

Lunderisms:

Living on the Growing Edge



Erman K. Lunder

Let Me Introduce You



Jesus Christ Is Lord

--Remember not to forget to remember--

I write out of a sense of gratitude and love. It's not that I like to sit down and write. I believe there is a call in my soul to do so, so I do. I am Erman K. Lunder, not Herman K. Blunder. This helps people to remember.

I was born in Ruso, McLean County, North Dakota on December 27, 1912. My mom said I was their Christmas gift – two days late. Ruso is 100 miles north of Bismark – 40 miles southeast of Minot.

Dad was raised and trained in Norway. He came to America in 1900 at the age of 21. He became the blacksmith at Ruso and also farmed two miles south of town. Mother was trained at Oak Grove Lutheran Ladies' Seminary in Fargo, North Dakota. Ours was a normal Christian family. The church was quite central in our lives. Dad was the spiritual head of our home, Mother was the natural leader. Our home was humble, but nice. Work was never ending. Winters were tough. Summers were hot, but we survived.

To get through high school, I had to work for room and board. I attended high school at Velva, North Dakota, and graduated in 1932. I belonged to the Future Farmers of America, and achieved the State Farmer Degree with one other classmate. I farmed with Dad from 1932 – 1936 hoping to make enough money so I could go to college. We hit double trouble – drought and depression. We raised mostly dust and thistles. My life was changed in 1935. I went from struggle to calm as I relied on my trusting faith in Jesus Christ. It was at the ten-week short course offered at Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis. This experience gave me a new motivation and joy in living as a farmer and in my subsequent years.

I attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota from 1936 – 1941. I worked as a night bellhop and janitor at the Comstock Hotel. I completed school without a debt. My schooling was with a sense of call. I knew God wanted me in school. I got my Masters of Divinity Degree from Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul in 1944. Since then I did extended studies at Biblical Seminary in New York, Princeton Theological Seminary and two 12-week Clinical Pastoral training courses. I also took summer courses at Indiana University and University of Washington in Seattle.

The summer after completing college I met Stella Irene Stenson of Alexandria, Minnesota. We married on September 8, 1943, before I entered my senior year at seminary. We had one daughter, Rosalyn Marie. Stella was a beautiful committed child of God. She “walked her talk”. She “beat me home,” and died April 22, 1984. Stella was just the right person for me. Our slogan was, “Our lines have fallen for us in pleasant places” Psalm 16:6.

Ministry:

- Pastor – Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Albans, Long Island, New York, 1944 – 48.
- Professor – Lutheran Bible Institute, Minneapolis and Manhattan, 1948 – 53.
- Professor – Lutheran Bible Institute, Seattle, 1953 – 78.

As Professor Emeritus, *I'm not retired, but refired* and connected with LBI Seattle doing Bible Conference work. I've been in many churches in the U.S., Hawaii, and Alaska.

The call God gave me to share His word, to teach and to preach has continued strongly in my life. Since my illness it seems my direction is being somewhat changed. People have asked me, "When will you put your material into print?" Perhaps this is the beginning. Concern: That Jesus Christ be Lord. "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done."

Erman K. Lunder

*"We are like dwarves sitting on the shoulders of giants.
We see more than they and things that are further away –
not because our sight is better than theirs, nor because we are taller than they were,
but because they raise us up and add to our stature by their enormous height."
- Bernard of Chartres (d. 1130)*

This quote reminds me of Erman K. Lunder. I first met Pastor Lunder in 1963 when I became his student at The Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle (now Trinity Lutheran College). I had read the Gospel of Luke before but never studied it like I was about to do with Pastor Lunder during that first quarter of classes. Not only did we learn about dates and events, but more important, we met Jesus. One cannot sit under the teaching of Pastor Lunder without encountering Jesus in exciting new ways. For me it was like hearing the familiar events of the Bible being told by one who had been there and experienced these events first hand – I was *"a dwarf sitting on the shoulders of a giant."* Perhaps that "personal encounter feeling" comes from a lifetime of living with and teaching the Bible to several generations of students.

Since his retirement in 1978, he has remained active in teaching and preaching in the congregations of the church through Bible Conference work. Lunder is well known for his "Lunderisms," unique sayings that have colored his teaching ministry over the past 57 years. As Professor Emeritus of Trinity Lutheran College, and living nearby in the Providence Point Retirement Community, he is a frequent visitor on campus where students still welcome him as Pastor Lunder, or more affectionately as "Grandpa."

Pastor Lunder has assembled this collection of writings and teaching materials in the hope that they will be a blessing to the reader. Those who know Erman Lunder will recognize his voice in the readings and his gift of teaching will be evident in the notes and charts. I trust that this will be the first trickle of a refreshing stream from the heart and life of a seasoned Bible teacher.

Rev. Lowell Stime, Trinity Lutheran College, March 2002

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GOD IS AT WORK IN ME,
HE ISN'T THROUGH WITH ME YET.



My Spiritual Autobiography

What is in this treatise may be considered an autobiography of me. What's here is what God has been doing in my life. It's what God has put into me, and how it has come out.

As a child growing, I became a child of God through baptismal regeneration as an infant. That's grace. Under the scripture, prayer, and worship my faith grew. Jesus became precious to me and my faith began to develop. I loved Jesus and enjoyed Him. As I grew older there came a gradual loss of that close relationship. It seemed to begin to separate me from that blessed communion. I struggled hard against sin in my life. I wanted to be good and I tried hard to be good. It seemed the harder I tried, the worse I got. Nobody knew it but me. As I tried hard not to sin, I did anyway. So the more I struggled, the worse I became.

How could I be a child of God in this situation? Doubts and fears plagued me. I felt separated from what I'd known as a little child. I hoped I'd have a great experience on Confirmation Day and then I'd know fully, but I was disappointed. I needed help to understand. I needed someone to "open up" to. I wanted to talk to my parents, but somehow I couldn't. I wanted to talk to my pastor, but I was afraid to. I was looked upon as a model young Christian which I knew I was not.

My struggle continued all through high school. I then farmed with my dad for four years, 1932 – 1936. In the fall of 1934 I met a young pastor, Norris W. Stoa. He suggested I take the short winter course at the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis. I began to really desire to go. I was able to gather enough money to go for the ten weeks of January to March 1935. The counselor who helped me gave me scripture promises. He encouraged me that I accept what the promises said and thank God. "Thank God, not for what you feel, but for what the **PROMISE** says." I did.

The light broke forth almost imperceptibly. I came to be sure of my relationship with God. The promises became reality. I knew that I knew. I was "deep down" sure. At first this experience was like a conversion. I felt that way for quite awhile. Then I realized I had never rejected Jesus. My heart was always open to Him though I lived in uncertainty and doubt. I believe at that time Jesus became Lord of my life. Then I said, "This is too good to keep to myself. I must share it with all the people I can."

LUNDERISMS

According to Lunder

Lunderisms

In teaching I often used certain ideas and phrases that would stimulate thought. Some of them were original with me. Some I received from others. Where others came from I do not know. You may want to call them stimulating or provocative expressions. Students were collecting them and calling them **Lunderisms**. So I became known for my **Lunderisms**.

Here are some. Others may appear elsewhere in this publication.

You get as you give what you get.

Humor is the oil that keeps the machinery of life from squeaking.

Remember not to forget to remember.

Don't wait until you're kindled to pray. Pray until you're kindled.

If you don't feel like praising God, do it anyway. Praise God til you feel like it.

Waiting time is not wasting time.

What gets your attention gets you.

You're not ready to live until you're ready to die. When you're ready to die then you're ready to live because you're not afraid to die.

Learn to disagree agreeably.

Grace is everything for nothing to anyone who doesn't deserve anything.

I choose not to be on God's ways and means committee.

You can't know the will of God apart from the word of God.

You aren't what you think you are. You are what you think other people think you are.

Choose your roots carefully. You may be in them a long time.

The more accumulations you have, more complex life becomes.

Make every difficulty an adventure.

Live in the wonder of adventure.

Make every difficulty a stepping stone, not a stumbling stone.

Save enough to prime the pump.

Today is the first day of the rest of my life.

**Blessed are those who go in circles; they shall be called "big wheels."
Proverbs 34:17 ??**

Impressions without expressions leaves depression.

Don't let the urgent get in the way for the important.

Keep an ATTITUDE of gratitude.

Don't retire, refire.

Get your brain in gear before you speak.

Wisdom is right knowledge rightly applied. Wisdom is knowing the right thing and know HOW to do the right thing,...in the right way...at the right place... and the right time, and then doing it.

Rise above your circumstances. Don't remain under them.

Focus on your strengths, not your weaknesses.

Lay hold of the resources of heaven before you start the new day.

Let God form your character in your unconscious mind while you're sleeping.

You belong to God. You're His by right of creation and you're His by right of redemption.

Since God owns you, give Him first place in your heart and life.

God does not necessarily call the qualified. He qualifies the called.

Suffering makes you "bitter" or "better."

Our disappointments may be God's appointments.

Your character is what you are when nobody is looking.

**God has called you...
Not to be His prosecuting attorney, nor His defense attorney. He has called you to be His witness.**

**Husbands and Wives:
Hug each other five minutes a day.
"What if I don't feel like it?"
Do it until you do feel like it!**

Many Lunderisms flow out of scripture or scripture may illustrate them. The focus is deepening our lives in a practical way. They should move us to maturity. Here's a daffination (a crazy definition). "Maturity is growing up on the inside so that you may control yourself on the outside." I illustrate: "*You get as you give when you get.*" As you would see scripture illustrates. "Give and it will be given to you; good measure pressed down, shaken together and running over will they give to you. For the measure you will give will be the measure you get back." Luke 6:38

If something is given to you -- an idea, a thought, some lesson, money or some gift -- it is given you to use. You use it, and also share it out of your generosity. When you share out of loving concern and generosity, your own capacities increase. You get more, you use more and you have more to share. Therefore, "you get as you give what you get."

Make your own list. They will be better than these. Give them away. See what happens.

How much of what I write is plagiarism? I don't know. I do editorializing of things that "strike fire" with me and that I want to say in my own way. Some of them have been digesting in my mind for a long time and has become my own. How much? I don't rightly know. If stuff comes through that you recognize as having other sources, I express my gratitude to those who have blessed me. Anything that I write may be used as you would like to use it without giving "Lunder" credit. Jesus said, "Freely you have received freely give." So, I hereby give.

FIRE UP

**That which strikes fire with
me may strike fire with you.**

Accumulations from over the years.

Accumulations

If you think your life is a good enough witness for Jesus without telling the story, you are unbearably self-righteous.

I dislike running on the edge of lateness.

Our disappointments may become God's appointments.

The way to become rich is to decrease your wants. Decide what NOT to want, and WHY, WHAT, and HOW not to want it.

Age does not necessarily make an older person wise. Yet he may be wiser than the young.

God's grace gives us the support we need. God's grace will give that same support to our children. Trust God.

Forgive all offenses. Remember the best.

Fruit season: Eat what you can; can what you can't.

Work: Do what you can, the best you know how; can the rest.

**God's love is expressed in mercy and grace.
Mercy is punishment I don't get that I do deserve.**

Grace is blessing I do get that I don't deserve.

Grace is everything for nothing to anyone who doesn't deserve anything.

It's all the outflow of God's love.

The best evidence of trust is love.

Grief is the price you pay for loving.

Laughter massages your inners. It sweeps away the cobwebs in your heart.

"Thou dost keep him in perfect peace whose mind us stayed on Thee, because he trusts in Thee. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock." Isaiah 26:3-4

"Thou" – Our precious God

"Perfect peace" – A priceless gift & great miracle

"A stayed mind" – A focused, present concentration

"He trusts in Thee" – A confident faith.

Worry: often very small, but gives a big shadow. [Swedish Proverb]

It's not how much we do, but how much love we put in doing it. It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into our giving.

Wisdom is what to do next. Virtue is doing it.

Students: Don't become so oriented to the future that you fail to enjoy the present. The present is a gift, and it is now.

The ADVENTURE of the ordinary: Putting ordinary lives into extra ordinary hands. Daring to love just for the pleasure of giving it away. Working hard for the pure enjoyment of being tired.

Caring, sharing, loving, and giving: Love always gets bigger when it is shared. The biggest thing about love is doing what is best for another, even when it is costly.

It's OK to die. We are waiting for heaven and home. When facing death many are braver than you think.

Encounters with others: Show concentrated interest. It's a new adventure. Do so by giving an attentive, listening ear. People like others who like them. The fear: "I may be judged. The fact is they are worrying about how much I might judge them.

Peace, like a quiet flowing stream, sweeps away all irritants.

Recognize needs:

- **The need to share something of themselves with you.**
- **You discover a world of people you otherwise would not have known.**
- **Each has a unique story if you have an ear to listen.**
- **Like people first. Ask questions later.**
- **The light you shine on others will be reflected back to you.**

Let money flow. God will let it flow back to you. The gift of generosity opens many doors.

Without food for the body and nourishment for the soul and spirit, you get "nowhere" fast.

Let it be: Not retirement, but refirement. It's the time of life to pick up new challenges, rearrange the level of stress and do what's really rewarding.

Give a great legacy to your child – happy memories. Good memories are loves best preservatives.

God's grace will not take you where God's love will not keep you.

One day the believer will rule with Christ. Here and now we serve Him. Better still He serves through us. We are His channels.

In Christ ordinary people do extra-ordinary tasks.

What is impossible for us is possible with God. He is able.

Some people are so engrossed with the future that they fail to really live in the present.

To the housewife: Don't let housework, means, and agendas get in the way of living adventurously with your husband and children. Give yourself to them. They will love you.

Someone has said: Sorrow and disappointment can lead you into one of four lands.

The Barren Land – from which we try to escape.

The Broken Land – in which we sink into quicksand.

The Bitter Land – in which we carry our resentments.

The Better Land – in which we "Carry on" and become an inspiration to others.

"Heavenly Father, when I'm wrong, show me. Give me the grace, the enablement and the will to change. Now change me, Lord. When I'm right keep me humble and easy to live with."

In playing games, enjoy! Lose with dignity. Win with humility.

How you approach dangers and problems: Looking at them through Satan's magnifying glass of fear and doubt. Or looking at them through God's glass of faith and optimism. Therein lies trust and victory.

**The days of beginnings may be small.
The days of the future will grow, often beyond measure. That will bring glory to God.**

PARTICIPANTS IN GOD'S WORLD PLAN



Before you can enter into God's plan for the world you must be sure of God's plan and purpose for your own life. You can't share something you don't have. The following may be helpful in under girding your own assurance of your relationship with God through Jesus.

I lived under a question mark as to my own relationship with Jesus for a number of years. That is no fun! I want you to know that you know where you stand in your relationship. The following pages contain a digest that could be helpful in arriving at your own secure relationship.

Basic Assurance

We find our basic assurance in the fact that God chose us.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as HE CHOSE IN HIM."

Ephesians 1:3-4

Other possible scriptures to look up are...

Jeremiah 1:4

John 15:16

1 Corinthians 7:17, 22.

God's Work is Evangelism

Evangelism is God's special work to bring people into God's world plan. The word means, "a good message." Eu = good; Angel = messenger. A good messenger with a good message. That brings you to the Word – Gospel – Good News. It is God's Good News about His Son, Jesus Christ.

God wants each one of us to use the Good News to bring people into His world plan. The truth of the Gospel, when the preaching and teaching of the Scripture are Bible centered, we say it is evangelical. This is especially true when there is a proper relationship between the LAW and the GOSPEL. One who shares the Good News of the Gospel is an evangelist. The evangelist is fired up by the Gospel and eager to share the Good News. "It's the Word on fire."

Assurances that give Conviction of Faith

If I don't have the assurance of Christ's indwelling presence in me than I cannot have the blessings that follow.

1. Revelation 3:20 Behold I stand...
2. Galatians 2:20 Christ lives in me...
3. Ephesians 1:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts...
4. Colossians 1:27 Christ in you, the hope of glory...
5. John 14:23 We will make our home in him...

Without this conviction, it is hard to become enthusiastic about evangelism.

God's Gift of Eternal Life, Now.

Having Christ means having the assurance of eternal life now. Many people believe that they get eternal life after they die. Note the present tense used in the verbs of these scriptures. When a Christian dies he already has eternal life so he moves into the fullness of its reality.

1. 1John 5:11-13 Having Son = Having life
2. John 3:16 Have eternal life (see 3:36)
3. John 5:24 Has eternal life

Child of God

We need the certainty that we belong. The most important factor of belonging is that we are children of our Creator, who now is our Father in Christ.

1. John 1:12 The right to become a child of God – A parent child relationship
2. Romans 8:16 Witness that we are a King's child
3. Galatians 4:4-8 Adopted as sons...heirs

Forgiveness of Sin

Forgiveness of sin brings us to the basic assurance that Jesus made an atoning sacrifice for my sin. Forgiveness means the record that stood against me is blotted out and God accepts me now as if I have never sinned.

1. 1 John 1:9 God forgives
2. Ephesians 1:7-8 The forgiveness of our trespasses
3. Isaiah 43:25 I am He who blots out
4. Galatians 4:4-8 Removed your transgressions

Cleansing Within

Cleansing is progressive. It is continuous since, we have an old nature and we need cleansing every day. Daily I affirm that my sins are forgiven and that in the blood of Christ I am continuously being washed.

1. 1 John 1:7-9 He cleanses us from all...
2. Psalms 51:10-12 Create a clean heart
3. Isaiah 1:18 White as snow

God's Sure Word

The scripture is God's inspired word. We accept it as God's word for us today. In Philippians 2, 12, and 13, God is at work in us, both to give us a desire and enable us to do His will. We need daily nourishment so our spirits don't shrivel up. That's why Jesus said, "A person lives by every word of God."

1. II Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired...
2. Philippians 2:12, 13 God is at work

Prayer

Prayer is our conversation with God. It is not just asking for something. It is listening to His voice through His word and speaking to Him making our requests with thanksgiving and praise.

1. Matthew 7:7-8 Ask, seek, knock (keep on keeping on)
2. 1 John 5:14-15 This is the confidence we have... (in Him – we know)
3. II Corinthians 1:20 All God's promises find their "yes" in Him.

Pray – on basis of promises
Receive – the answer is in the promise now
Affirm – God is answering
He says *YES* or
***WAIT* or**
I have something better or
Yes to you because I love you, but
No to your request, which would harm you

In prayer we thank Him for His gifts. We praise Him that He is our God. We live in the consciousness that our prayer is being answered and when opportunity comes, we share what God has done.

Thank – it is God's gift
Praise – Extol God's Character
Live – Consciously hold to the fact God is answering
Share – When the answer has been verified

God is at Work in Us

Since we have assurance of our relationship with God we become participants in God's world plan. In Genesis 1 God gave mankind work. That was to subdue the world which would in turn give them the living they needed and the joy of living (see Gen. 1:26 – 31). The second emphasis flows out of Christ's completed work of atonement. He gave His disciples the great commission, "Go, make disciples of all nations." The purpose is that it will bring forth spiritual food in the kingdom of God. That's why we pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done."

Christ's Great Commission Heeded

The five-fold commission is given to the apostles as representative of the church. This is the body of Christ into which we were baptized. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 – Baptized into ONE body. It's the body of Christ. Since we were baptized into the body of Christ we are eager to be participants in God's world plan. Jesus gave His apostles the five-fold commission and through them the commission comes to us.

1. Emphasis of prayer – This gives the right focus and confidence that we’re on the right track.
 Matthew 9:35 – 38 “Pray therefore”
 Matthew 10: 1-5 He called...
 He gave authority...
 He sent out...
 “Now go...”

2. When God calls, He gives authority and power to those He calls to accomplish His purposes.
 Matthew 28:16 – 20 Authority
 Command
 Promise

3. God’s command is universal. He is concerned for every nation and individual, including our enemies.
 Command: Go into all the world...Mk. 16:15-16
 Preach the gospel to the whole creation.
When God makes a promise we can believe He is doing it because He is faithful. He is a faithful and true witness. Revelation 3:14
 Promises: Believer Saved
 Unbeliever Condemned

4. Jesus tells the disciples that they are His witnesses since scripture has been fulfilled. He opens their minds so they can understand it.
 Luke 24:44-49

5. God wants His servants empowered by the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8) That’s why he breathes on them and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” They no doubt received the Holy Spirit at that point. The manifestations of it came on the day of Pentecost (see Acts 2).

“Now It’s Up to You!”

Your response is “I believe Lord” and I go! God calls on us to trust and obey. That is where the joy is found as you enter into God’s world plan. Scripture gives us specifics through which we may witness to what the gospel says. Whenever God gives an exhortation, he gives with it the enablement, the resources, and the motivation to do it.

Witnessing to Gospel Reality

A witness is one who shares what he has seen, heard and experienced. A witness says, “This I know, and it’s true.” A witness to Jesus says, “This I know, and He is true.” “I know him personally.” What an experience this becomes when we do His will (Romans 10:5-13). It becomes personal reality. We receive the righteousness based on faith. The

word becomes especially close to us, in our heart and on our lips. It's called the word of faith.

**You confess with your lips "Jesus is Lord."
You believe with your heart and you are saved.
Salvation is confirmed.**

Everyone who calls on the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13

Our Call

Our Call is to be in on God's world plan.

We are not called to be "prosecuting attorneys" living in judgment of other people.

We are not called to be "defense attorneys." God and His word need no defense.

Arguing with people does not generally convince people to come to Jesus. That is the work of the Holy Spirit through our witness and no one can argue with our witness.

The Book of Acts on Witnessing

This is a list of scripture texts that focus on witnessing from the book of Acts. Read and enjoy!

1:12-14	The waiting days
2:1-4	They were all filled with the Holy Spirit.
2:32	"This Jesus raised up and of that we are WITNESSES
3:14	God raised from the dead. To this we are WITNESSES
4:33	And with great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.
5:32	We are witnesses to these things and so is the Holy Spirit...
6:7	And the Word of God increased...
7:54-60	But He was full of the Holy Spirit...
8:4 ff.	Philip proclaimed to them the Christ
1Thess. 2:13	We constantly thank God

Possessing the Mind of Christ

We need to learn that as we live in the scriptures, God gives us the mind of Christ. We learn to think His thoughts-God's revelation. Revelation is moving back the curtain so you can see what is there. God makes known to us by His Spirit what He wants us to know. *God's revelation through the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:10-16*

**The Holy Spirit searches the depths of God
Comprehends the thoughts of God
Understands the gifts of God
Imparts the Word of God
Interprets the Truths of God**

It's to those who possess the Spirit. The unspiritual man, woman, boy, or girl does not receive the gifts of the Spirit of God. They are folly, foolishness to Him. He CANNOT understand them. The spiritual person has the ability to evaluate all these things. Therefore is to be judged by no one. For the unspiritual person doesn't have the facilities whereby to make correct judgment. In verse 16, it is asked, "Who wants to instruct God?" Many want to be on God's ways and means committee to tell Him what to do, when to do it, and how to do it. We have come to the conclusion that it is not "I", but "Christ." A second aspect of possessing the mind of Christ is revealed to us. It tells us what Christ's mind is like and encourages us to receive His mind. God enables us to do so. The answer to having the mind of Christ is to have and demonstrate God's love by putting others first. God wants to be at work in us. Obedience to God's will comes when we let God be at work in us. He gives the will and empowerment to do it.

Practical Aspects of Possessing the Mind of Christ

The strong emphasis of our materialistic world is having a JOB. Having a job equals dollars and cents. Christian's should change their job to a vocation. All we have belongs to God. We are called to serve Him and our fellow men. I serve the Lord Christ. My work is to let Him work in me His will in my business, home and relationships. Dollars and cents now is a by-product. I am a steward of all God has given me.

Many people are afraid of the word "tithing." It simply means to give God the first tenth of what we earn. When I stand in awe of all God has given me, it becomes natural for me to share God's gifts for the purpose of advancing the kingdom and bringing blessing to many people.

Sharing the Gospel

Jesus told Peter and Andrew, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." This is what I like to do and try to do on a regular basis. I sometimes ask the question, "Are you sure you're going to heaven when you die?" The door for evangelism opens quite naturally when we share our witness of what Jesus has done for us. Personally I find this an exciting part of living. I often times introduce the subject by asking some appropriate question. Give it a try.

God's Resources

A purpose of a good morning devotional is to lay hold of the resources of heaven, so you have empowerment to live, to speak for him, and witness to Jesus during the day. The empowerment that we receive during devotional times helps us to live and work in a way that is a witness to others, which should draw them to Christ. As second thing that should happen is that God gives victory and triumph in facing temptations. Since your character is what you are when nobody is looking, good night devotions

are important too. Your character is being formed while you're sleeping. What goes into your conscious mind before you go to sleep is what your unconscious mind works on while you are sleeping. That's what you become. Ben Franklin once said, "What you are speaks so loud that people can't hear what you say." What we say should flow naturally out of what we are.

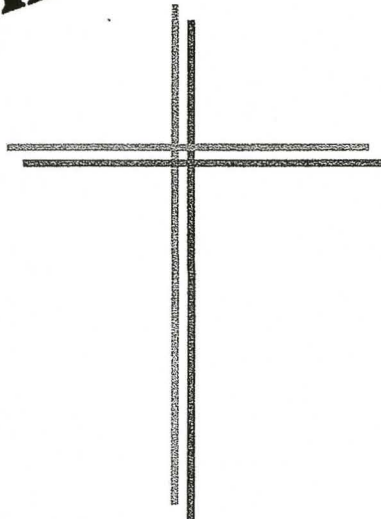
Memorizing Scripture

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." Colossians 3:16

"Thy word have I hid in my heart that I may not sin against thee. Psalm 119:11

When you memorize scripture you hide God's word in your heart. It becomes to you a resource whereby you lay hold of God's grace and power. It becomes also to you a fountain from which living waters flow. You will find memorizing hymns that are rooted in scripture will make your life more full and more abundant. Singing and making melody in your heart to God will put a smile on your face and joy in your heart.

**GOD'S INSPIRED WORD
FOR SPIRITUAL THERAPY**



Let God's Word Work Wonders

Basis: God's Word came to us by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We read, "All Scripture is inspired by God." It does not say, "All Scripture was inspired." It is as inspired today as it was when first spoken.

The Bible has four important basic emphases:

1. History - This is God's history, "The testimonies of the Lord are sure making wise the simple." It is His story.
2. Doctrine - That is, truths that the Scriptures give us. We should know what we believe and why we believe what we believe. Then we will be able to share it with others.
3. Promises - Each promise carries with it something that God is offering to us and He invites us to receive the very content of what the promise holds.
4. Exhortation - The hortative imperative does not come as a command or a law but it comes to us as a strong encouragement of what we ought to do and put into operation. When God gives us something to do with that exhortation He gives the enablement to do what we could not do otherwise. Phil 2:12-13

There are seven important aspects of praying, which is a response of faith.

1. Pray - Pray on the basis of God's promises in His Word. Don't expect an answer just because you prayed. The answer to prayer is not in the praying but in the promise that God gives, so undergird your prayers with the promises of God.
2. Receive - Receive the very content of what the promises say. God's answer is a direct "yes" when it is in full compliance to His will. His answer is "yes, but wait until you are mature enough to receive". His answer is "yes, but let me give you something better." His answer is "yes, but No, because I love you." "I say yes to you, but no to your request because what you ask may destroy you. So my answer is yes to you, but no to your request because I love you."
3. Affirm - Give an affirmation to the fact that God is now answering your prayer in His own wonderful way. You may not see it; you may not feel it but you are under girded by a promise.
4. Thanks - When you thank God you express gratitude to God for what He has done, is doing or will do.
5. Praise - Praise extols the character of God. It causes you to stand in awe of who God is.
6. Live - Live in the consciousness that God is answering your prayers in His own wonderful way and anticipate the answer without being on God's "ways and means committee."
7. Share - You are ready to share when God's answer comes through plain and clear. As you share people will be blessed and you yourself are blessed because "you get as you give what you get."

Overcoming Defeats, Addictions and Tragic Situations

I believe that what I share is a special gift from the Lord. I like to share this gift when it is helpful to others.

Your character (what you are) is often formed while you're sleeping. Therefore, what goes into the conscious mind before you go to sleep is generally what your unconscious mind is working on when you're sleeping, and your character is being formed positively or negatively depending on the input.

The following outline is a recommendation for overcoming defeats and addictions that grip and hold tightly, as well as tragic situations in life. God wants us free! Invite the Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit to walk back into your unconscious mind just before you go to sleep to do three things:

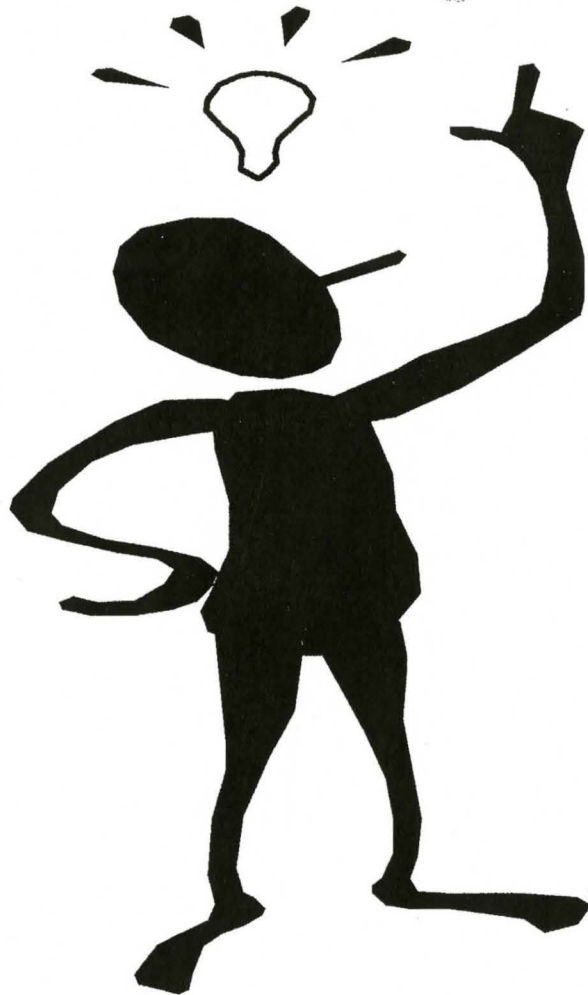
1. To Cleanse - To wash you clean of every negative thing that is in your unconscious. Then follow through with the seven points of prayer given above.
2. To Heal - Invite the Lord Jesus Christ to heal all the hurts, all the pain, all the anguish, and the fears that may be deep down in your unconscious.
3. To Rearrange - Invite the Holy Spirit to rearrange the furniture inside of you so that you can live comfortably with yourself.

Give yourself 21 days when there is something specific that needs to be taken care of, either in cleansing, healing or in rearranging, and if the answer hasn't become clear by that time, start over again. It may work better than psychological counseling.

Principles of Victory

1. **Preparation** – Your character is what you are when nobody is looking. You are what you are in small things. As you move steadfastly toward maturity, you begin growing up on the inside and then you can control yourself on the outside.
2. **Perspective** – Have your focus clear. Keep your focus on God. Then remember; there is no panic in heaven
3. **Purpose** – You must have a cause. What is your deep-down purpose?
4. **Progression** – Be victorious in the little things. God will take you from victory to victory.
5. **Protection** – Daily put on God's full armor. God's weapons may be invisible, but they are invincible. (Ephesians 6:10-18; II Corinthians 10:3-5)
6. **Power** – The name of the Lord of Hosts. He gives authority and victory.
7. **Praise** – Give all glory to God. Do not glorify self. You praise God that the entire world may know Him, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In praising you will go from glory to glory. (II Corinthians 3:17 – 18)

Paradigms to Increase
Understanding &
Knowledge

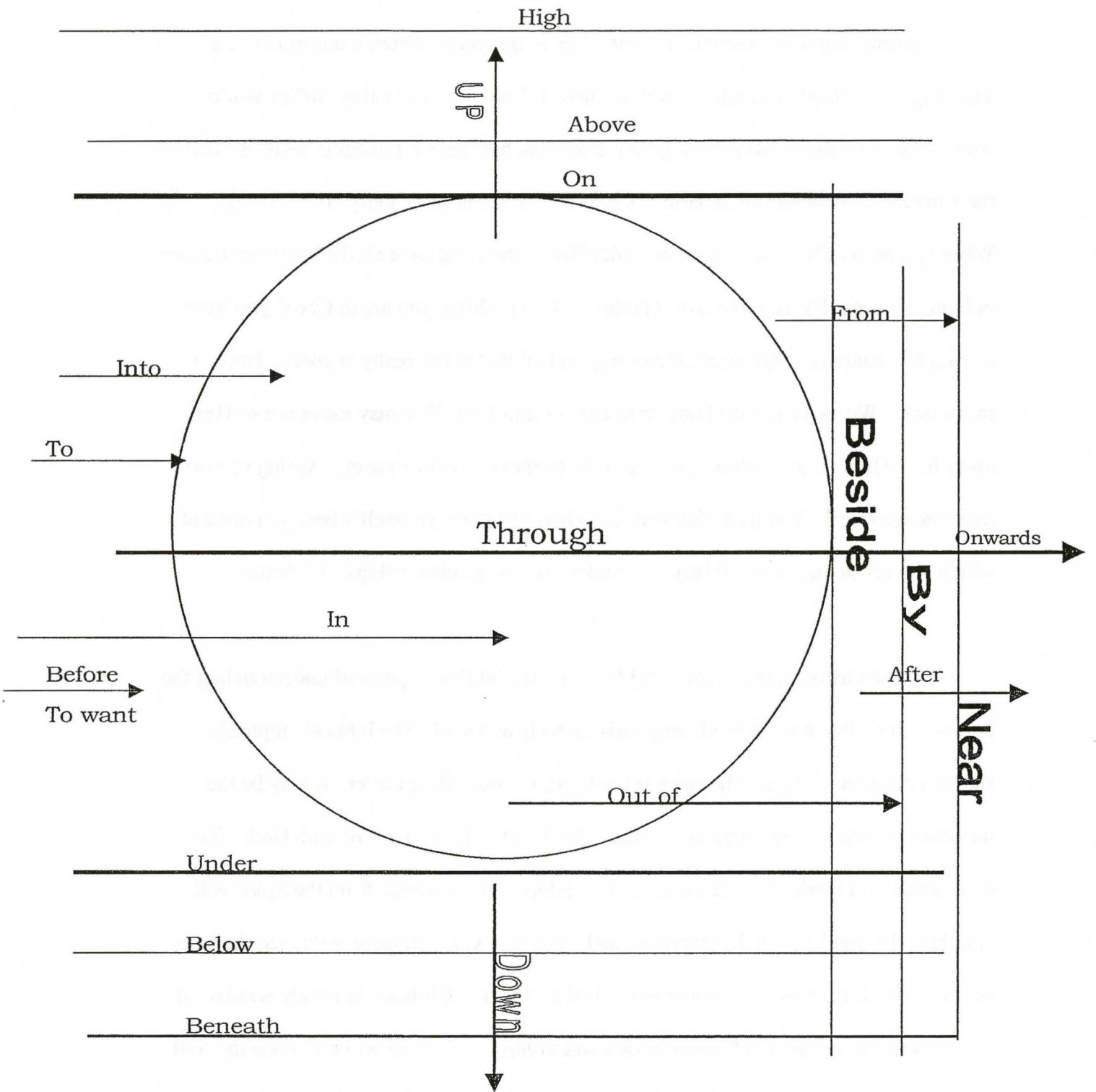


“For Your “Ah Ha” Moment”

In grammar a preposition gives position or direction. Often it has movement. The kingdom of God is a realm in which Christ is Lord. You're either "in" or you're "out." The chart shows movement giving direction, but there is position. Jesus is Lord of the Kingdom. Believers are in Him. "Christ in you the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27). When you are in Christ you are united with Him. Then you have all the blessings that are in Him. "Eternal life is in His son" (1John 5:11-13). When you are in Christ you have eternal life, sonship, forgiveness, cleansing, and all that is His really is yours. Note the movement. We move toward Him, or to Him or into Him. You may move out of Him, away from Him. Moving down you go to the territory of God's enemy. Going up you move heavenward. You may play with this chart and place yourself where you are and where you are going. It could help you understand your relationships a bit better.

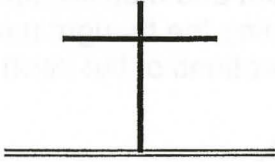
* * *

These charts on spirit, soul, and body are the biblical aspects of understanding the human being. Psychology holds emphasis on body and soul. The biblical emphasis shows a different picture. The spirit is the heart, or controlling center. It may be the unconscious mind, or the superconscious. The Spirit of God unites us with God. The conscience is at work. Here is the area of worship. The influence from the Spirit will enlighten the mind, touch the emotions, and move the will. All these influence the body and the body functions. The center of control for the non-Christian is purely secular. It may descend to demonic influence or demonic control. All these will influence the soul and the body. So the exhortation to believers is, "May your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless." God wants to make you totally holy. That means wholly holy.



Body Soul Spirit

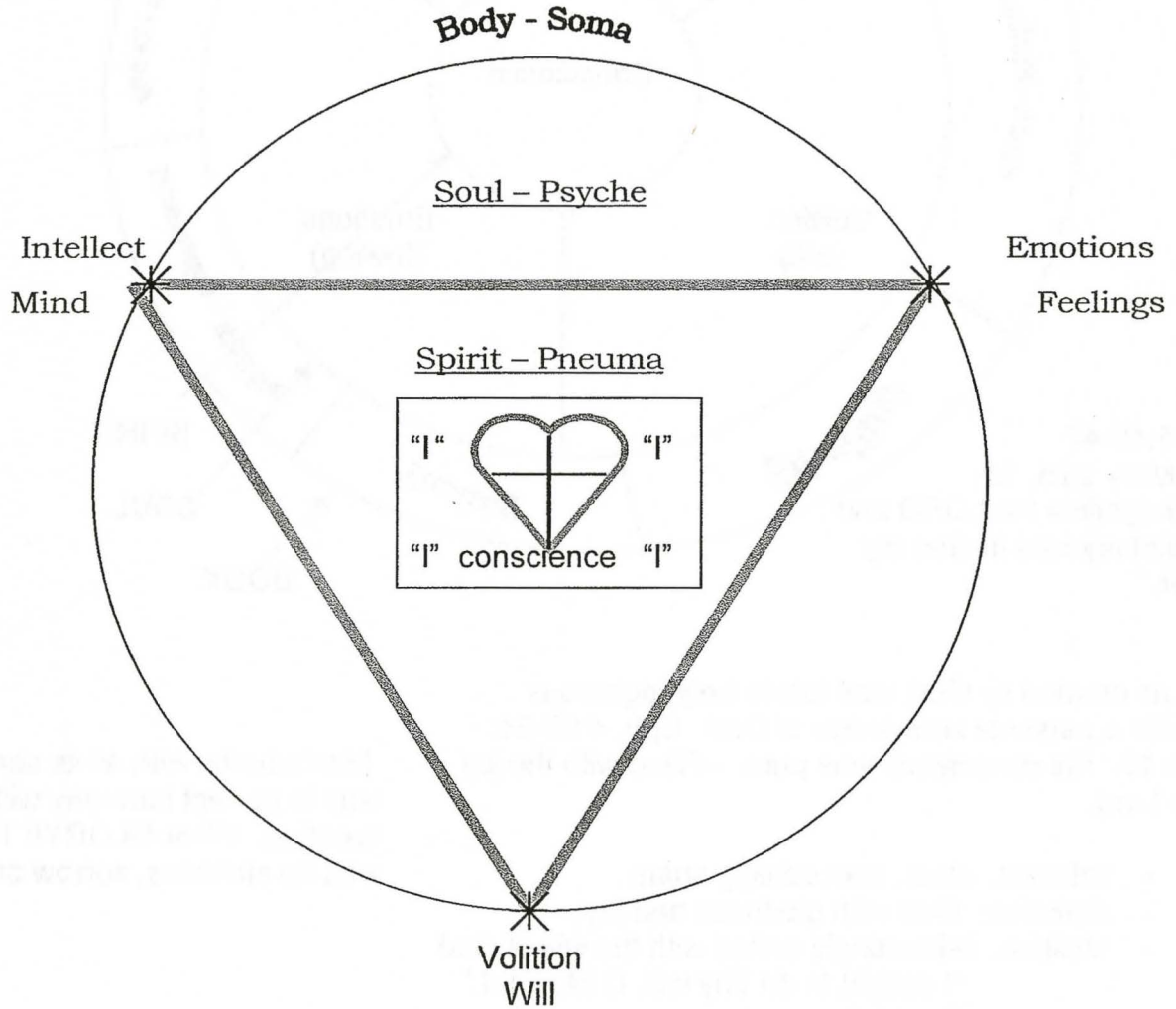
May the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your *spirit* and soul and *body* be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful and He will do it. ~ I Thessalonians 5: 23-24, RSV



The Cross of Christ becomes the Cross in my heart by faith

Gospel- Good News
Romans 1:16-17 – the Power of God

Faith- Galatians 2:20 – God at work in us
Phil. 1:13



For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of the *soul* and *spirit*, of *joints and marrow*, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. – Hebrews 4:12, RSV

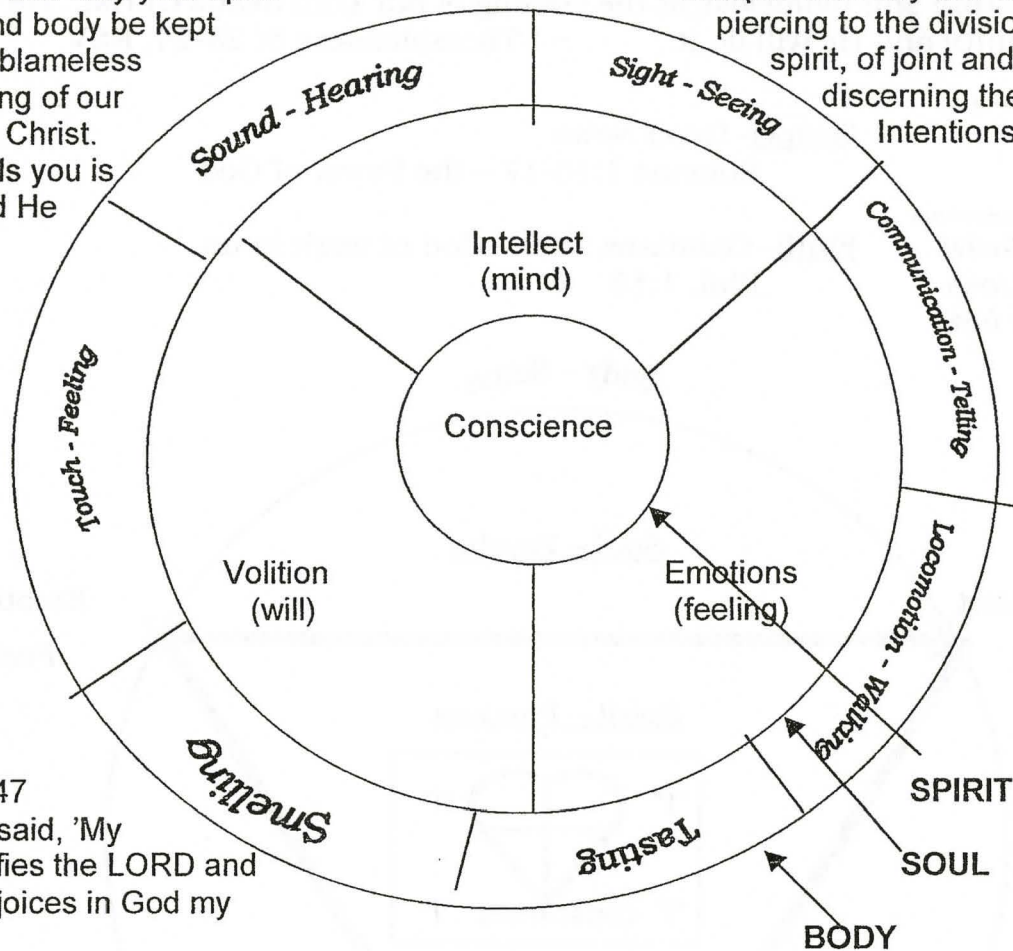
My *soul* magnifies the Lord, and my *spirit* rejoices in God my Savior. Luke 1:46, RSV

1 Thes. 5:23-34

"May the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is Faithful and He will do it."

Heb. 4:12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joint and marrow, and discerning the thought and intentions of the heart."



Luke 1:46-47

"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the LORD and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.'"

Man, as created by God, was totally holy, righteous and with a personal knowledge of God. Eph, 4:23-24; Col. 3:10. His conscience was pure, --Filled with the joy of the Lord.

- Intellect: clear, exceedingly sharp.
- Emotion: filled with gladness and joy.
- Volition: refreshingly united with the will of God.

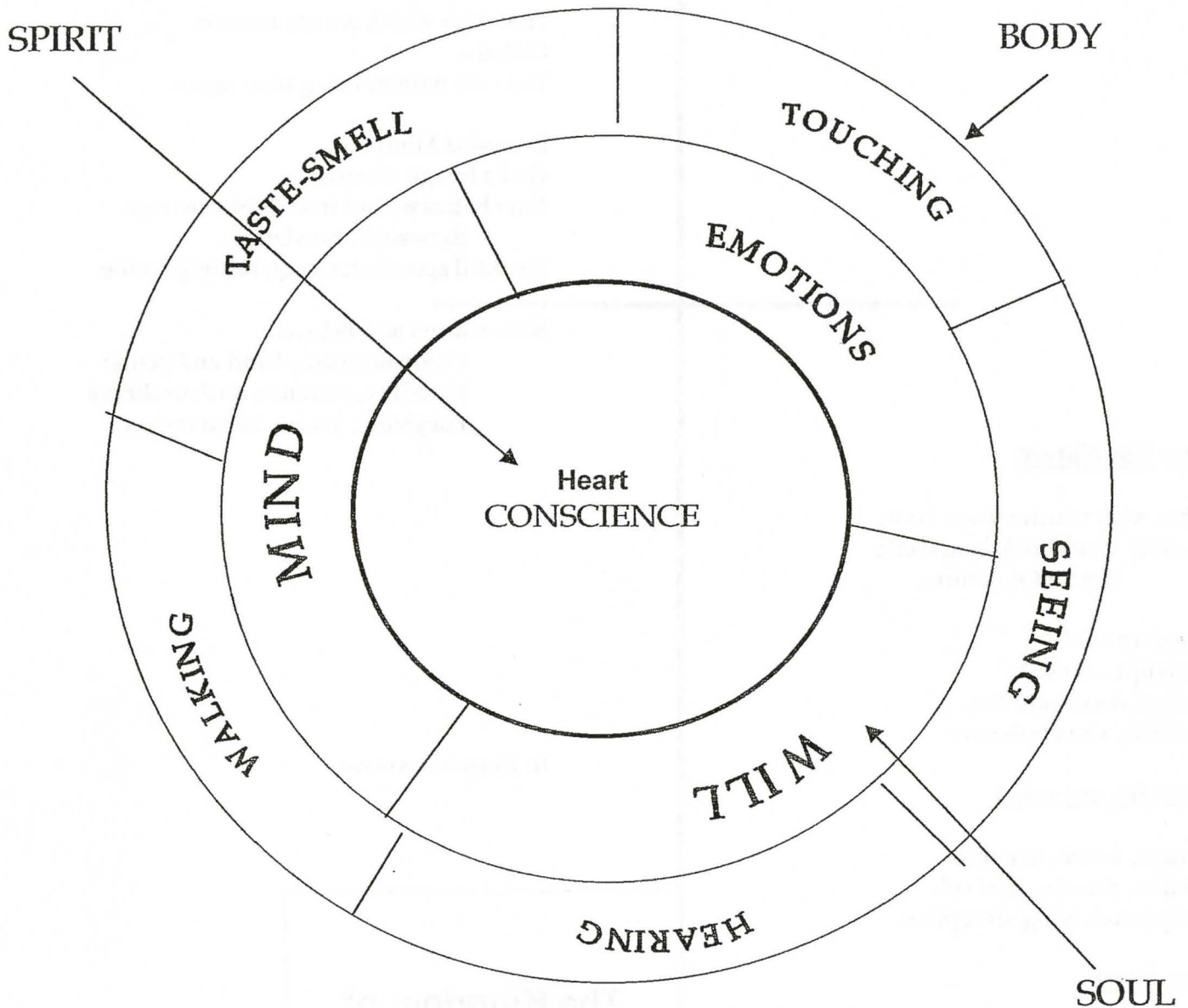
"I delight to do Thy will, O My God."

Ps. 40:8

Jesus had the image of God which we lost in the Fall. In Jesus, that image is being restored in the believer.

Man's body, with all its senses was in perfect harmony with God's creation. What GLORY!! There was no sickness, sorrow or death.

THE HUMAN BEING
Created in God's Image



I Corinthians 3:17-18

"Now the LORD is the Spirit;
And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.
And we all with Unveiled face, beholding the glory of
the Lord, are being changed into His likeness
from one degree of glory to the other. This comes from the
Lord, who is the Spirit."

I Thessalonians 5:23-24

"Now may the God of peace, Himself, sanctify you
wholly;
and may your SPIRIT and SOUL and BODY sound and
blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
He who calls you is faithful; He will do it."

UNDERSTANDING THE OLD NATURE AND THE NEW NATURE

The Christ-Nature

That with which we are re-born.
 Called –
 The new nature, being born again.

Renewed Mind
 God's Image restored.
 True holiness, and true righteousness;
 Renewed knowledge.
 Truthful speech, honesty, being genuine.

Now chosen and beloved.
 Compassionate, Kind and gentle
 Humility, patience, and meekness
 Forgiving, loving, harmonious

Our Sin-Nature

That with which we are born.
 Called: The Old Adam, Flesh,
 The Sinful nature.

Dead to God.
 Corrupt - it stinks
 Full of deceit and lies.
 Lustful. Concupiscent.

How it's expressed

Anger, wrath, irritation
 Malice, slander, foul talk
 Falsehood, lying, deception

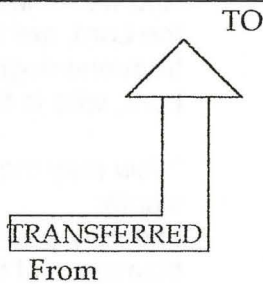
The Effect

Addictive
 Nicotine, drugs, alcohol
 Immorality: adultery, fornication
 homosexuality, lesbianism,
 uncontrolled masturbation.
 Stealing, thievery
 Abuse, rage, intolerance

**REALM OF SATAN
 POWER OF EVIL
 HELL'S DOMAIN**

In Jesus we receive

**The Kingdom of
 God's Beloved Son**

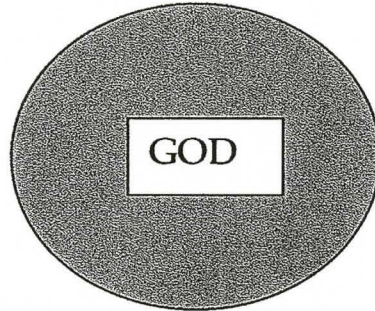


Col. 1:13-14
 By His death Jesus came to deliver us. So we are transferred out of the domain of Satan into the kingdom of God's beloved Son

KNOW GOD!
Worship Him, adore Him!

FATHER
CREATOR

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



JESUS
SAVIOR, WORD

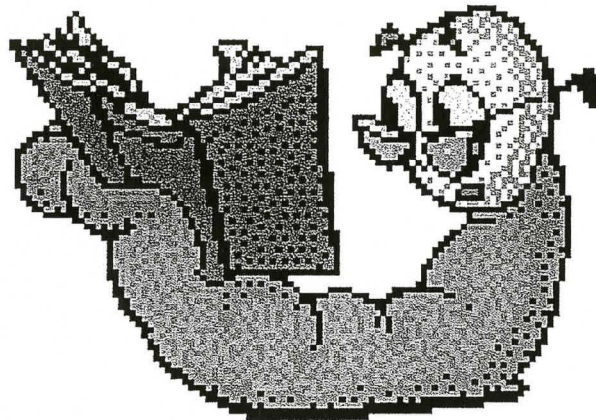
CROWN HIM WITH MAJESTY

HOLY SPIRIT
COMFORTER

We know God as creator and sustainer of all things. We know Jesus as Savior. Through His atoning sacrifices we are delivered and saved. Through Him we know God as our heavenly Father. "As many as received Him, who believed on His name, he gave power to become children of God" (John 1:12). That means we are "born of God." We become His children.

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, is active in all this. He gives the desire and the enabling to believe and come to God. He is beside us to be our comforter.

BITS IN PIECES OF WISDOM



Bits 'n Pieces

To me, it is interesting to share a little of this and a little of that. Ideas flow out of thoughts that stimulate. Many of these bits and pieces of wisdom have stimulated me and I was hoping they would be of interest to you (the reader). Through the years I've filled in a notebook of various interesting ideas. These ideas have taken root in me and have grown. May they take root in you and go far beyond what they did for me. You can take it and run with it.

When you show interest in others, every encounter becomes a new adventure. How better to show interest than by giving a listening, attentive ear. People like others who like them. We often encounter others with FEAR, "I may be judged." The fact is, --they are worrying how I might judge them.

- **Without fuel for the body, and nourishment for the soul, ---you get nowhere fast.**
- **The great LEGACY you give your child: Happy memories.**
- **Memories: love's best preservative.**
- **One day we will rule with Christ. Here and now we serve Him. Better still we are His channels: He serves through us.**
- **In Christ ordinary people do extra-ordinary tasks.**
- **What's impossible for us, --is possible with God. He is able!**
- **To the housewife: "Don't let housework get in the way of living adventurously with your husband and children.**

The days of beginnings are often small.

The days of the future will grow, often beyond measure.

Those days will bring glory to God.

Pray: Father, when I am wrong, show me. Give me grace and enablement to change.

When I'm right, keep me humble and easy to live with.

In playing a game, lose with dignity. Win with humility.

**Dangers and problems – Don't look at them through Satan's magnifying
glass of fear and doubt.**

Trust and victory: Looking at your problems through God's glasses
of faith and optimism.

What God Has Promised

**God has not promised skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through;
God has not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, Peace without pain.**

**But God has promised strength for the day,
Rest for the labor, light for the way.
Grace for each trial, help from above,
Unfailing sympathy and undying love.
Author Unknown**

There's no better view of the world, than from down on your knees
in God's garden of love.

Take An Active Part

**Are you an active member, --the kind that would be missed
Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?
Do you come to meetings and mingle with the flock
Or do you stay at home and criticize and knock?
Do you take an active part to help the work along,
Or are you satisfied to be the one who just belongs?
Do you work on a committee to see there no trick,
Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?
So come to meetings often and help with hand and heart;
Don't be just a member, but take an active part.**

Welcome! "You have done well that you have come."

**Come when you can.
Stay as long as you can.
Go when you must.**

The best antique is a good and lasting friend.

Sit long! Talk much! Listen more! Laugh a lot! Keep smiling!

Happiness is a decision.

Look for the beautiful and you'll find it.

**Red sky at night
The sailors' delight.
Red sky in the morning
Sailors, take warning.
Matt. 16: 2-3**

Don't hold on to THINGS too tightly.

Open your heart to each moment God gives you.

**

Treat people with compassion and respect.

When time comes for me to leave this life, I will leave peacefully and without regret.

Having trouble? Get up! Get moving! Carry on no matter what!

Learn to show compassion to the diseased and the despairing.

Always keep your hopes high. God is at work.

**Figures can't lie,
But liars can figure.
Reason can't deceive,
But deceivers can't reason.**

A reasoned argument, based on false data, is often deceptive.
Accurate information is essential for sound judgment.

**Attempt great things for God. Expect great things from God.
William Carey**

We were on holy ground as we heard from those dear brothers as they told of the work and God's anointment on their lives. God's supernatural miracles, with signs and wonders brought joy to all who heard.

**Two oars: One WORK, and the other PRAYER.
Work without prayer you go in circles.
Pray without work and you go in circles.**

Giving up some pleasure could make room for joy.

We determine to live more simply – so others may simply live.

Give your children two great gifts: the acts of responsibility and the wings of independence.

From JOB to VOCATION ---

Job focuses on dollars and cents. It makes a person materialistic.

Vocation focuses on “calling”. It is God calling a person into work that is from Him. In vocation you serve the Lord Christ your salary is a gift. You become a STEWARD of all God gives you.

It may pay to cut back on your work and time to increase your quality of life, to have less tension, to have less travel time, to have more family time and to get more things done at home.

A man and woman should seek the Lord’s leading in this.

Two people may want to share one so-called job. It should make for better work, happier disposition and more creativity in one’s work.

Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these other things will be added. Matt. 6:33

Abortion holds both the broken body of a child and the broken heart of its mother.

**Of all I have and legally own, I’m not really the owner.
I am God’s caretaker.**

The church multiples as it divides.

**Jesus paid a DEBT
He did not owe.
Because we had a DEBT
We could not pay.**

In family relationships--
Why is it so hard to express tenderness,
and so easy to spout harsh words?
Tenderness draws us together with chords of love;
Harsh words hurt and separate us from one another.

Remember---
**It's the quality of life you live
not the quantity of years that's important.**

Material possessions---
Be free TO UTILIZE,
but do not idolize.

The true heroism--
**It's not the drive to surpass others;
it's the desire to serve others.**

When you set upon a task,
keep on keeping on till it is accomplished.

**Blessed be the Lord,
Who daily loads us with benefits-
the God of our salvation. Ps. 68:19 KJV**

**Helping another gives strength and insight to handle your own problems.
Handle them one by one.**

Never choose self-pity, negative thinking or morbid introspection.

When you choose to enjoy life you will get what you look for.

We make a living by what we get.

We make a life by what we give.

--Winston Churchill

**Strong Christians are those who unashamedly admit
their weakness and draw on Christ's power.**

**I am The Lord Your God,
Who has redeemed you.**

The Law is a manifesto for Gospel living.

**The Law does not describe the way a person becomes
redeemed.**

**It does describe how redeemed people live after they have
been redeemed.**

**A Redeemed person becomes generous; he seeks to become an
asset to others.**

Why does the sun arise? Because God is saying,
"It's time to get up."

Feed your faith. Then your doubts will gradually fade and die.

Make your home thoroughly Prayer Conditioned.

May your neighbors read, "the Gospel according to you."

If you need to repair a relationship, try kindness.

Salvation in Jesus is not offered on a "family plan."

**Do the toughest tasks first.
Then the others will seem easier.**

**A Good-bye Note to Sons and Daughters:
I have every confidence in your ability to think and act wisely.
Trust God to use your gifts to help others, to work hard, and to
play fair and to walk humbly with your God.**

It's better to swallow my pride than to eat my words.

Do as much as your strength permits.

Find joy in small acts.

CONTENTMENT---

Enjoying your inner self by giving more attention to relationships.

**When you develop self-acceptance
--your health improves;
--your joy is increased;
--your ability to love is enhanced.**

I make myself rich by making my wants few --Henry Thoreau

**I work hard to win. But if I cannot win
I will be brave in the attempt.**

An unusual prescription: Use the "Thank You" cure.

Remember: Imitation (copy cat) is the sincerest form of flattery.
It's a compliment when people copy us.

**Forgiveness involves--- Letting go of anger and hurt.
Restoring respect.
Accepting the offender.**

**Expressing thanks is an easy way
to add to the world's happiness.**

When you say "Thank you" emphasize it with a smile.

An uncommon sacrifice may not be recognized by many.

Everyone longs for words of appreciation.

Thank you for helping God save my life and giving me a second chance.

Many “do” their thanks.

Keep an attitude of gratitude.

**Gratitude makes us:
more responsive
more sensitive
more caring**

Thankfulness sets in motion a chain of reactions that transforms those about us.

No one misunderstands the melody of a grateful heart.

The constitution of the USA is a forthright piece of work and quite succinct.

Please be patient with me. God isn't through with me yet.

“Lord, give me life as long as I have work to do, and work as long as I have life to live.”

My life on earth is immortal until my work is done.

**Choose constructive communication
instead of tension producing argumentation.
“Is it OK with you that I disagree with you?”**

Our view of God affects our outlook on life.

The Spirit of the Lord began to move and spoke within you,
"Go, read my book that I have written,"
Then there will burst upon you the wellsprings
of understanding, knowledge and wisdom.

INTEGRITY is Christ-like Character in work clothes.

My person is me!
I will be myself.
I will be what God made me to be.

**I will tell the truth at all times.
I will tell the truth no matter what it might cost me.**

**Character training for our children:
From fathers children learn
to discover the value of the dollar;
to see the necessity of hard work;
to experience the significance of honesty;
to learn to stand firm and alone if need be.**

From mothers they learn:
transparent tenderness
loving devotion
consistent caring
effective wisdom

**Great God, with wonder and with praise
On all Thy works I look!
But still Thy wisdom,
power and grace.
Shine brightest in the book. --Watts**

**God will not open to door to wisdom
To one who keeps His Bible shut.**

**In Jesus
God became what he had not been before,
And did not cease to be what he always was.**

**Whether you think you can,
Or think you can't
You're right.
---Henry Ford**

**The greater part of happiness or misery
Depends on our disposition,
Not on our circumstances.
---Martha Washington**

**Most folks are about as happy
As they make up their minds to be.
---Abraham Lincoln**

AGREEABLE AND DISAGREEABLE

**For some people you are their enemy of you disagree with them.
If you disagree they feel it's their duty to change your view point.
People have a right to their own opinion, and so do you.
When you disagree with any one be ready to rethink you position.**

**God did not create woman from man's head,
---that he should command her, nor from his feet,
---that she should be his slave, but rather from his side,
---that she should be near his heart.
---Hebrew Proverb**

LOVE

AGAPE---I seek the best for you. It may cost me something. God loved and it cost Him His Son. Jesus loved and it cost Him His life.

EROS---I am physically, mentally and emotionally attracted to you.

LUST---I want you to gratify me even if it will cost you the most precious thing you have.

PHILEOS---I am hurting deeply for you because you are hurting! What encouragement can I give?

**Your tomorrows have to go by God before they come to you.
So you don't have to be afraid of the unknown.**

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." II Pet. 3:18

We don't grow into grace. We are IN grace, so grow in that soil.

Injustice anywhere, is a threat to JUSTICE everywhere.

**For the determined:
The hardships of life are meant to challenge the best in him.**

**Information is giving out.
Communication is getting through.**

Fear of failure opens the door to failure.

To get into the Hall of Fame you must be the Best of the Best.

A desire accomplished is sweet to the soul. Proverbs. 13:19

You cannot know the will of God apart from the Word of God.

**God can't bless the disobedient.
Obedience opens the door to blessing.
"Yes, there's room for improvement."
Answer: "That's the biggest room in the world."**

**It's not how long I live.
Its how well do I live it.**

The best pillow is a Clear Conscience.

**Jesus Christ, God's Son, in His INCARNATION became
what He had not been before (in all eternity).
He did not cease to be what He always is
--Anonymous**

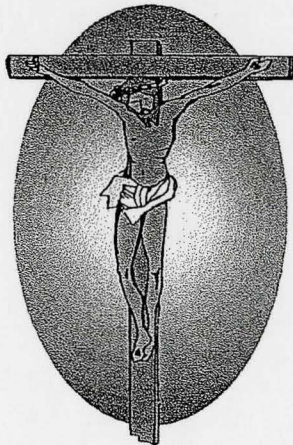
**Wisdom
Right knowledge rightly applied.
It is knowing the right thing,
And knowing how to do the right thing
In the right way, at the right place, and
At the right time, and doing it.
It is our intellectual, emotional, and spiritual state.**

**The condition whenever we know truth.
Truth - - - The reality that is known and established by God.**

When we apply to life the priceless gifts from God, we became wise.
When we accept Gods' Word humbly, and value it above everything else we
become wise. (Proverbs. 1:1-7; 2:6; 8:10-11; 3:5-8; 4:7)
Wisdom plus knowledge and agape love equals a balanced Christian.
Wisdom is the by-product of knowing God and loving Him.
If you lack wisdom, pray. James 1:5-8
When you practice wisdom you learn what it is like. James 3:13-18

**Killing is not a health care!
In the name of Jesus stop killing the unborn.
"America is great when it is good
When America ceases to be good
She will no longer be great."
---French Statesman**

THE POWER OF JESUS
IN THE
LIFE OF THE BELIEVER



We need power to live the victorious life. That power is in Jesus. According to Ephesians 1:18-19, it is a resurrection power that enables you and me to live the abundant and victorious life. Here is a continuation of a little of this and a little of that more focused on the power of Jesus.

The power of Jesus changes a person

- From greed to generosity
- From cursing to prayer
- From avowed enemy to forgiving friend
- From wrathful to gentle
- From debauchery to temperance
- From vice to virtue

Prayer

**Instead of praying in faith and believing God's word, we often are
praying in fear, hoping;
praying in despair, doubting.
"Lord, I believe, help my unbelief."**

Things that are impossible with men are possible with God. God can do anything. What he does is always wise and good.

A pat on the back stimulates far more than a kick in the pants.

Season your conversation with salt of grace. Then you'll have right answers for everyone.
(Col. 4:6, 1 Peter 3:15).

**Keep your eyes focused on far horizons. The light that shines farthest away will shine
brightest at home.**

Aim high and you'll soar. (Isaiah 40:31)

Why does time go faster after you're 50? Once you're over the hill, you pick up speed.

The learning edge: talk less, listen more.

A true friend ---
Loves at all times. Prov. 17:17
Sticks closer than a brother. Prov. 19:24

**A genuine friend sets us free to be
Who we are and
What we are.
A friend accepts us as we are,
Yet helps us to be what we can be.
A friend affirms us when we are weak -
A friend gives strength to set us free.**

**Sin takes you further than you intended to stray.
Sin will keep you longer than you intended to stay.
Sin will cost you more than ever you intended to pay.**

Anonymous

Don't waste your time with friction.
Hope makes way for momentum.

Formula for failure: Try to please everyone.
Formula for success: Seek to do good to others.

Dare to fail!
If we attempt nothing, we'll succeed at nothing.
If we try and fail we gain. We learn from our failures.

**Nothing costs as much as loving except not loving.
To love is to be vulnerable and transparent.**

The goal of a Christian:
To practice continual awareness of the presence of God.

Don't become so addicted to activity and so compelled by work that you shirk your responsibility to pray. Be faithful to God.

Prayer is so difficult because it's so important. Satan knows it.

Keep on keeping on praying! Working! Watching!

**The Lord's Prayer: sets the agenda for heaven's priorities.
"Heaven's first concerns"**

The real reality of God is in this life, when you savor every idyllic moment God gives you: One second, every minute, let the thought of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit refresh you. Practice His presence at all times.

The fruit of the Spirit is the outward evidence of God's Spirit's work within; like love, kindness and humility. That's what the world needs to see in the believer. Gal. 5:22

The Son of God became a Son of Man so that the sons of earth might become sons of God.

Instead of getting what I wanted, I was given the unexpected gift of order and discipline.

"If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can accomplish it."

God's Son, Jesus Christ, became man (Incarnation) so that by His perfect Life His atoning
Death, His glorious Resurrection, we may become Children of God.

Redemption-Regeneration-Adoption

Some doubt their beliefs until they believe their doubts. That's unbelief!

David made it clear to Solomon-by the writing from the hand of God concerning the
Temple he was to build. 1 Chronicles 28:19

We become so busy doing that we have no time for being. What you are is more
important than what you do.

The devil wants you so good that you don't need Jesus.

**I will be no man's enemy.
I am a friend to what's eternal and abiding.
I will keep clear of quarreling.**

If you don't learn from the past you'll repeat it.

What a man thinks in his heart, so is he.

Waiting time is not wasting time.

**-Relax in God's peace.
-Refresh in God's energies.
-Relinquish in God's wisdom**

Emphasis on Money
Integrity-Honesty
Frugality
Accountability
My responsibility: To maximize all God has given me.

**Ten two-letter words sentences:
IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME.**

The Gospel is a message to be heralded, not a secret to be hidden.

Without prayer, mission becomes exhausted obedience. Without mission, prayer becomes irrelevant.

I want to learn the art of listening to the heartbeat of Jesus.

Humor, God's safety valve for relieving the pressures of life.

John Wesley on money: "Make all you can; save all you can; Give all you can."

My faith rests securely on Jesus Christ.

A Christian is:
Child, John 1:12
Heir, Romans 8:17
Redeemed, Ephesians 1:7
Influential, Matthew 5:16
Soldier, 2 Timothy 2:3
Temple, 1 Corinthians 3:16
Instrument, Romans 6:13
Ambassador, 2 Corinthians 5:20
New Creature, 2 Corinthians 5:17

God's Miracle

The miracle is not what you do for God. It's what God makes of you. It's what you are and become. But you can't change yourself. The miracle takes place in the quiet. Something happens as you spend time in God's presence. Your very personality and character are being changed imperceptibly. You can't see it. You can't feel it. But you will. Be faithful in persistent prayer. You will be that miracle. The ultimate will be inexpressible joy.

The Dawn Has Come

“Rise and shine, for the light has come!”
“No let me sleep a little longer. I’m so tired.”
Begin the day with God. He invites you. Don’t keep Him waiting!
He gives the resources for your day
To energize and give you wisdom to do your work well.
To empower you for victory over temptation and sin.
To enable you to witness effectively for your Savior.
“By your life you tell what you are; by your words you tell why
you are what you are.”
The Dawn is here. Meet your Lord in the “quiet” of each new day.

New Life

Some years ago there was a German countess who prided herself on being an infidel, a nonbeliever. To prove her point, she decreed that when she died, concrete should be put over her grave so that nothing might open it. Then it was to be inscribed on top of the concrete that on one was to open the grave, thus proving that death was final. But to the amazement of all, an unknown small acorn found its way under the concrete. Today the concrete lies in shambles, broken apart by a huge oak tree, as if to say that no lie that anyone can ever concoct will be able to have the final say that there is no life after death.

Source Unknown

**Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi
Lord**

**Make me an instrument
Of Your Peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.**

**O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much
Seek to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that
We are pardoned.
It is in dying that we
Are born to eternal life.**

I will be glad and rejoice in you. I will sing praise to your name, O most high. Psalm 9:2

What police discovered was actually a profound principle. The Hebrew shalom is often translated "peace," but it actually meant a community ordered according to God's moral law, leading to harmony and tranquility. Augustine called it the tranquillitas ordinis, the tranquility that comes from order. That is, when people live according to God's moral order that creates harmony while reducing social pathologies.

Source Unknown

When God gets a grip on our lives, nothing remains untouched.

We thank you, Lord for happy hearts,
For rain and sunny weather.
We thank you, Lord, for this our food
And that we are together.
Thank you, Thank you, thank you, Lord.
Thank you, thank you, Father.
Thank you, thank you for our food.
And that we are together.

Bless our friends. Bless our food.
Come, O Lord, and sit with us.
May our talk Glow with peace,
May your love surround us,
Friendship and love
May it bloom and grow.
Bloom and grow forever.
Bless our friends. Bless our food.
Bless our dear land forever.

All for Jesus

All for Jesus, all for Jesus.
All my being's ransomed powers,
All the thoughts and words and doings,
All my days and all my hours.
All for Jesus, all for Jesus.
All my days and all my hours.

Let my hands perform his bidding,
Let my feet run in his ways,
Let my eyes see Jesus only,
Let my lips speak forth his praises.
All for Jesus, all for Jesus.
Let my lips speak forth his praises.

Since my eyes were fixed on Jesus,
I've lost sight of all beside,
So enchained my spirit's vision,
Looking at the Crucified.
All for Jesus, all for Jesus.
Looking at the Crucified.

Oh, what wonder, how amazing.
Jesus glorious King of kings,
Deigns to call me his beloved,
Lets me rest beneath his wings.
All for Jesus, all for Jesus,
Resting now beneath his winds.

**To laugh often and much;
To win the respect of intelligent people;
To win the affection of children;
To earn the appreciation of honest critics;
To endure the betrayal of false friends
To appreciate beauty;
To find the best in others;
To leave the world a bit better;
Whether by a healthy child
A garden patch;
Or a redeemed social condition;
To know one life has breathed "easier" because you have lived
THIS IS TO HAVE SUCCEEDED. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)**

**Do all the good you can,
By all means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.
John Wesley**

Finish each day and be
Done with it. You have
Done what you could; some
Blunders and absurdities
Have crept in; forget them
As soon as you can.

Tomorrow is a new day;
You shall begin it serenely
And with too high a spirit to
Be encumbered with your
Old nonsense.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

**"Warning: Dates in Calendar are closer than they appear."
Bumper Sticker**

"If you are planning for a
year, sow rice; if you are
planning for a decade,
plant trees; if you are
planning for a lifetime,
educate people."
Chinese Proverb

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow."
Anonymous

"Write the bad things that
are done to you in the sand,
but write the good things
that happen to you on a
piece of marble."
--Arabian Parable

In Christ---
We have a love that can never
Be fathomed;
A life that can never die;
A peace that can never be
Understood;

A rest that can never be
Disturbed;
A joy that can never be
Diminished;
A hope that can never be
Disappointed;
A glory that can never be
Clouded.

WHEN THE SPOUSE HAS DIED

Widows and Widowers--- You may
Still celebrate your wedding anniversary.

Have a Memory book.---

--How we met.

--Stories of dating, romance and engagement.

--The Wedding day: Things you want to "remember not to forget to remember."

--How you felt as children were born.

--Facing major decisions.

--Children write memories of Dad or Mom.

--Grandchildren write memories of Grandma or Grandpa.

Have a Family Dinner.

--Read from the Memory book.

--Share other remembrances.

LET GOD ENHANCE YOUR MEMORIES

Six Steps to Enriching Your Prayer Life

Place	Have a regular place to pray where you can feel in tune with God.
Practice	Develop the regular practice of prayer, but personal growth usually comes from being alone with God.
Privacy	There are times for group prayer. Being alone may give insights never imagined.
Posture	Pray in any position, but remember that kneeling to pray helps develop humility.
Purpose	Forget yourself, seek God's will and His glory
Price	Be ready to go through the process of emptying yourself of negatives so God can fill you with His love and power.

The Benefit of Work

Thank God every morning when you get up that
you have something to do that day which must be done, whether you like it or not.

Being forced to work and forced to do your best will breed in you temperance
and self-control, diligence and strength of will, cheerfulness and contentment, and a
hundred virtues which the idle never know.

-Charles Kingsley

"My Friend"

My friend, I stand in judgment now,
And feel you are to blame somehow.
On earth I walked with you day by day,
And never did you point the way.
You knew the Lord in truth and glory,
But never did you tell the story.
My knowledge then was very dim,
You could have led me safe to Him.
Though we lived together there on earth,
(yet) You never told me of the second birth.
And now I stand this day condemned,
Because you failed to mention Him.
You taught me many things that's true,
I called you friend and trusted you.
But I learned now that it's too late,
You could have saved me from this fate.
We walked by day, and talked by night,
And yet you showed me not the light.
You let me live and love and die,
And you knew I'd never live on high.
Yes, I called you friend and trusted
You through joy and strife.
And yet on coming to you this end,
I cannot call you now, my friend.

-Unknown-

FAITH ENCOURAGER

What would have happened had Moses tried to figure out all that was needed to accomplish God's command?

One of the biggest arithmetical miracles in the world would be required in the desert. Now that Moses had led the people of Israel to the desert, what was he going to do with them? They had to be fed, and feeding three or three and a half million people would require a lot of food.

According to the Quartermaster General in the Army, Moses would have needed 1,500 tons of food each day. That much food would fill two freight trains each a mile long.

Besides, you must remember, they were out in the desert, and they would have needed firewood to use in cooking the food. This would take 4,000 tons of wood and a few more freight trains each mile long, just for one day. And they were 40 years in transit.

Oh, yes, they would have needed water. If they only had enough to drink and wash a few dishes, it would have taken 11,000,000 gallons each day-enough water to fill a freight train 1,800 miles long.

And then another thing! They had to get across the Red Sea in one night. Now if they went on a narrow path, double file, the line would be 800 miles long and would require 35 days and nights to get through.

So there had to be a space in the Red Sea 3 miles wide, so they could walk 5,000 abreast to get over in
One night.

Think about this: Every time they camped at the end of the day, a campground two-third the size of the State of Rhode Island was required, or a total of 750
Square miles.

Do you think Moses figured all this out before he left? I think not. You see, Moses believed in God. He had faith that God was going to take care of these
Things for him.

Let us take courage; we have the same God. We think our problems are so big. Remember what God can do! Just team up with God, and your problems will be in His care. Let Him run your life, and as the old song says, "He will take care of you."

-Author Unknown

The purpose of life - have life with a purpose.

**Celebrations make the news.
Heroes make History.**

Believe - is to lean your whole weight on.

**Failure may be personal. It's humiliating and image wrecking.
Those who make mistakes take risks.**

- 1. VISUALIZE the next big win.**
Never waver in your positive attitude.
Be resilient.
Optimists bounce back. "My problems are temporary."
Pessimists give up. "For them failures are permanent."
- 2. TAKE RISKS without dreading failure.**
Think unconventionally
You can stumble only if you're moving. So keep moving. When you do, get up, get going.
- 3. SET tangible goals.**
Keep your focus on your goal.
- 4. Bend in a Crisis.**
Adversity in youth helps people adapt and rebound.
Resilient people know how to respond.
- 5. Expect storms.**
"Stop stewing in your misery."
Despair can become a character builder.

6. SEE YOURSELF as others see you.

Develop self-awareness. Step outside of yourself.

Get another viewpoint.

Dangers: Perfectionism.

That which is intimidating? Confrontation.

Positives: Be understanding; become patient; be a good listener;

Be compassionate: Accept bad news for what it is.

Have the courage to take on difficult challenges.

If you look for the safe place you will stay stuck.

Sweet are the uses of adversity.

Failure may save you, prod you, carry you, make you.

DON'T BE AFRAID OF FAILURE.

**Some seek to change Christianity to please men;
Rather we should change men to please God.**

**When loss would overwhelm you,
Move beyond the loss to acceptance.
You will find yourself a happy person.**

You can conquer the adversities you think will never pass.

**Difficulties can change.
When a person has hope and is inventive
He can move mountains. Mk. 11:23**

A Moment's Sin - A lifetime of regret.

**Sin Beckons: "Take a taste."
Remember: "What a waste."**

Mistakes may be the bridge between inexperience and wisdom.

Gratitude is a virtue.

**True Greatness has simplicity, humility, goodness and truth.
Leon Tolstoy**

He is miserable who knows all things, but does not know God.
He is happy who knows God, even though he knows nothing else.
St. Augustine

Delay gratification for greater satisfaction.

Remember: Problems are for solving, not dissolving.

Happiness isn't having what you want. It's wanting what you have. The secret is contentment.

Triumph over tragedy!

You get knowledge from college.
You get wisdom from God.
Don't be an educated fool.

Maturity

**Growing up on the inside so you can control yourself on the outside.
An ongoing process. It's not a finished product.
Moving on toward perfection.**

Don't give to get. You get to give.

You get as you give what you get.

Gossip: Making a mountain out of a little dirt.

THE LIGHT

**It was like a glimmer from diamonds.
Or like the glint of polished silver.
Yet it was soft, warm, comforting with a hint of gold that seemed to
Move within. That light like myriads of tiny flames.**

The Lamb

**Money!!!
Earn it.
Spend it.
Save it.
Give it.
Leave it.**

God's Peace ► ► ► ► Your Peace By Faith

John 14:27

Ps. 119:165

Isa. 26:3,4

Phil. 4:6-7, 8-9

Col. 3:15

I Thes. 5:23,24

John 16:33

Christ's Triumph ► ► ► ► Your Victory By Faith

II Cor. 2:14

I Cor. 15-57

Rom. 8:57

Eph. 3:20-21

Jude: 24-25.

Christ's Joy ► ► ► ► Your Joy

John 15:11

Ps. 5:11

Ps. 30:11-12, Ps.32-11

Ps. 96:11-13

Isa. 51:11

Fear knocked. Faith answered. No one was at the door.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

"Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Is happiness pursuing us? Is it blocked by selfishness, dishonesty, anger or greed?

Love your age whatever it is. When young, middle-aged, old, don't wish for another age.
Enjoy the one you have now.

Pain and Misery

Pain is inevitable. Misery is optional.

Pain is a fact of life. Misery is a state of mind.

Misery can be controlled or altered by an act of the will.

**When you begin to feel sorry for yourself, or discouraged, or
depressed, open the door and invite those unwelcome guests to leave.**

Then invite our Lord to fill the empty space with His peace, love and light.

If I give her money she'll likely use it for drinks. The replay: "Perhaps." But God sometimes sends people like that to test our generosity. The ACT of giving is more important than the merits of the receiver.

*Lord, give me grace---
To speak when I ought to speak;
To keep quiet when I ought not speak.
And Lord, give me the wisdom to know the difference.
(Given by the Lord when I needed it.)*

"Thank you, Erman, for a great week here at Mount Carmel. I won't remember all I heard. But I feel cleaner inside."

My Dad, Iver H. Lunder

Conclusion

A Conclusion that Anticipates

“Humor is the oil that keeps the machinery of life from squeaking” My wife, Stella, had humor in her life, and had lots of fun living. Sometimes she’d sing, with a twinkle in her eye, “When I come to the end of a lollipop and sit alone with the stick...” What then? There was satisfaction. She enjoyed the refreshment, now was the memory, but also the anticipation of another time.

What you have read here is meant to stimulate you to want more of God’s blessings. For the present you can take what is written here. You think, you ponder that which has caught your eye and imagination, now you take it from there. I want your focus to be the Lord Jesus Christ. As you focus on Jesus, the Son of God, you will do so through the scriptures. The Holy Spirit will be teaching you. Jesus will reveal to you, God, our Father in Heaven. *God has given Him a name. It is a name above every other name. At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow. Every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. That will give glory to God, the father (Phil. 2:9-11).*

I would like to share what I do in my own devotional time. It’s the first of my devotions, generally around five o’clock in the morning. I have a folded bath towel on which I kneel (you may not like to kneel, but I find it best for me). This is what I do.

1. I place upon myself the cross of Jesus, with these words: “In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”
2. Then I affirm these scriptures.
 - *I have been CRUCIFIED with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but **CHRIST LIVES IN ME**. The life I now live in this body, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me (Galations 2:20).*
 - *Those who belong to Christ have CRUCIFIED the flesh with its passions and desires (Galations 5:24).*
 - *Far be it for me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been CRUCIFIED to me, and I to the world (Galations 6:14).*
3. As I ponder the crucifixion of my sinful self, I consider myself dead to sin and alive to God in Jesus Christ (Romans 6:11). By faith I cover myself with the blood of Christ.
 - *The blood of Jesus, God’s Son, cleanses me from all sin (1John 1:7).*
 - *In Jesus we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which he lavished upon us (Ephesians 1:7).*
 - *The martyrs overcame the devil by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. For they loved not their lives even unto death (Revelation 12:11).*At this point I often take time to pray for martyrs and those who are suffering for their faith that God will keep them faithful.
4. The following is prayer and affirmations to God.

“Through Paul, God said, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. He tells us to put on the whole armor of God, so that we may be able to stand

against the schemes of the devil. For we are not fighting against people, flesh, and blood. But it is against rulers and authorities and powers. It is against the demonic hosts of evil in heavenly places. So we are to put on God's whole armor. Then when the evil day comes we will be able to stand." (Ephesians 6:10ff)

"Stand therefore!" You may stand on your knees. No one is as tall as when on his knees. You may want to stand as you put on God's full armor.

1. I put on the belt of truth around my waste.
2. I put on the breastplate of righteousness.
3. I put on my feet the equipment of the Gospel of peace.
4. I hold up the shield of faith.
5. I put on the helmet of salvation.
6. I take the sword of the Spirit, the word of God.

Here I focus on Jesus.

1. Jesus, you are the truth. (John 14:6)
2. Jesus, you are my righteousness. (1 Corinthians 1:30)
3. Jesus, you are my peace. (Ephesians 2:14)
4. Jesus, you are my shield. I put my faith and trust in you as my defender.
5. Jesus, you are the helmet of salvation. You have saved me from the penalty of sin, and also from the power of sin.
6. Jesus, your Word is the sword of the Spirit. You are the living Word.

"So I watch and pray!"

From here I go on with intercessions for my family, my church and for the needs of our nation and the world. It is important to keep my focus on Jesus. He said, "*The Father has given all judgment to the Son that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.*" John 5:22-23 "*Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the anti-christ – he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.* 1 John 2:22-23

I like to intersperse my devotions with singing. Here's a song that focuses on Jesus.

JESUS, JESUS ONLY JESUS, CAN MY HEARTFELT LONGING STILL. SEE, I PLEDGE MYSELF TO JESUS, WHAT HE WILLS, ALONE TO WILL. FOR MY HEART WHICH HAS FILLED, EVER CRIES, LORD, AS THOU WILT.

ONE THERE IS FOR WHOM I'M LIVING, WHOM I LOVE MOST TENDERLY. JESUS, UNTO WHOM I'M GIVING, WHAT IN LOVE HE GAVE TO ME. JESUS' BLOOD HIDES ALL MY GUILT; LEAD ME LORD, THEN AS THOU WILT.

SEEMS A THING TO ME A TREASURE WHICH DISPLEASING IS TO THEE. THEN REMOVE SUCH DANGEROUS PLEASURE; GIVE INSTEAD WHAT PROFITS ME. LET MY HEART BY THEE BE STILLED, LEAD ME LORD, THEN AS THOU WILT.

GRANT THAT I MAY E'ER ENDEAVOR THY GOOD PLEASURE TO FULFILL. IN ME, THROUGH ME, WITH ME EVER; LORD, ACCOMPLISH THOU THY WILL. LET ME DIE, LORD ON THEE BUILT, WHEN, AND WHERE, AND AS THOU WILT.

LORD, MY PRAISE SHALL BE UNCEASING FOR THOU'ST THYSELF FOR ME; AND BESIDE SO MANY A BLESSING THAT I NOW SING JOYFULLY. BE IT UNTO ME MY SHIELD, AS THOU WILT, LORD, AS THOU WILT.

--Ludvig. M. Lindeman
1812 – 1887

I now invite you to use my Lunderisms as you desire and keep yourself on the growing edge.

Keep humor in your life, and keep the machinery of your life from squeaking.

If you're ready to grow, I give you the following ---

Start at the beginning of the book. Look up the Scripture references in your Bible. Read the context out of which the reference comes. You may like to highlight those that have special meaning to you. Memorize one or two scriptures a week. That will nourish your soul and spirit.

Now "grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and to the day of eternity." II Pet. 3:18

I use the RSV Translation.

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WONDERFUL GRACE

April 30, 2000 was a wonderful day in Homer, Alaska. I preached and had two Bible Studies. That night I wondered if I would survive. I struggled with each breath. I said, "Lord, I'm ready to come home if you are taking me now. But I don't want these dear people to have to send my body back to Issaquah."

I survived the night. The next day at the clinic the doctor suspected embolism of the lungs. "We must have a CAT scan!" She was right. They found five blood clots, -- one quite large.

I was hospitalized in Homer for a week. Then spent three weeks with my brother-in-law and sister-in-law in Soldotna, AK. That was my healing time. I got home, June 1st.

That fall I had another attack. I called my daughter, Rosalyn, a nurse in northern Minnesota. I told her of my breathing difficulty. Then I asked, "Is it time for me to breathe as long as I can and let the Lord take my home?" Her response: "Daddy, you can't die now! Get to the hospital right away!" I did, by ambulance, and survived.

About six weeks later I had another attack. I called the doctor's office. It was a Sunday. I described my situation to the answering doctor, and said I think I can survive till morning. She asked, "Do you want to die!???" I answered, "I'm ready to die, but I'd like to live." She called 911 and I was taken to emergency. This time they discovered my blood clots came out of my legs. So now I have a "Vena Cava Filter" in the artery that feeds the lungs.

God's grace through medical techniques has kept me alive till now. I'm on my way to glory. But I have lots of things I'd like to accomplish before my Lord takes me home.

God speaks great joy to my heart through this Scripture: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." II Cor. 12:9 So I keep living in the marvelous grace of Jesus.

I am in my 90th year as I write this. I also live in "the attitude of gratitude."

Erman K. Lunder
April 30, 2002