

Dec 27

SHARING THE MESSAGE

Within each personal story of the journey from bondage to freedom is the power of the Gospel to save those who are lost. We are simply sinners saved by grace and kept clean and sober daily by God's mercy. When we tell our story, our lives give witness to God's grace and mercy. We are pointing them to the pathway of their own healing journey with Jesus who said:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to set at liberty those who are oppressed;" (Luke 4:18 NKJV)

The Bible tells us that if someone struggles, we should be gentle and humble as we help them get back on the right path. It is important to remind ourselves how unstable we were when we were slaves to our addiction. We need to support the desire in a person's spirit to carry out their new life choices, even while their flesh is weak. We also need to respectfully warn those whom we perceive are in danger.

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV)

We are not the Saviour, but we can love others as He loves us. Love goes beyond mere words. Sometimes it is demonstrated in silence or in an understanding touch as we come alongside someone who has strayed from the path of recovery. Love doesn't accuse but rather encourages the person to get back on the path to healing and continue the journey.

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, May my life reflect the joy of living life to the full with You so that others may believe in the power of the Gospel to save and transform lives. Amen

Dec 28

STANDING FIRM

As we come to the end of another year and watch news reports which review the events of the past year, we realize how quickly some things change and yet how slowly other things seem to leave. What do we do with all that has gone on in recent times and how do we safely make the move into the new year?

This is a time to remember that God is in control and will fulfill His purposes. Much more is going on in the world than what we may see and hear in the daily news. When we seek God's help in our personal challenges, we are assured that He will help us and bring about those things He has promised. Even when people think they have failed to live up to the potential God has for them, God remains unwavering in His plans, and He will work out His purpose for those who commit their will and life into His care.

For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. (Psalm 33:9-11 NIV)

We must continue to have faith in God's ultimate control if we are to find peace in this fragile and sometimes frightening world. The invitation to us in this week between Christmas and the New Year is to reaffirm our trust in God's promises and His ability to bring about His purposes no matter how chaotic things may appear. We need to wholeheartedly trust God's Word and His vision for us as we firmly hold fast to His promises.

When God says that we will not be overwhelmed, He means it. When God says He will make a way where there seems to be no way, He is able to do just that.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You truly are the Prince of Peace. During this "in between time", come and live in me and strengthen me to follow Your Principles in all my ways. Amen

Dec 29

KNOWING GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES

In Step-11 we commit through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God. We pray for knowledge of His will for our lives and the power to carry it out. Christmas is a time when we think of the plan that God had for Jesus when He came into this world as a human baby. About eight hundred years before Jesus was born the prophet Isaiah spoke of a sign regarding His birth.

Jesus came at God's appointed time and angels announced His arrival to shepherds in the fields. We read in the Bible of many amazing things that God did to protect Jesus from those who wanted to cause Him harm. When we believe in Jesus, whom God sent into the world, God will protect us from any evil that might be planned against us. Jesus spoke often of His Father's love and care for those who accept Him and obey the Scriptures.

Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them. (John 14:21 NLT)

For more than two thousand years people have celebrated God's plan of salvation that was fulfilled through Jesus. Through prayer and meditation on God's Word we can know God's plan for our lives. God does not ask us to fulfill His plan on our own, He gives us the Holy Spirit to help us. Jesus said if we want to be His disciples, we must deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Him.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it." (Matthew 16:24-25 NLT)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Thank You for Jesus who came to earth to fulfill Your plan of redemption for mankind. Please show me Your will for my life and strengthen me by the Power of Your Holy Spirit to carry it out. Amen

Dec 30

SERVICE WORK

From the time of creation, it has been God's plan that humans provide support and care for one another. In recovery circles we call this service work. The freedom from pain and active addiction we have in this day of sobriety and the support that we have received from God and others is now a gift we can offer to others as they begin their journey with God in recovery.

My brothers and sisters, God chose you to be free. But don't use your freedom as an excuse to do what pleases your sinful selves. Instead, serve each other with love. (Galatians 5:13 ERV)

What does it mean to be of service in recovery? It means that we make ourselves available to help someone. It can be as simple as smiling and offering a welcoming hand as someone enters a meeting or picking up our phones and texting someone to let them know we are thinking about them. It can mean answering a call from someone who is going through a trying time and taking time to really listen to what they are concerned about. It can be making a pot of coffee, stacking a chair, running an errand, doing an hour of child-care – the list is endless.

Sometimes the biggest obstacle to our serving is the lack of recognition we get for doing something. We can be encouraged by the fact that whatever we do to help someone or serve a community is noticed by God and He will honour us.

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. (John 12:26, Hebrews 6:10 NIV)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, In gratitude for all You have done for me I want to reach out and serve You and those You love. Help me to seek and find an opportunity to serve You today. Amen

Dec 31

THE END AND THE BEGINNING

In just a few hours the new calendar year will begin. After a challenging year, on what basis do we hope to have a better year? Often, we feel overwhelmed at the start of a new year because we have so much stuff to wade through, so many unanswered questions in our minds, and so many painful things in our hearts. If we have come and gone from recovery in the past year, we might be concerned about our future ability to maintain sobriety for any length of time.

God's answer is very positive, very simple and very direct. It comes in the form of an invitation: ***Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed and get a new heart and a new spirit.*** (Ezekiel 18:30b-31 NIV)

As we wait for the countdown to this new year, it's worth remembering that God has promised us a new heart and a new spirit if we turn our will and our life over to His care. If we choose to do so we will come into this new year as a new person.

Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion (2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT, Philippians 1:6b NIV)

This coming year is a fresh opportunity to go deeper in our experience of coming to believe that a Power greater than ourselves can restore us to sanity. We can't fix ourselves, but God can. This is our New Year's hope.

Prayer: Loving God, As I enter this New Year, I choose to commit myself to You. I repent of my past sins and lay down my fears and resentments. I receive Your forgiveness, Your comfort, and Your healing. I trust and have confidence in Your assurance that You will complete the good work You have begun in me. Amen

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LIFE WITH GOD IN RECOVERY DAILY MEDITATIONS



Between Christmas and New Years

Dec 26

MISSING THE MEANING

Christmas decorations have been up for weeks and malls are bustling with shoppers who are captivated by the Christmas displays and lights while they shop for special gifts for family and friends. Today, let's pause and remember and give thanks for Jesus, the reason we celebrate the season.

The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:9-12 NLT)

Christmas day has come. For so long so many people have been pre-occupied with getting things done for the planned festivities and had not time to really celebrate Jesus, the reason for the season. Some of us have had to deal with loneliness because we couldn't be with family.

So today, let's take time to intentionally leave all those things behind and just spend time with God. Jesus is the reason for the season. Let's invite His presence into our lives, wherever we find ourselves today, in whatever condition we experience the day.. Let's simplify things and just bring to mind God's generous love for us. Let's fill these in between days with direction and meaning as we include Jesus in our thoughts and activities.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Thank You for the gift of Jesus to the world. Help me to stop fretting about things that are troublesome or out of my control, and truly celebrate Jesus, for He is Immanuel, God with us. Amen