme risk. To be pregnant and unmarried brought scary consequences in those days. Yet, she gave herself willingly to God...and the results were truly miraculous!

So, let God use you!

In God I trust,

Valarie Ellis

An Unworthy Vessel

Such an unworthy a vessel... an unworthy vessel am I;
Not fit for my Master to use yet, no self-worth on which to rely.
Look there, there's a crack of resentment, see here, here's a chip of self-pride;
With dents of my own self-reliance, and pure selfishness caked inside.
But if I will yield to the Potter to shape and re-mold as He will,
He'll re-do this unworthy vessel until it exhibits His skill.
And though I'm an unworthy vessel, with no value of which to boast,
I know that my wishing to please Him still delights and pleases Him most.
So I'll let Him work till He's ready, to pour in me all I can hold;
For when I come out of His furnace, this vessel shall be as pure gold.

...by **Connie Cook**

Quote-meal

*One who gains strength by overcoming obstacles possesses the only strength
which can overcome adversity.*

~ Albert Schweitzer ~

Would you like to contribute? Send your prayers, quotes, poems, etc. to:

~ Valarie Ellis ~

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