

7/1/09

Ephesians 5:4,5

THE POWER OF A THANKFUL HEART!

The two key words in today's passage are the words "but rather". Instead of participating in all the sinful activities listed in the previous few verses, the Bible says that instead, we're to give God thanks. In other words, the giving of thanks is a powerful way to overcome the temptations to sin. I know in my own life, when temptation comes against me, I can more easily and quickly overcome those carnal urges by spending time in the giving of thanks to the Lord. It's a marvelous way to tap into the strength needed at that very moment to resist the devil's suggestions.

The next time you have those old sinful urges, stop right then and there and lift your hands to give God thanks for all the wonderful blessings you have in life from Him. As you continue giving God thanks, you'll find the inner strength to resist those temptations coming against you. And the more you do it, the stronger you become to ward off future attacks the enemy brings against you. If you study the Bible, you'll find many verses talking about the importance of maintaining a thankful heart to God. Its one of the ways you stay strong, and one of the ways you maintain the strength to resist the devil at a moment's notice. There's a spiritual principle which you should never forget. **YOU WILL LOSE WHAT YOU ARE NOT THANKFUL FOR.** Stay thankful! Especially when the devil comes around with his lies and evil suggestions.

7/2/09

Romans 13:14

GIVE YOUR FLESH NO AVENUE OF EXPRESSION

Never forget that your flesh is the enemy. It never was your friend, isn't your friend today, and will never be your friend. It's an enemy of your soul that if left unchecked, will kill you and take you to hell. That's why in today's verse, the Bible clearly tells us not make any provision for the flesh. In other words, don't allow your flesh the chance to get aroused or stimulated in ways which would lead you into sin. And if you haven't learned how powerful of an enemy your flesh is by now, I'll simply tell you this: **NEVER UNDERESTIMATE YOUR FLESH!** It is a deadly enemy which **MUST** be controlled and kept in submission every day. Your flesh is not yet born-again, so it still wants to do 3 basic things in this life. **EAT, SLEEP and SIN!** And not necessarily in that order! You must control the flesh, or it will control you, it's that simple. One of the ways we control the flesh is by making no provision for its expression. Once you identify certain areas of carnal weakness in your character and make-up, you must then work to shore up those areas and not allow people or other outside influences to stir up your flesh and create strong urges to participate in sinful actions. In fact, most of what the church world attributes to the devil isn't the work of the devil at all. It's the work of the unregenerate flesh, in people who have in fact made provision for the flesh. So don't let that continue in your life. If you've made provision for the flesh, do what you must to cut off those avenues of expression which you've allowed. If that means doing something drastic, then do what you have to do. Remember this is not being done for someone else's benefit, but yours. Let people think what they want about you – you just do what needs to be done to cut off the flesh and allow it no more voice or expression in your life. A good way to start is by fasting at least one meal a day for awhile, just to get in the habit of keeping your flesh under. Put on the Lord Jesus, and make no provision for the lusts and desires of the dead-to-sin flesh! It's your responsibility, so get

going and do what you know to do!

7/3/09

Proverbs 22:3

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!

One of the best ways to stay sharp and always on alert is to expect the unexpected from the enemy. Never forget this fact: he never sleeps or takes a break. He is totally committed to finding ways to destroy you, and he will never cease trying to do just that until the day you leave and go home to be with Jesus. So just because you defeated him the last time he came around, don't assume you're home free my friend! He'll be back! Satan tried to tempt Jesus three times after our Lord had spent 40 days out in the wilderness fasting and praying. Three times he was defeated with the Word of God. However, it says he departed only FOR A SEASON (Luke 4:13). It says he departed for a more opportune time – which simply means he'll be back as soon as he thinks he's ready to take you on once again. So beware, and keep your eyes open!

If you're serious about serving God, you're going to have to learn to expect attacks anytime, anywhere, involving anyone. Family. Friends. Co-workers. Classmates. Your Spouse. Your kids. A staff member. It doesn't have to be someone "evil" or "sinful". And it might not even involve people – it might be some form of accident, tragedy or calamity. No matter how he tries to attack, you'll stand a much better chance of successfully resisting if you're already expecting the attack. As much as we should start each day with an attitude of expectancy for what God will do with us, through us and for us, so we should also wake each day with an underlying awareness that today Satan could launch another surprise attack against us. Keeping that thought in the back of your mind will help you stay prepared and ready to defend yourself with the Word of God. This verse in Proverbs tells us that the prudent man foresees evil, and then HIDES HIMSELF. That doesn't mean we hide in fear of the enemy. It means we anticipate areas of attack against us, and avoid them if at all possible. That's not an admission of weakness, but an expression of wisdom. Stay away from areas that have been trouble spots for you in the past. Avoid them and do your best to foresee them along life's way. Obviously, if you've had a problem with alcohol, you shouldn't try to go into some bar and witness for Jesus! Foresee the evil! Protect yourself at all times, and no matter where you are, expect the unexpected!

7/4/09

Deuteronomy 32:30

GET TRUSTWORTHY HELP IF YOU NEED IT!

The Bible tells us to carry our own weight whenever possible (Galatians 6:5). But just a few verses before that passage in Galatians, the Word tells us to help carry each other's burdens. So is that a contradiction? No. It simply means that we're to grow strong enough to carry our own weight in the army of the Lord. But if along the way, we find ourselves under such attack that we can't get the victory alone, we're to go to friends and trustworthy co-workers and ask for help. The key word is the word "trustworthy". Sad to say, many a fine Christian's life has been destroyed by some big mouth who couldn't keep a secret. Yes, get help if you need help, but be very careful who you confide in. If you confide in the right person, they can stand with you and help encourage you along to victory. That's the message of Deuteronomy 32:30. It's the

message of synergy. One can do some things, but two together can do many more things just because they're working together.

Do you have someone whom you can confide in when things have overwhelmed you? You need one. We all need one. Someone who can keep a secret between the two of you and God. People like that are few and far between, that's why they're so valuable in your life. So many of the problems we struggle with only take time to resolve, and if you can get some discreet help to shorten the time gap between struggle and victory, then all the better! So if you've tried to overcome an area or areas of sin or compromise unsuccessfully, it might be time to get some help. One can put 1,000 to flight, but two can put 10,000 to flight. Sometimes it just gives you a boost of confidence if you can just unload with someone you can trust. For many of us, just the fact that we know we've got help is enough to put us over. And if you're the one who has been entrusted with someone's private areas of struggle, you keep your mouth shut to others, and keep your face before God in intercessory prayer for the one who has confided in you. The ONLY one you talk to is God – if He wants somebody else to know He'll take care of that – that isn't your job! Lives have been literally destroyed because people ran off with delicate and sensitive information about somebody, and blabbed it all over to a bunch of people who were nothing more than tools of the devil. And I'm talking about Christians here – not unbelievers. Sometimes they demonstrate more maturity than the saints do in matters like this. We all want to live victoriously don't we? Well, if you need to get there, go get it and trust God to stand by your side until victory is won!

7/5/09

Mark 6:31

REST WHEN YOU NEED TO

In our day and age, the word "rest" almost has a negative connotation for many in the business world. Yet, Jesus knew the importance of it, and instructed His own disciples to stop ministry for awhile so they could get away for a time of rest. In my office in the Philippines, I have on the wall a poster of a single beach chair sitting on some pristine beach somewhere. The captions below contains four words: RETREAT. RELAX. REFLECT. RENEW. When I saw that poster I bought it same day! That's exactly what we need to do when the cares of this world, and the hectic pace of ministry threatens to swamp us with fatigue and stress.

But many ministers, businessmen and others almost feel guilty if they schedule some "down time" for themselves. As if they're cheating someone of work owed. Well, if Jesus thought it was necessary, surely we shouldn't feel guilty for scheduling regular times of rest in between our times of work. Yes, work hard when you work. Don't be lazy. But on the other side of that coin, don't overwork yourself into an early grave, or into a sickbed somewhere. God didn't intend for us to work 24/7. He Himself set the pattern when He "rested" on the seventh day of creation. Why? Was He tired? Of course not. God doesn't get tired, but He was telling us that we WILL get tired if we don't schedule regular times of rest. So stay sharp, stay refreshed and stay on the edge. How? Work hard when you work, but intersperse that work time with quality rest time too. It's not a sin to rest. It's wisdom. So be wise and quite beating yourself up unnecessarily. Your spirit, soul and body need balance in this respect. Work balanced with rest. They go together.

7/6/09

Psalms 63:1

SEEKING GOD EARLY

Nutritionists will tell us that eating a good breakfast is one of the best ways to start your day right. Spiritually, seeking the Lord early is one of the best ways to start your day right as well. Before you get busy with the affairs of this life (2 Timothy 2:4), start each day with the Lord. Spend time meditating on His goodness, greatness and glory. Wait upon Him. Talk over the day's schedule with Him before launching out from the house. It's too easy to just neglect this precious time, thinking you'll be able to do it later in the day, but usually, the "later" never comes! By the time we even think about the Lord again, it's 10pm and we're exhausted from the day's activities. If that's you, you need to change your priorities.

David understood the importance and necessity of seeking God early. Seeking God throughout the day is of course great, but there's something about doing it as first thing in the morning that really sets the tone for the rest of the day. Early is serene. Early is quiet. Early is solitude. Before the kids get up. Before the breakfast is made. Before the TV is turned on. Before all of that – talk to Jesus. Refresh yourself in His presence. Get His much-needed guidance and counsel. THEN, go wake the kids up. THEN, go make breakfast. THEN, turn on your favorite morning TV show. THEN – not before! If that means getting up 30 or 45 minutes earlier, do it! Its time well spent. I know in my own life, if I don't maintain this discipline faithfully, it leaves me without the strength, confidence and guidance I need to live victoriously day by day. You will find the same to be true with you. So make the time and take the time to rise early and seek the Lord. He's never too busy for you, and you need that time with Him at the start of every day.

7/7/09

Matthew 15:30

LEAVE THEM ALONE!

"If you study the 4 gospels, you'll always see that whenever the power of God manifested through Jesus in some significant way, the Pharisees and Sadducees always came along to try and stop what God was doing through Jesus. This is a tactic Satan has used successfully for generations, so be aware of it when it happens to you! And, when it does happen to you, do what Jesus told His disciples. LEAVE THEM ALONE! That means just ignore them and go on with your business with God. Don't waste time trying to please, defend or otherwise satisfy religious hypocrites. You will never be able to do it, so don't bother trying. Sad to say most people are in bondage to religion – in some way. Buddhism. Catholicism. Islam. New Age. Whatever the name or tag – its still religion. And as such, they are nothing more than what Jesus said – blind leaders of the blind. I've told people in our Philippines crusades for more than 25 years that Jesus is not a religion. He's the Son of God. Christianity is not a religion. It's a relationship between God and man through His Son Jesus. Religion is one of the devil's principle weapons of deception. It is responsible for taking far more people to hell than all the wars on earth combined since the start of time."

So don't bother with them, or try to please them. Jesus didn't care if they got offended at the truth, and you shouldn't either. After all, we're not trying to win a popularity contest. When the disciples told Jesus that His comments had offended the religious people, He told them to just leave them alone. In other words, don't worry

about what they say, think or do. That's good advice, because whenever God starts moving in your life, you can be sure a bunch of religious people will suddenly pop up from out of nowhere and try to discourage you from trusting and believing God. Don't be surprised when it happens, because it will – the devil is very predictable in this regard. But when (not if) they do appear, just ignore their comments, advice and suggestions. Why? Because they're blind and they're already in the ditch – and don't even realize that they are there! Satan will always be using religion to contest the genuine moves of God. Leave them alone! Just stay close to Jesus, and never mind what others say about it to you.

7/8/09

Matthew 18:35

FORGIVE FROM THE HEART!

Most Christians have never learned how to forgive others from the heart. But that's really the only way we can obey God's command to forgive those who offend us or do us wrong. To try and forgive any other way is usually an exercise in frustration because if we try to forgive based upon feelings, we'll forever be riding an emotional roller coaster! If we're to forgive like God forgives (Ephesians 4:32), we must do it from the heart – from the spirit and not from the flesh. The flesh is always waiting for payback of some kind before forgiveness is granted, but that's not God's way. If He was waiting for us to repay Him for all the times we sinned against Him before forgiveness was offered, none of us would ever be forgiven! In today's passage, we see a marvelous parable about our responsibility to forgive from the heart. Peter comes with a question for Jesus. How often should I forgive when my brother sins against me? The answer from Jesus: AS OFTEN AS HE NEEDS IT! You can't do that unless you're doing it by faith from the heart, and not by feelings. Your feelings will change by the moment, but if you learn to forgive from the heart, you not only become like God, but you insulate yourself from what people do to offend you. The parable Jesus gives is about the wicked servant who, when forgiven a very large debt, wouldn't do the same with someone who owed him a very small debt. The moral of the story is that if God chooses to forgive us all from the many sins we've committed against Him, we can also be like Him and CHOOSE to forgive those who may have committed sins against us. The key word is the word "choose". If you forgive from the heart, you CHOOSE to do so apart from your feelings. That's what separates you from the situation or circumstances – and puts you on a plane high above with God. Suddenly you're way above the fray, and what the people have done to you isn't that important anymore. So the next time you have the chance to forgive, do so. From the heart!

7/9/09

Matthew 20:28

THE SERVANT'S HEART

"When Jesus was here on earth, He plainly told us that His mission was one of a servant. He didn't come to be served or waited upon. He came to serve God, and serve us through obedience to His Heavenly Father. That is the way we're to live our lives today. As servants – to God and then to our fellow man. In fact, the word "minister" means to serve. As a "Minister", my job is to serve God and serve you in the Name of Jesus. I must never forget that, and you mustn't either, since ALL of us are servants of God in Christ. Jesus said He came to serve, and to GIVE His life as a ransom for us.

Servant hood is all about giving to others, which is pretty much the opposite of the kind of attitude we see in most people today."

Most people have this "you owe me" kind of attitude about life. For them, it's not about what they can offer or give to you. It's about what you can give or supply to them. As far as God is concerned, that kind of mentality is backwards. The true servant of the Lord is always giving – just like God. God is a giver, and so as His servants, we should be giving of ourselves to others too. Not just once in awhile, but as a way of life. When we do that, we can have the assurance that God will reward us handsomely – in this life perhaps, but definitely in the life to come – which is the one that really matters. Be a servant now, and the rewards will come later. Seek the rewards now, and you can have them, but enjoy them now because once you leave this life for the next, you'll have no rewards from God. But if you dedicate yourself to servant hood, you'll not only find rewards waiting in Heaven for all eternity, but you'll discover a measure of worth and satisfaction in this life that NOTHING else can match!

7/10/09

Matthew 20:31

LEARN TO IGNORE THE CROWD!

This is a wonderful story about two men who refused to listen to the crowd. Jesus is passing by, and they, realizing that this may be their only opportunity to receive a miracle cure, begin to cry out loudly to the Lord. But what did the crowd do? They all ganged up on these two guys, and told them to shut up! But (and this is the part I love so much) the more they told them to shut up, the louder they cried out to Jesus. As a result, the Bible says Jesus stood still. In other words, they caught His attention and He stopped to address their need. It might be the same with you if ever you need your miracle like they did back then. If you listen to the crowd, nine times out of ten they will discourage you from trusting God, and believing Him for your miracle. Don't listen to them! Ignore them and their comments, and just zero in on the promises of God you're standing upon.

If those two blind beggars had listened to the crowd that day, they would've lost their chance at a miracle, and probably would've remained blind for the rest of their lives. And what about the crowd? They would've moved on and forgotten about them 5 minutes afterwards! But no! They persevered above the many in the crowd who told them to be quiet. And you will have to do the same when your friends and relatives try to talk you out of believing God for the miraculous. Whoever the people in the "crowd" may be to you, understand this. The crowd doesn't ever care about you. All they want to do is to exercise a momentary level of authority over you to make themselves feel important in their own eyes. That's human nature. But remember, you're not shouting out in faith for their benefit. You're doing it for YOUR benefit. So never mind the crowd. They will always be a tool of the devil, so just ignore their comments and you stay on target with your faith confessions!

7/11/09

Luke 11:22

ARE YOU THE STRONGER MAN?

The message in this verse has become the annual theme for our Leadership Conference in the Philippines. Every July, we hold what we've come to call the STRONGERMAN CONFERENCE. Why? Because according to Jesus, you can't defeat the enemy unless you are stronger than he is. It's that simple. In the spirit world, just

like in the physical world, the strongest always rule and reign. As an example, why does the devil fear God? Because God is stronger than he is! Why does anyone fear God? Because God is stronger than anyone else, that's why. And why would the devil fear you? Because you're stronger than he is. That's the truth Jesus is emphasizing in this passage from Luke. The strong man keeps what he has until a stronger man comes along and takes whatever he wants because he's stronger.

In this story, the devil is the strong man, and we're supposed to be the stronger man. If we let the Holy Spirit dominate us and anoint our lives the way He wants to, we can be the stronger man who comes to take whatever we want that the devil has stolen from others. 1 John 4:4 says that greater is the Holy Spirit in us than the devil in the world. That means we have the capability to be the stronger man, but it isn't automatic. We have to LET the Lord be God in us and through us, then we can become the stronger man. In this life, it's not enough to be a spiritually strong man. You have to be the spiritually STRONGER man. The good news is that within our hearts is the 3rd person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. If we let him rule and reign in our lives, we immediately become the stronger man. So don't just be content being strong. You have to be STRONGER! Only those stronger than the devil can have dominion over him.

7/12/09

Matthew 18:8

CUT IT OFF!

If you are having problems with sin or compromise in some area of your life, you need to have a certain kind of attitude in order to finally eliminate that problem. That is what Jesus is talking about here in this verse today. If you right hand offend you, CUT IT OFF! Obviously, He's not telling us to literally cut off our hand. Instead, He's telling us to get SERIOUS about gaining the victory, and if necessary, take radical measures to insure our victory. I know in my own life in past times, when I would be complaining to the Lord about some persistent problem that I hadn't yet overcome, He would tell me the problem would continue in my life as long as I allowed it, or put up with it. But the moment I got serious about getting rid of the problem, the problem was solved!

In your life, whatever you struggle with, ask yourself this question. Have I really gotten serious about getting rid of this in my life? Sometimes we think we're serious about something, but in reality we're not. We're thinking we're really trying hard to eliminate an area of weakness when really all we are is self-deceived (James 1:22). Do you have an area of chronic failure in your life? What are you doing about it? Is getting rid of that thing the top priority in your life? It should be. You need to cut off that avenue of sinful expression. Don't think it will just magically go away all by itself just because you love the Lord. It won't! The devil will make sure you are constantly under attack in that area because he knows that's an area of weakness for you. So the only way you're going to gain the victory is to "cut off" the hand! Get serious about Bible Study, prayer, and spending time in the Lord's presence. Make it your top priority. Nothing else should be as important!

7/13/09

James 4:7

THE BAD GUYS KNOW US AND LEAVE US ALONE!

1 John 4:4 says that greater is He in us than he that is in the world. You ought to meditate on that truth until it finally registers with you! GREATER IS HE WITHIN

YOU! Does it say that He within you is sometimes greater than your enemies? No! The Holy Spirit is ALWAYS more powerful than ANYTHING the devil can throw against you. So don't worry about the attacks of the devil. ALWAYS! ALWAYS! ALWAYS! Do you understand what ALWAYS means? It means ALWAYS! ALWAYS!

Years ago, when I was a youth, one particular pop song had lyrics like this: THE BAD GUYS KNOW US AND LEAVE US ALONE! Well, when you start walking in the light of the gospel, you'll be able to confront the devil and actively and effectively challenge his attacks against you. Don't wait for the devil to attack you! Attack him! Go out and start witnessing. Get right in the middle of people's lives, and start sharing Jesus and God's Word with them. When the devil finds out you mean business for God, he will back off. Do you hear me? Yes, he will test you for awhile to see if you're serious about the Great Commission (Mark 15:16-20), but once he finds out you are for real, he will back off! Remember this: your enemy the devil is just a spiritual coward. He walks around like a roaring lion, but all he can do is pressure you to make the wrong choices which open the door to him against you. In other words, he won't attack unless he has successfully deceived people to a position where they let him in. Don't let that happen with you. Stand your ground, declare the Word, and watch the devil flee from you (James 4:7). Stand your ground! When the bad guys finally figure out that you're not going away, they'll leave you alone!

7/14/09

Hebrews 12:12

GET YOUR HANDS UP!

I've always taught that there are two parts to every victory in this spiritual warfare we fight. There is God's part, and then there is our part. God will do what we can't do AFTER we've done all that we can and should do. And our verse today shows us one of the ways we're to do our part. We're told here to STRENGTHEN the hands that hang down. So that's our job, not God's. We're to strengthen our hands when they're hanging down, and THEN God will get involved to do His part and bring us through to victory. What does it mean when God says our hands are hanging down? It means we're tired, or discouraged, or depressed, or ready to give up. We've all been there in our work for the Lord. I have many times. But what should we do when we're in that situation? We're to STRENGTHEN our hands, and make the decision to throw off discouragement, depression, or disillusionment. That's something you do, and God is not going to move an inch until you make that decision! It's not based on feelings, but upon faith in God's word. This is what Hebrews 13:15 is talking about. The SACRIFICE OF PRAISE. This is what 2 Timothy 1:6 is talking about. STIRRING YOURSELF UP! If you've been depressed, sad, discouraged, and whatever else goes with that kind of mental state, I have a word for you from God. STRENGTHEN YOUR HANDS! GET THEM UP IN THE AIR IN PRAISE TO GOD. Do it by faith, not by feelings. Quit letting the devil beat you down with his lies. You are more than a conqueror in Christ, so act like one! If your hands have been "hanging down", its time to reverse that situation. Its time to strengthen yourself, and kick the devil out of your life. Use the weapons God has given you, and fight spiritual battles with spiritual weapons. The Word of God. The Name of Jesus. Prayer. Faith, Hope and Love. These are just some of the weapons at your disposal. Use them, and get those hands back up in the air praising God in an atmosphere of faith and expectancy. Remember, God will do what you can't do if you do what you

can do.

7/15/09

Micah 7:8

NEVER GIVE UP AND NEVER SURRENDER!

Today's verse reveals an attitude we must protect at all times. It's the attitude you have towards your enemy the devil. It's a constant reminder to him and to you – that no matter how many times you might fall, you're getting up and the fight will continue! That's an attitude God can work with. It's the attitude that Micah displays, and which you must display too. When the devil is standing there laughing at you, or taunting you for another stumble, you can just laugh back and tell him that his rejoicing is very much premature. The fight goes on! We play until we win. The game we play isn't over after 9 innings, even if we're behind. No, our game ALWAYS goes into extra innings until we win! Praise God! Notice the second part of that verse. It says that even in the midst of failure (which includes sin), God will be a light to us in a VERY DARK PLACE. When we're sitting in the dark place of sin or failure, God comes along and provides us with the light leading towards recovery and ultimate triumph. Yes, we might be ashamed and rightfully so, but the Lord will plead your case and bring you forth into the light! What a marvelous passage, especially for the one who has just failed God in some significant way. We fight until we win! I know the beauty of this in my own life. Many times I've failed God, but I keep coming to him to obtain help in my time of need (Hebrews 4:16). I don't run from Him, I run TO Him! And when the devil comes along to try and torment me with reminders of my failures, I just tell him to shut up in the Name of Jesus because I know my God is not about to abandon me. He's with me, and He's for me, and He won't ever write me off and discard me as long as I want His help. And He'll do the same for you my friend. So next time you are on the canvass, and it seems like the devil has the upper hand, just lift your hands to heaven, and thank God for His love, His patience, His mercy and His forgiveness. Then get up off that canvas and get back into the fight!

7/16/09

Joshua 6:10-16

LEARNING TO SHOUT THE SHOUT OF FAITH!

In today's passage, we see the Israelites doing what you and I have to do today. They shouted the shout of faith, and we'll have to be doing the same thing if we want God to move on our behalf. Notice especially verse 16. God said to shout because He had ALREADY GIVEN them the city! Well, in the natural it didn't look like the city was theirs, did it? The walls were still in place. The archers and enemy soldiers were still up along the walls. The gates were still closed. But God said it was ALREADY theirs, so their responsibility was to shout their shout of faith in agreement with God's declaration. Do you do the same today in your life? With the walls of sickness, disease, poverty, lack, mental stress, demonic oppression, sin – or whatever – staring you in the face, do you lift your hands and SHOUT the shout of faith? Very few believers do it, and that's why very few ever see the power of God manifested to pull those walls down in their lives.

Hebrews 11:6 says that faith is the evidence of things not seen. Not seen! If you can see "it" from God, whatever the "it" may be, you don't need faith. That's something most Christians just don't understand, and never will understand. Anyone can shout the

shout of victory AFTER the walls have fallen down, but it takes faith to do it BEFORE the walls fall down. That's what God is waiting for – the faith shout! That's how the just will live by faith. Don't be like Thomas, who said he wouldn't believe Jesus had been raised from dead until he could see and feel the scars and wounds of the crucifixion. Don't stand in front of those walls which the enemy has erected against you, and let what you see discourage you. No! Rise above all that, and in the face of tall, solid and imposing walls, begin to shout to God with the voice of triumph (Psalms 47:1). The voice of triumph is the shout of faith! It's not a timid, cautious, tentative shout either! Joshua told his army to shout with all their might when it was time to shout. And you shouldn't be ashamed to do the same thing. Never mind who hears you, or who thinks you're too loud, or who gets offended by your enthusiastic shouting and declaring. You're not doing it for their benefit – but yours! Those walls in your life CAN come down. It only takes your shout of faith, so don't wait another minute! Start shouting and then step back, because you don't want to get hurt when the walls come crashing down at your feet!

7/17/09

John 6:27

THINK ETERNITY!

One of the most effective ways to stay on the straight and narrow pathway leading to eternal life is to develop the discipline to always think in terms of eternity. This is what Jesus was instructing His disciples to do in this passage today. Don't waste time laboring for the things of this world. Instead, spend time working for things related to eternity – the next life – the spirit world. There are several good things that happen to you when you have this kind of mentality. First, you don't become attached to the temporal things of this world. Cars, houses, money, possessions, toys, job promotions and all the rest – they just don't have any allure to you when you are thinking eternal rather than temporal. Second, you have the ability to make good decisions with regards to God's perfect will for your life. You won't get carried away with the lusts of this world because your eyes are on the eternal things of God, and the part He wants you to play in fulfilling the Great Commission (Mark 16:15-18).

"Remember when Jesus rebuked Peter when they were walking along the road towards Jerusalem? When Peter tried to prevent Jesus from going up to Jerusalem for the fulfillment of prophecy, Jesus not only called him "Satan", but made this statement: You are not mindful of the things of God, but rather, the things of men. (Matthew 16:23). When you think in terms of eternity, you're no longer mindful of the things of man. Your priorities are where they should be, on the eternal things of God. When that's the case, you're at peace, because the Bible says to be carnally (earthly) minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is LIFE and PEACE (Romans 8:6). So if you want to live your life in true spiritual peace, learn to focus all your thinking and prioritizing on the eternal things of God. Winning souls. Discipling people. Praying for the sick. Casting out devils. Everything else is secondary, and relatively unimportant. Yes, taking care of your family is important. Earning a living is important. Educating yourself is important. But only to a point. To be a good witness to those around you, you should take care of those things, and other things like them. However, once again, you're ultimately doing all of that for the eternal aspect of your existence. Whatever you're doing in this life should be done in light of the next life, the eternal life. So remember that and you'll

spare yourself a lot of heartache, disappointment and pain. "

7/18/09

1 Timothy 4:8

EXERCISE IS NECESSARY!

In today's passage, we're talking about 2 kinds of exercising. Bodily exercising and Spiritual exercising. And although spiritual exercising is more important, you need to be doing both on a regular basis. Why? Because even though you're a spirit, you live in a body. And that body needs to be taken care of, otherwise you give place to the devil, and he will use that opening to attack you. So you need to get into a gym if you aren't already in one, and actually work out when you're there! And, on top of that, you need to keep your spirit man fit and trim, just like you do with your body. Sad to say, many believers have spirits that look like their bodies. Fat, dumpy, overweight and out-of-shape. If that's you, you need to get with the program and do something about that. For your body, and for your spirit.

Some of us in the body of Christ like to put all our exercising emphasis on one or the other of these two. Some spend all their time in the gym lifting weights or in some aerobic class. So they look and feel great physically, but that's all. On the other hand, others spend all their time in the Bible; reading, studying and praying. So they are sharp in their spirit, but their bodies are unhealthy and sluggish. Do both! Yes, put MORE emphasis on the spiritual exercising, because as our verse says today, it carries the promise for this life AND the next. However, don't neglect your body baby! If you don't take care of it, the devil will take advantage of that and use your lack of fitness against you. Adjust your diet. Get into the gym and actually work out when you're there. Push yourself physically as well as spiritually, and you'll be the complete, well-rounded child of God you're supposed to be.

7/19/09

Isaiah 50:7

THE POWER OF YOUR DETERMINATION

When God gives you an assignment, He expects you to carry out that assignment. 1 Chronicles 28:10 says it all. When God tells you to do something, His orders are to BE STRONG AND DO IT! And to get the job done, you'll need to exercise a large amount of determination. Satan will not just get out of your way because you want him to. You will have to make him move, and to do that, you'll need to show him a level of determination that tells him you'll not quit or give up until you get the job done for God. This is what our verse today talks about. It's a prophetic look at the suffering of our Lord, and the passion of the crucifixion. To go through all of that without faltering or wavering, Jesus had to exercise an intense level of determination. That's why his demeanor is described as a face set "like flint". That terminology is used to convey to us the level of intense determination that Jesus had at that time in His life and ministry.

That same kind of determination is needed, and absolutely necessary, if we're to persevere against the attacks of the devil, and the world system all around us daily. Have you set your face "like flint" towards the completion of your assigned tasks for God? Most of us have never done that, which is why for many of us, we've never actually completed the tasks given to us by God. But its time to change that! Its time to get that steely look on your face, and to get serious about finishing the job or jobs that God has given for you to do. No more excuses for quitting or failure. Be determined to prevail,

and that determination will cause you to rise above all the temptations to quit and give up. If you look carefully at some of the miracles recorded in the 4 gospels, you'll see that many of those who got their desired miracles got them because of their faith AND determination. You'll need to do the same. Hebrews 6:10 says that through faith and patience we inherit God's promises. And to exercise patience you're going to need determination! So decide to be determined, and it will be so in Jesus' Name!

7/20/09

Matthew 9:27-30 DO YOU HAVE DETERMINED FAITH?

In yesterday's verse-a-day, we talked about the importance of setting your face like flint to get the job done for God. That means being determined to succeed, no matter what the cost may be. There are a number of examples of this in the Bible, and today we'll look at one of them. In today's passage, we see 2 blind men receiving their eyesight through faith in Jesus. But there's something important to see in this story; a part of the story many read right over and never see. Read it carefully. It says the 2 blind men FOLLOWED Him to the house. Question: how can blind men follow a man who can see? If I put a blindfold on you, and asked you to follow me around the neighborhood, could you follow me and keep up? Try it for yourself and see how hard it is!

Those 2 blind men would never have been in position for Jesus to minister to them had they not been determined to follow Him wherever He went, no matter how hard or challenging it might be for them. There's no indication in the story that Jesus slowed down for them, or even knew they were there trying to keep up. But when He went into the house, they found Him and came to Him. He didn't come to them – they came to Him. That shows me a level of determination most Christians are unwilling to exhibit. It would've been much easier for them to sit by the highway side feeling sorry for themselves, giving up on their efforts to keep up with Jesus and His group of disciples. But no! They refused to quit or give up! That's the kind of determination you have to have with your faith. With that kind of determination, nothing can stop you from receiving what you need from God. Those two blind men got what they needed from Jesus because they exercised determination along with their faith. If you do the same, expect the same results. God is no respecter of persons!

7/21/09

Mark 10:46-52 STAY DETERMINED NO MATTER WHAT!

This is another great example of people refusing to accept less than what they know God has made available to them. When he realized that Jesus was passing by, this blind beggar began to cry out and ask for mercy. The crowd all told him to be quiet and shut his mouth, but the more they told him to keep quiet the louder he shouted! This is the kind of determination you need if your faith is to see you through to victory. When you decide to take your stand in faith to receive from God, there will be many who try to discourage you, and even actively work against you. Many of them will be people you know, even family members. Don't let all of that bother you, and no matter what, stay determined to receive from God.

If this blind beggar had listened to the crowd, he would've stayed blind for the rest of his life. And do you know what? The crowd that had told him to shut up

would've been long gone, and he'd be left alone with his handicap. Remember this: the crowd that tries to discourage you from receiving from God doesn't care one bit about you. All they want to do is try and exert some measure of control over you to make themselves feel important and good about themselves. Just ignore them, and do like the blind beggar did. The more they tell you to be quiet, be determined and show them you're not giving up. The more they tell you to shut up, the louder you should shout. Be determined to prevail in spite of all the unbelief around you, and you will in Jesus' Name.

7/22/09

Matthew 15:21-28 **DON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER!**

It today's passage, we find someone unwilling to accept anything less than what God has made available to all of us. The woman who came to Jesus was not a Jew, so technically, under the Old Testament, she was not part of the covenant that guaranteed healing for her demon-possessed daughter. But that didn't stop her from coming to Jesus. It didn't stop her when the disciples, in her presence, tried to convince Jesus to send her away. It didn't stop her when Jesus initially ignored her as if she wasn't even there. It didn't stop her when he finally answered her, and basically insulted her and called her an uncircumcised dog. Question: would you have stuck around after enduring such treatment? Probably not! First she was ignored. Then the staff tried to get rid of her. Then she was called a Gentile dog. But she was DETERMINED to get her daughter delivered, and if took this kind of effort, then so be it.

Most people today wouldn't put up with this kind of treatment. They'd storm off in a huff because of this, and then recount the incident for the next 20 years to whoever cared to listen. But not this lady! And her determined faith so impressed Jesus that He actually moved into the prophetic realm to meet her needs. Yes, the Gentiles were always a part of God's plan of salvation, but at that time the New Covenant hadn't yet been instituted. At that time, God's movings were still confined to the Jews only. So to stop and minister to healing and deliverance to this woman was a tremendous testimony to her faith – and her intense determination. Now if she could do that with Jesus, and basically move Him to step out ahead of God's timetable for Gentile inclusion into the family of God, you can be sure we can position ourselves to receive from God today. After all, we're not part of His family. If Jesus did it for this woman, who wasn't even a part of the Jewish nation at the time, how much more would He be willing to minister to you? Only you have to demonstrate the kind of determination this woman demonstrated. Do that and Jesus will say the same thing about you that He said about her. "Oh woman, GREAT is your faith. Be it unto you as you desire!"

7/23/09

Matthew 15:29-31 **DO WHAT IT TAKES TO GET WHAT YOU WANT**

In today's passage, we once again see the power of determined faith. It says that Jesus went up on the mountain and sat down. Then it says a great multitude of people came to him. If they came to him, that means they've got to climb the mountain because that's where he is – sitting at the top of the mountain. But these are not healthy people who have to climb the mountain. It says the great multitude consisted of crippled people. Blind people. People unable to speak, and MANY OTHERS like them. That means there were tons of very sick or handicapped people in this great multitude. And in their

less-than-healthy condition, they had to climb the mountain to get to Jesus. And look carefully and learn – Jesus didn't lift one finger to help them up the mountain. As far as we know in reading this story, He just sat there and let them struggle up the mountain.

And it also says that once the sick and crippled people made it up to the top of the mountain, those that came with them CAST them at the feet of Jesus. The King James Translation specifically uses the word “cast”, and in the Greek, that's exactly what it means. The Greek word here for cast means TO THROW WITH A QUICK, SUDDEN MOTION. I've heard preachers quote this passage, and talk about the people were gently laid at the feet of Jesus. Not so! I've had crusades like this, and I know exactly what this verse is talking about. The people were literally throwing their sick friends and relatives at Jesus. There was no order to the service whatsoever. These people had already climbed a mountain to get to Jesus. They were not about to stand patiently in some line waiting their turn. That's not how human nature works in situations like this. No, to get their healing, they had to have the determination to climb that mountain to get to Jesus. It wasn't easy. They were sick and sickly. But that's many times the missing ingredient when it comes to receiving from God. A lack of determination. So make sure you have the level of determination it takes to climb any mountain, overcome any obstacle or hurdle, and see your faith through to victory. Just like those people back then.

7/24/09

John 9:1-7

CAN YOU MAKE IT TO THE WELL?

In this story we read today, Jesus put mud on a blind man's eyes, then told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam. He went, he washed off the mud and was miraculously healed. But to get to that point, he had to exercise intense determination along with his faith. First of all, he didn't know who put the mud on his eyes. Jesus was never identified by name in this exchange. Secondly, Jesus never told him what would happen when he washed the mud off his eyes. Thirdly, the pool was on the other side of the city – far away from where Jesus ministered to him. Take all of that into consideration, and you can begin to see how determined this man had to be to get his miracle. That same kind of determination is what you're going to need at times like this in your life.

Try to imagine how challenging it must've been for this blind man to make his way across town to find a pool he couldn't see? There no indication from the story that Jesus gave any assistance to the man once he started off to find the pool. And again, remember that this guy doesn't know who it was that put the mud on his eyes, or what will happen when the mud is washed off. None of that was ever explained to him, so he's operating purely on faith here. Faith coupled with a large dose of determination! That's why this man got healed. He didn't let a few obstacles stand in his way, and with determined faith, was able to make it to the pool to wash and be healed. Do you have that kind of determination? The devil isn't going to just step aside and let you have whatever it is you want from God. He'll put as many roadblocks in your way as he can, trying to make it as difficult as possible to receive from God. Don't let that discourage you. Stay determined, and stay steadfast with your faith. Your determination will see you through to victory!

7/25/09

Matthew 13:58

UNBELIEF STOPS GOD IN YOUR LIFE

Today's passage contains a truth every one of us needs to remember daily. Unbelief stops God from working in your life, period. In Hebrews 3:19 says the Jews could not enter into the blessings of God because of their unbelief. And in Mark's account of today verse from Matthew, he even goes so far as to say Jesus COULD do no mighty works in Nazareth. Matthew says He didn't do the miracles, but Mark says He COULDN'T do the miracles! Many in the body of Christ think that God can do anything, but that's not what the Bible says. When it comes to His miraculous power unleashed in your life, it's all UP TO YOU, not God. He can do exactly what you believe He can do, nothing more. Your unbelief will stop the power of God in your life, the same as it stopped Jesus from doing miracles in His home town. Imagine! Jesus could not do mighty works in Nazareth. Notice it doesn't say He wouldn't. It says He couldn't. Why not? Because of their unbelief. Nothing has changed my friend. Our generation today connects with God the same way those people back then did – with faith. If we choose to doubt God, then our doubt and unbelief cuts God off, and actually empowers the devil against us. It's all up to us – not God, and not the devil. God tells us in Deuteronomy 30:19 to choose life, but we still have to make the choice. All the devil can do is try to manipulate us to make the wrong choices, but ultimately it's our choice. It takes no more effort to choose to believe God than it does to choose to believe the devil's lies. And if Jesus Himself couldn't do mighty works in His own home town, who are we to think we can do anything better today? As sobering as this truth is, its actually very good news too – if you look at it correctly. God sets before us life and death, blessing and cursing, and tells us to choose life. So – if we do, we know He's good for His Word! He watches over His word to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12). So if we choose to go with God, the result is guaranteed! That's very good news indeed. It's up to you today! Chose to empower God by believing His promises.

7/26/09

Matthew 16:23 THE THINGS OF GOD

When Jesus rebuked Peter in this passage, He told him he was not savoring the “things of God”. Instead, he was rebuked because he was savoring the “things of men”. What does that mean? It means that in this world we have priorities to establish everyday. To be spiritually strong and useable for the Master's use, our priorities must be on the things of God, not the things of men. To be focused on the things of men is to be short-sighted, narrow-minded, and double-minded. The things of God pertain to spiritual things. Eternal things. Things dealing not just with this world, but the one to come. I have a giant banner which I've had on the wall of our Philippines Conference Center. Its just one word, stretching the length of the banner. The word is the word ETERNITY! Everyday when I go through that building I look at that banner, and God reminds me that this life down here is not about now, but rather, it's about the future. And all the choices I make in this life MUST be made in light of eternity.

"Everything we say, think or do in this life has eternal ramifications, one way or the other. Don't forget that because many have, and you can see that they have by the choices they're making in this life. Let's take sin as an example. Even if we fall in sin, or even if we habitually struggle with a particular area of weakness and have chronically failed God, still we repent, ask God for help, and do our best to improve. We do this because we have a hope – something out there in the future – promises by God to them

who overcome (see first three chapters of Revelations). We don't just lie down and let sin have its way in our lives. We continually fight to stay pleasing to the Lord. Why? Because we're cherishing the things of God, and know that the things of men will one day disappear. That's what 1 John 2:15-17 talks about. It says there not to love the world because everything in this world is passing away. The things of men are always temporary. The things of God are always eternal. In John 6:27, Jesus reminds us of this when He says not to work for the temporary things of this life, but rather, for the things that will endure to everlasting life. That's good advice to follow. Are you following it today?"

7/27/09

Psalms 112:1

WHAT TURNS YOU ON?

For the next few days, we're going to look at Psalms 112. It's a marvelous psalm, and one which we should all meditate in on a regular basis. The first verse sets the tone for the rest of the message here. If you want to be blessed in this life, **FEAR THE LORD**. How do you fear the Lord? One way is by doing the last part of the verse. By **DELIGHTING GREATLY** in His commandments. In John 14:15, Jesus made a simple yet profound statement. He said if we truly love Him we prove it by keeping His commandments. That's it. That's the bottom line, isn't it? We demonstrate our love for God, and our respect for Him, by keeping His commandments. What's the result of this decision? The rest of the Psalm! As we'll see, if you lay this foundation in your life – the foundation of delighting greatly in keeping God's commandments, we position ourselves for wonderful blessings too numerous to mention in this setting here.

But my question to you today is this: what turns you on? When the Psalmist said that we're to **DELIGHT GREATLY** in keeping God's commands, that means this is what really is supposed to turn us on! Keeping God's commands should be such a thrill to us, the one thing that absolutely rings our bell, and gets us all worked up and excited! Is that the way it is with you? For most Christians it isn't. They take delight in sports, hobbies, movies, sex, and many other things of this world. There's nothing wrong with enjoying those things because God understands and wants us to enjoy life in this world too. However, above all else, if you want blessings to come pouring into your life from God, make keeping His commandments the one, true delight of your life. And if that isn't where you are yet, then get there now! Time is slipping away, and we need to get our priorities set straight. When we do, we get blessed, and then we can share those blessings to the world in terms of evangelism. That's the way it works!

7/28/09

Psalms 112:2

ARE YOU SETTING UP THE NEXT GENERATION?

The 2nd verse of this great Psalms addresses our responsibility for the next generation of soul winners and evangelists. In other words, our children! Our descendents here are described as the generation of the **UPRIGHT!** That means if we do our job right, training up our kids in the way they should go, we'll be preparing them for a lifetime of success and fruitful ministry for the glory of the Lord. That's what it means when it says they'll be **MIGHTY** on the earth. "Mighty" here refers to the power to influence men in a significant way towards God. If you're married with kids, wouldn't that be a wonderful way to see your kids grow up and serve God? I know it would be for

me, and I fully intend to see that very thing in the lives of our two children. I want them to have a more blessed life than I've had, not just so they can hoard more for themselves of this world's goods, but so that they can do an even better job at evangelizing the world than me. Every Christian parent should feel the same way.

Christians need to think beyond the end of their own noses. Our lives are not just about us. They're about us AND the generation to come after us. Each generation is supposed to build upon the successes of the previous generation. Not just in terms of earthly advancement such as in the fields of communication and technology, but in the spiritual realm as well. In fact, what we do to help our children become more spiritually aware, anointed and active will have a direct impact on the quality of life we ourselves enjoy now. I mean, there's no greater level of satisfaction for parents than to know their kids are moving on and doing greater things for God than they did. With or without the money, cars, big houses, fishing boats, condos on the lake, and all the other stuff of this world. I've seen rich men in the natural who couldn't keep their families together. That's not success friend. All the money in their bank accounts couldn't cause their kids to draw close and stay close to God. What a tragedy. It so blesses me when my kids say or do something that shows me they're connecting with God. The older you get, the more you realize that's what this is all about. So bless the Lord, praise the Lord, and make Him first place today in your life. Then expect His blessings to not just shower you, but your children as well. There's a big world out there, full of people who need Jesus. Your children are destined to be front-line fighters in the army of the Lord. As far as God is concerned, they ARE the generation of the UPRIGHT!

7/29/09

Psalms 112:3

IS YOUR HOUSE FULL OF WEALTH AND RICHES?

Today's verse shows us the result when we delight ourselves in keeping the Lord's commands. Wealth and riches will be in our house. Are they in yours? They should be, but not for the reasons most would think. Prosperity is scriptural. No matter what many mis-informed and erroneously taught religious people tell you about the evils of being rich, having money isn't a sin. If it is, then the subject of this Psalm, the righteous servant of the Lord, is in sin because it clearly says that wealth and riches will be in his house. But on the other hand, we shouldn't expect the wealth and riches just so we can heap up for us lots of creature comforts and unnecessary possessions of this world. That's just as bad on the other side of this issue. We need scriptural perspective so we maintain our balance here. No, poverty isn't a blessing, and no, God doesn't keep people poor to keep them humble. That's religious error in its finest form. But no, God doesn't condone greed disguised as prosperity either. That's just as bad.

The righteous person of Psalms 112 walks in balance and true prosperity. Wealth and riches are in his house – but for the right reasons. They're for enabling him to do more to fulfill the Great Commission (Mark 16:15-18) – period. Sure, it's fine to have a nice house and new car and other things that make our lives enjoyable – nothing wrong with that. But, remember we have a job to do for God, and that's always got to be priority number 1. So if you delight greatly in serving God and keeping His commands, you have every right to expect to be blessed financially, and to enjoy the prosperity promised in the Bible. If you don't yet have the wealth and riches in your house, you can certainly use your faith and believe for their manifestation. But when those blessings

start coming your way, be wise with what you do with them! Daniel 12:3 says that if you concentrate on using your life and resources for soul winning, you'll be wise, and shine forever like the stars in the nighttime sky! Begin today to pray, believe and EXPECT the wealth and riches to be in your house. You have a job to do for God, and He wants to bless you and empower you to get the job done right!

7/30/09

Psalms 112:4

TURN ON THE LIGHT!

The righteous man of Psalms 112 can expect the Lord's light in times of darkness. Notice what today's verse says. Light will ARISE in times of darkness. That's good news, especially if you're going through a dark time right now in your life. God will always be there for you if your heart is tender after Him. So when (not if) you're going through difficult times and the attacks of the enemy seemingly have you on the ropes, go to God in prayer, and expect His light to soothe, comfort, encourage and guide you out of that darkness. Everybody faces attacks from the enemy. That's to be expected. But if you find yourself in a place of darkness, and confusion and fear seem to be closing in around you, lift up your eyes to heaven, and get your hands up in the air in praise and worship. God will guide you. Step by step, He will lead you out of that dark place, and set you on the hilltop of victory.

I know in my own life, there have times when it seemed like I was surrounded by the darkness. The devil was busy whispering lies to my mind, my body was not in subjection like it needed to be, and it seemed like God was a million miles away. Ever been there? If you're honest, you KNOW you have! But that's when your love for God, and your commitment to Him produces that spiritual stream of light at the end of the tunnel. Instead of just groping around in the dark, the light of God's word, and the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit, instantly illuminate your heart, and you can clearly see to get out of that dark place. When you're in a dark room that you're not familiar with, it's hard to move around without stumbling or getting hurt. But when the light turns on, instantly you can move around easily with no problems. Why? Because you can see! The righteous man always has God's light to use when he needs it. Take advantage of that, and never allow yourself to go walking around in the dark any longer than it takes to get on your knees and cry out to God (Hebrews 4:16). Don't stay in the dark any longer. Use the light available to you 24/7. God knows you love Him, so don't wait another moment. Go to Him and get the light you need to move right on out of that place of darkness.

7/31/09

Psalms 112:4

HOW COMPASSIONATE ARE YOU?

One of the signs of the end-times is that people will become more and more hard-hearted. More uncaring, selfish and callous. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 talks about this. And since these are the last days, that is a list of common attitudes and actions we can expect from people all around us. Matthew 24:12 says that the love of many will grow cold in the end-times. Well, what is our response as Christians? Exactly what our verse today tells us. We're to offset that cold, selfish and unloving mindset with the compassion of Christ. Our verse today tells us that we're to be FULL of compassion, which means its literally

oozing out of us we've got so much of it! Is that a description of you today? Or are you more like those who don't know the times in which they live?

One of the things people so admired about Jesus was His compassion. He cared about people, and did things to help them. He didn't just have pity, He had compassion. Pity and compassion are not the same. Pity feels sorry for somebody, but doesn't get involved to help. Compassion not just feels sorry for someone's plight, but looks for ways to actively get involved to help improve things on their behalf. People who follow after God are supposed to be full of compassion like Jesus. Not only do we feel sorry for people as they struggle along, but because we're in Christ and have authority on earth in His Name, we have the power, and the mandate, to go do something to help those struggling around us. Are you involved in anyone's life because your compassion has compelled you to get involved? That's a good question to ask on a regular basis. How badly do you care about the problems others may be have? If you have access into their lives, are you moved with compassion to offer help? Jesus would. How about you?