



DAY 1 (WITH PASTOR BILL BREYLINGER)

SCRIPTURE

“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.’”
John 8:12 (NIV)

THOUGHTS

This world is often a place of darkness. Everything is tainted by sin. You’ve seen it and you’ve experienced it for yourselves. But it’s not just the world. We are filled with darkness, the darkness of sin, and we are part of the problem. We spread the darkness through our own personal sin and selfishness. We’ve earned the darkness in our lives and that’s why we need Jesus, *“the Light of the world.”* But we don’t just need it, we have it! Louie Giglio, in his book *“At the Table with Jesus”* says, The Light of the World is available to burn away the darkness, strengthen your perception, and bring clarity each and every day.

PRAYER

Forgive me for creating the darkness in my life by thinking negative thoughts, creating worse-case-scenarios, and massaging my own sin nature. Walk with me today, Jesus, for where you are there’s always light. AMEN



DAY 2 (WITH CHRIS HESS)

SCRIPTURE

“A farmer went out to sow seed. ⁴ While he was scattering the seed, some of it fell by the road. The birds came and ate all that seed. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where there was not enough dirt. It grew very fast there, because the soil was not deep. ⁶ But when the sun rose, it burned the plants. The plants died because they did not have deep roots. ⁷ Some other seed fell among thorny weeds. The weeds grew and stopped the good plants from growing. ⁸ But some of the seed fell on good ground. There it grew and made grain. Some plants made 100 times more grain, some 60 times more, and some 30 times more. ⁹ You people who hear me, listen!”
Matthew 13:3b-9

THOUGHTS

The seeds from the Sower fall on four different types of soil. As I understand it ~ the soil represents my heart and the seed His Word. My emotions, circumstances, busyness, and self-centeredness, often dictate the condition of my heart.

Thank goodness the Lord uses pastors, friends and especially His Word to keep sowing those good seeds for my heart. Each time we hear His Word it sends a few more roots down.

I deserve condemnation for a fickle heart,
But He gives me Mercy.

PRAYER

May my heart be receptive to your Word and may I keep an open heart to your call. Undergird me with knowledge and wisdom to listen to the right Sower. Amen!



DAY 3 (WITH PASTOR JIM LANIER)

SCRIPTURE

“From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.” Galatians 6:17 (NIV)

THOUGHTS

In some cultures, people honor the ‘marks’ of Jesus by participating in very different and sometimes controversial rituals. In the Philippines, there is a tradition where someone will actually play the role of Jesus and be beaten until he bleeds followed by carrying the cross until he collapses. In Galatians, Paul is not speaking of showing what it might mean to have the same scars as Jesus did. Rather, he is speaking of his own scars that have come to him ‘mentally’ for following Jesus. Paul went through very difficult times living through his faith rather than fear and that left great scars. He was in prison and had to deal with many mental issues trying to follow Jesus. He wants us to know that to truly follow our Savior, we will definitely run into trouble! We may be made fun of, ridiculed, and laughed at. Following Jesus is not for the weak. To take up our cross is to every day, walk the path of His teachings regardless of the outcome. He knows the outcome and the Scripture. “Well done my good and faithful servant” is what we all hope to hear one day!

PRAYER

Lord, give me the courage I need to follow you at all times and in all circumstances. Help me to build my faith on you and to bear the scars of my faith unconditionally. In your precious name, amen.



DAY 4 (WITH RYAN HAYNIE)

SCRIPTURE

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

THOUGHTS

In all the years I’ve been a believer, I never really knew how faith can transform your reality. That was especially apparent when my wife was on her death bed after having our first child together. The doctors were saying that she wasn’t going to make it through, and I had started to believe that too. Between seeing my son in the Neonatal ICU and my wife in the ICU, I would go down to the chapel at Tampa General Hospital to pray. I would keep praying for God to save my wife, as I didn’t want my son to grow up without a mother. I would also pray for God to send someone to me to help.

The last time I went down to that chapel, a homeless man walked in as I was crying my heart out to God. He called me to him; not by name, but to talk with him. That homeless man started preaching to me in my darkest hour when I was at my breaking point, telling me that if I held onto my faith that my wife would recover from this, and if I believe in it wholeheartedly, it shall be so. From that moment forward, I held onto my faith that my wife would fully recover and walk out of this hospital. Her mom thought I was nuts given her condition, but I told her I had it on good authority that she would recover.

Within the hour, the color returned to her lips and face. The next day, she was moved out of the ICU. And the very next day, she was walking out of that hospital under her own power. From that day forward, I knew I had been visited by one of God’s angels. When we deserve to be confused in our own doubts, He makes the way for us to find our true purpose. Have you ever been lost before? Have you ever given up all hope? Jesus is the one who will leave the 99 to find the one lost soul. He wants to save YOU from being lost and put you on the right path.

PRAYER

Jesus, I thank you for never giving up on me. Even when I’m lost in my doubts, you shine your light upon my path so I can walk the path you want me to. I will always trust you and know that I will always be covered by your protection and love. In your name I pray, amen.



DAY 5 (WITH PASTOR EDDIE MORRISON)

SCRIPTURE

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1 (NIV)

THOUGHTS

Until the age of eleven or twelve, I was a terrible kid. I was rude to my parents and teachers, bad language, always getting in trouble, weekly visits to the principal's office, and a lot of fights. One day after school, instead of going home, I wanted to teach a new friend how easy it was to steal from Walmart. Apparently, it wasn't that easy. I got caught, arrested, handcuffed, and a free ride to the police department.

Later that night in my room, I started thinking about what had just happened earlier that day, about who I was as a person, and I decided I didn't want to be that person anymore. So, lying in bed by myself, I asked Jesus to come into my heart, and to help me become a better person. I'm sure not many people thought that I would amount to much. I deserved to be counted out, but God gave me a second chance at life.

PRAYER

Heavenly father, thank you for being slow to anger, and being a God of second chances. I know I'm not perfect, but I am made righteous through the sacrifice of Jesus. In Jesus name, amen.



DAY 6 (WITH FAWN WATERMAN)

SCRIPTURE

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

THOUGHTS

I come from a very big family of ten kids: seven brothers, two sisters, and me. I am one of the youngest, and you know what they say about the youngest...spoiled! Maybe I am, maybe I'm not, but I do tend to get a lot from my older brothers. Even when I have done nothing to deserve it, my brothers will come to my house with gifts or money. Their wives kind of go with the flow. After all, I am one of the baby sisters and that's what we do in our family. We are gift givers even when you don't deserve it. God is like that. God gave us the gift of grace. It's like getting something good that you don't deserve. Our wonderful God gives us this grace every single day. New grace and new mercy is there for us and it's not because of what we do or who we are, but who our Father in Heaven is. He gives us grace.

PRAYER

Thank you, God, for giving me a gift I could never earn. You loved me so much that you give me new grace and mercy each and every day. You are a loving God. Thank you, Father. Amen



DAY 7 (WITH TRACEY CARABALLO)

SCRIPTURE

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

THOUGHTS

This verse is one of my go-to verses in Scripture, that I can recite word-for-word without even thinking. It’s not just a head knowledge, it’s a heart knowledge. It comforts me and I truly believe every Spirit inspired word! Yet often I allow doubt and fear to creep in.

In my position as Union’s Treasurer, there is a constant war raging within me between what I see and what I know; and what I see, often gives way to doubt, anxiety and fear. What I SEE, is that despite our faithful and generous congregation and our persistent commitment to being good Spirit led stewards, our financial obligations often exceed what is in our storehouse. What I KNOW, is that the God of the impossible has and always will make a way when there seems to be no way; just like He did with manna in the wilderness and five loaves and two fish to feed over 5,000. His supernatural provision sustained us through a worldwide pandemic. He made sure we not only survived...we thrived and reduced our debt at an accelerated pace.

I deserve fear to afflict me, if I still doubt after seeing the evidence of His faithful provision or question His ability to continue to do so! Really Tracey!!! And though I beat myself up for my doubt and fear, He doesn’t. Instead, He extends His lavish grace and never fails to gently and lovingly remind me of His promises – that He is JEHOVAH JIREH (our provider). He replaces my fear with FAITH.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, although I deserved fear to consume me for doubting your provision, I am thankful for your grace and faithfulness to restore my faith. Through the power of your Spirit, help me to always choose faith in your promises over fear of my circumstances. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.



DAY 8 (WITH PASTOR AARON JAHJAH)

SCRIPTURE

“We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It’s a wonder God didn’t lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on his own, with no help from us!” Ephesians 2:3-5 (MSG)

THOUGHTS

Not too long ago, I was driving home from my brother’s house. It was a little later than usual for me to get home, as I had work the next morning. I was tired and wanted to get home as quick as possible. So, I decided to give the gas pedal a little more love that evening. I was going 65MPH in a 55MPH stretch. I mean I was only 10MPH over – not that serious right? Well, not according to the officer who pulled me over. You know the drill:

Officer: Sir, do you know why I pulled you over?

Me: Yes sir, I do. I was speeding.

Officer: Where are you going in such a hurry?

Me: Home, and I really need to use the bathroom bad (I might’ve fabricated the last part a little bit)

Officer: I need your license, insurance, and registration

Me: Yes sir

Officer: I’ll be back (Now, we all know depending on how long he takes in the vehicle determines if you’re going to get a ticket or not. Finally he walks back to my truck 5 minutes later and returns my documentation.) Here you go sir; next time watch your speed. You’re free to go! Get home safe.

Me: THANK YOU JESUS and THANK YOU OFFICER!

It’s just like Jesus (but way better) – He took our punishment, He looks past our wrongs, and doesn’t give us what we really deserve.

PRAYER

Father, I know I deserve to be condemned, but You give me mercy. You look past my faults and see Jesus. Thank You! I love You with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. In Jesus name.



DAY 9 (WITH PASTOR BILL BREYLINGER)

SCRIPTURE

“For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future,³⁹ neither the world above nor the world below—there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord. Roman 8:38-39 (TEV)

THOUGHTS

Many churches teach that you can fall out of fellowship with God when you sin. That unconfessed sin disqualifies you for communion. The New Testament never teaches this! You are either in fellowship with God through Jesus’ finished work on the cross or you are lost and out of fellowship with God and still dead in your sins. Your fellowship with God is unshakeable and unbreakable. Sure, sin has consequences, but it is impotent in separating you from the love and forgiveness of God.

PRAYER

God, help me to always remember your truth when I stumble or fail in my daily walk. There are times when my selfish sin nature gets the best of me. It is then, my *“Prodigal Loving Father,”* I need you the most, to remind me that I am loved and forgiven. I can never thank you enough for that assurance. Amen!



DAY 10 (WITH CHRIS HESS)

SCRIPTURE

“Let me hear of your loving kindness in the morning. For I trust in you. Teach me the way in which I should walk. For I lift up my soul to you.” Psalm 143:8 (AMP)

“If you wake me each morning with the sound of your loving voice, I’ll go to sleep each night trusting in you. Point out the road I must travel, I am all ears, all eyes before you.”
Psalm 143:8 (MSG)

“Let the morning bring word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.” Psalm 143:8 (NIV)

THOUGHTS

Three translations of this beautiful verse! Wanting, desiring, and expecting to hear from our Lord each day awakens my soul with energy, hope, and purpose – Knowing I am loved and valued by the Creator himself. I certainly do not DESERVE it; however, in His loving kindness He gives me acceptance.

PRAYER

May I keep my eyes on you, Heavenly Father, entrusting my journey and time in your hands. In you Lord, I know you have a plan and purpose for me. Amen!



DAY 11 (WITH PASTOR JIM LANIER)

SCRIPTURE

“O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger, or discipline me in your wrath. Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are shaking with terror. My soul also is struck with terror, while you, O Lord—how long? Turn, O Lord, save my life; deliver me for the sake of your steadfast love.” Psalm 6:1-4 (NIV)

THOUGHTS

In this Psalm, David expresses his distress. Both his body and his soul feel overwhelmed with terror, and he feels that he most certainly deserves condemnation. David realizes he is experiencing the consequence of his own sin so he cries out in physical and spiritual pain, knowing that God’s discipline must be justified for the ways he has disobeyed God. But David’s confession is anchored in his confidence that God will forgive and show His great mercy. In spite of the situation in which David finds himself, he knows that he will not permanently have to feel this terror and distress because of God’s unfailing love. Though David was feeling the pain of his sin, he knew as well as we know today, that our sins have all been forgiven. David knew of God’s love and because of that love for the world, His only Son has taken every one of OUR sins, so we don’t have to feel the weight of guilt and shame.

PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven, thank you for taking on the sins of the world and loving us so much that we can feel free in our hearts each day. I mess up...we all mess up. But what a joy to know that all you want is our love just as you have loved us. I love you Lord, amen.



DAY 12 (WITH RYAN HAYNIE)

SCRIPTURE

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

THOUGHTS

Christianity over the centuries has had a really bad reputation for telling people, "You're going to hell unless you do this, and that.". For many years, I had doubted my own salvation because, "I wasn't good enough" or "I've done too many things wrong to be saved". I tried to tell myself that I'm a child of God and that I am loved, but those nagging voices kept dragging me down.

When I started coming to Union in 2018, I was still on the old mindset that if I didn't repent every day, I wouldn't stand a chance of going to Heaven. After the first time I came and listened to the sermons here, all my fears of going to hell for all of my past choices were wiped away. God's grace is greater than anything that we can fathom. It's also greater than all the voices in the world that try to drag you down. Jesus loved all of humanity: Past, Present, and Future to the point where he sacrificed himself to take on all sin unto Himself. It's the ultimate free gift that can never be taken away from you once you invite Jesus to be your personal Lord and Savior.

We can't buy our salvation or simply keep doing good things to get it. The only way in is just to give your heart to God and accept the free gift that Jesus gave us all through His grace. As long as we keep believing in our salvation and trusting in Jesus' finished work on the cross, we will have our eternal home waiting for us in Heaven once our mission is complete here. We deserved to be condemned, but He gave us mercy.

PRAYER

Father God, I thank you for your abundant and overflowing grace. I thank you for loving us so much that you sent your own Son to take on all of our sins; past, present, and future, so we may abide in you one day when our work here is finished. You have given us the ultimate example of love through your Son, and I pray that we can love others as your Son loved us. In your name I pray, amen.



DAY 13 (WITH PASTOR EDDIE MORRISON)

SCRIPTURE

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

THOUGHTS

Years ago, I heard a story about an old woman and her faith. Every day, throughout the day, she would go to her front porch, hit her knees, and loudly pray and ask God to provide food for her and her family. She would pray the same prayer of faith, thanking God in advance, knowing that he was going to provide. Her next-door neighbor, which happened to be an atheist, decided that he was going to prove to the old woman that there was no God, that he would be the one to provide not God.

So, the neighbor went to the grocery store, picked up groceries, and dropped them off on the old woman’s front porch. The neighbor knocked on the door and ran around the corner to hide, as the old woman came out to see the groceries. As soon as she saw the groceries, she started to scream, “Thank you Jesus”, over and over again. Frustrated, the neighbor came out and told her that there was no God, that Jesus didn’t buy the groceries, but that he had bought the groceries. The old woman looked at the neighbor and said, “Not only did God answer MY prayers, but he made the Devil pick up the bill!”

The old woman never doubted God. It’s easy to live in fear, and that’s what we deserve. But if we truly believe that we are Gods children, he will always provide for us. We deserve fear, but he gave us faith.

PRAYER

Father, you have always provided for me. I pray that you would take this fear and anxiety away and replace it with faith.



DAY 14 (WITH FAWN WATERMAN)

SCRIPTURE

“He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our inequities.”

Psalm 103:10

THOUGHTS

Growing up I remember many days fussing with my siblings about what was fair and right. I was one of the youngest, so many times I was left out, overlooked, or lost. I wanted to be first sometimes, and I wanted to be better than them. I would complain to my mother, and she would say that I couldn't always get what I thought I deserved. Things will not always be fair. That's just the way it is. We are taught through the Bible that God's view of fair is not the same as our view of fair and that's actually a good thing. As people who have been given grace and mercy through the salvation of Jesus Christ, we don't get what we deserve, and this saves our souls for eternity. Life is not always fair. We do not always need to be first or the best. We are going to make mistakes and even fail sometimes, but God offers forgiveness to all of us. It's a good thing life isn't always fair. If it was and we actually got what we deserve we would also get the sin-punishment we deserve. Thank you, Father.

PRAYER

Father God, Redeemer, I am so grateful for the sacrifice of your son, Jesus. I'm grateful for your grace and mercy that forgives my sins as far as the east is from the west. Thank you for not giving me what I deserve but instead giving me salvation and forgiveness. Your love is everlasting. Amen



DAY 15 (WITH TRACEY CARABALLO)

SCRIPTURE

“Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don’t try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God’s voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he’s the one who will keep you on track.”

Proverbs 3:5-6 (MSG)

THOUGHTS

As the saying goes, “hindsight is 20/20”. The definition of hindsight is understanding a situation or event only after it has happened or developed. We’ve all been in a situation where we may have experienced downright confusion about life.

Back in NY I had a job that I absolutely loved. For seven years I worked for NBC and felt blessed each day that I walked through the doors at 30 Rockefeller Center. When God’s plan and purpose brought my family and I to Highlands County, life changed drastically. I took an accounts receivable position, which was so far removed from anything I had ever done before. I learned fast, mastered the position, and exceeded the expectations of my employer, but I wasn’t happy there. I didn’t know why I was there doing something I wasn’t passionate about. I faced each day with the mindset that I was working for God, not man. In my flesh I wanted to leave, but in my Spirit, I knew I couldn’t move until God said move.

Seven years later (7 being God’s number of completion), God replaced my confusion with PURPOSE – He blessed me with the opportunity to serve as the Treasurer here at Union. I would not have been qualified to do my job here had God not prepared me in my previous position for His plan for me. If I had of moved before God’s appointed time, I would have been deserving of a prolonged season of confusion. But His perfect will and timing led me not just to another job, but a calling.

PRAYER

Lord, remind me that Your ways and thoughts are higher than mine; so when things don’t make sense, I’ll trust that You see the big picture and are working ALL things together for my good. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



DAY 16 (WITH PASTOR AARON JAHJAH)

SCRIPTURE

“The payment for sin is death, but the gift that God freely gives is everlasting life found in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:23 (GWT)

THOUGHTS

The other day I went out to eat lunch with a buddy of mine at Cody’s restaurant. Our waitress happened to be a family friend of his. When we finished eating, waiting on our bill, she came back to our table and said, “I’ve taken care of your bill. It’s on me today!” I immediately said, “No, no you don’t have to do that!” She then said, “I know I don’t, but I want to! AND don’t you even think about leaving a tip on the table. This is something I want to do for you!” What a blessing, right? Well, it’s what Jesus did (on a much larger scale) when it comes to what we deserve. He didn’t have to, but He wanted to!

When I think about the love of Jesus, I can’t help but consider the price He paid for the sins I committed, and even the ones that I continue to commit. He took the wage (my punishment payment) that I rightfully DESERVED so He could provide the gift of eternal life for you and me. All our sin has been paid for. When this truth sinks in, we will begin to understand truly how great God’s love is for us. His love paid the full price of the wage so He could give us the gift that we don’t deserve. There is no greater love. Have you received it yet?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, even though I deserved a punishment payment, You picked up the bill instead – because You wanted to, because of Your love for me. May I never take Your gift for granted. In Jesus name, amen.



DAY 17 (WITH PASTOR BILL BREYLINGER)

SCRIPTURE

“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” John 11:25-26 (NIV)

THOUGHTS

Death seems so inevitable and final. The wage of sin is death. We’ve earned it! But Jesus says 3 things to you and me that changes everything in his encounter with Martha after Lazarus’ death.

First, He said, *“I am the resurrection and the life.”* Second, He said, *“The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.”* Finally, Jesus declared, *“Whoever lives by believing in me will never die.”* We deserve death! But Jesus is offering you and me life. Death is simply a passage from this life and our mission to a better version of life. Death is the passage to a better version of this life...Heaven and Eternal life.

But the final question to Martha was important to her and it’s important to us. *“Do you believe this?”*

PRAYER

Thank you, Jesus, for this incredible gift you are offering me.
I don’t have to be afraid of life or death or the future. Help me remember this gift whenever the specter of death and the uncertainty of tomorrow makes me afraid. Amen!



DAY 18 (WITH CHRIS HESS)

SCRIPTURE

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

Romans 12:1

THOUGHTS

As we give our time, to youth, children, the homeless, or volunteering in general, that’s a way of worship. What you do behind the scenes matters to the Kingdom. It will awaken your whole perception of Christian service. You’ll be representing the heart of God and you’ll never know what good seeds you are sowing by helping others.

We don’t volunteer to get God’s approval – He already loves us in spite of ourselves – We volunteer because we’re so grateful of his love and mercy.

PRAYER

Help my perception of worship. Help me serve with a heart focused on you Heavenly Father. My soul sings your praises, and my heart truly wants to magnify the Lord. My flesh is selfish and stubborn, and I need your help. Amen



DAY 19 (WITH PASTOR JIM LANIER)

SCRIPTURE

"For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' ⁴⁴"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' ⁴⁵"He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' ⁴⁶"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." Matthew 25:42-46 (NIV)

THOUGHTS

"Treat others the way you would want to be treated." There's really not much more to say about respect when you read a statement like that! Sometimes I find it very difficult to 'like' everybody. Truth is, people can get on my nerves very easily. But the fact is, this happens to everybody and with God's help, this condition can be treated. But beyond that, it is so important to respect and love everyone just as God shows the same for us. The church itself should be the model for where the hurting, lost, searching, and yes...different soul can find its home.

Matthew Shepard, the young man who was so brutally murdered in 1998 for being gay, had long before left the church because the church he was attending literally asked him to leave when they found out that he was homosexual. Sure, there's right and wrong in Matthew's situation, BUT it's NOT the church's place to judge anyone.

We don't have to always agree, but if Matthew had been treated differently by the church, his path may have taken a different destiny. We, the church, may have believed he deserved rejection; however, God is a God of acceptance. To take for our own, the judgment and wrath of God is wrong and un-Biblical. It's our job as the church to ALWAYS help...not throw out what we view as the 'less worthy'. In God's eyes, NO ONE is less than worthy! God so loves the WORLD.

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, help me every day to look at others with your eyes. Thank you for loving me when I'm not perfect. In Jesus name.



DAY 20 (WITH RYAN HAYNIE)

SCRIPTURE

“Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” Mark 11:24

THOUGHTS

Blind trust can be difficult for any rational thinker or those who like to have control over everything in their lives. But with God, we don't have to be blind. We just simply must open our eyes to the fact that we're covered by His protection. It can sometimes be easier to have faith when you have nothing left to lose, but we need to remember those times, so we don't forget that all we simply need to do is ask God in prayer. Trusting in His providence can be tough, especially when you're having a hard time paying your bills or having enough food for your household. But all you simply must do is ask for help and trust that He's got us covered.

I've been through a lot of crazy financial situations in my life where I didn't know if we would even make it through. My wife would always remind me to hold onto our faith and that God's got His hands over us and that we will make it through. And He has always got us through the tough times with just enough. He always provides just enough. While we deserve fear, He gives us faith to get through the hard times.

PRAYER

Father, I thank you for always providing just enough for us to get by. Whether that be financial troubles, or food, or anything else. You always give just enough. I pray that you help us maintain our faith even in the hardest struggles or storms that come our way and help us remember to just ask and trust in your providence. In your name I pray, amen.



DAY 21 (WITH PASTOR EDDIE MORRISON)

SCRIPTURE

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” Romans 3:23-24

THOUGHTS

I had the sweetest aunt that a person could ever have; but, if you knew her, you knew not to ask her how she was doing...unless you had about 30 minutes to talk. Aunt Jane would not give the typical generic answer, “Good, how are you?” She would take her time and tell you everything that was good and wrong. So being a good nephew, I tried to give her some advice and told her when people ask, just simply say, “Better than I deserve”.

What does that mean? It is an acknowledgment that we have all fallen short and deserve God’s measured anger and just punishment. However, God is a God of love, mercy, grace, compassion, and forgiveness. That means, God daily treats us “better than we deserve”. And of course, for those of us who believe in Jesus, we are especially “better than we deserve”. For those who are in Christ by faith have a new life, a new heart, a fresh start, eternal hope, eternal riches, adoption into God’s family, and a share in his Kingdom. So, no matter what situation you find yourself in, you can always answer the “How are you doing?” question with, “Better than I deserve”.

PRAYER

Heavenly father, even though I fall short of your righteousness daily, thank you for your mercy and your grace. May I never forget that every day is “better than I deserve”. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



DAY 22 (WITH FAWN WATERMAN)

SCRIPTURE

“Well then should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of His wonderful grace. Of course not since we have died to sin, how could we continue to live in it.”

Romans 6:1-2

THOUGHTS

I’m a big gift giver. I’ve been told that gift giving is one of my love languages. I like to give things I don’t mind receiving myself. It doesn’t have to cost a lot, but it should mean a lot. I’m not a cheap person. Cheap doesn’t necessarily mean in price. It could mean in thought or sentiment. Cheap can mean putting no thought into what you’re doing because you really don’t care. Some of us experience cheap grace. It’s the idea that you can keep sinning because you know God will just keep forgiving you anyway. We all do things we shouldn’t do and we kind of convince ourselves that we can ask for forgiveness later. This is cheap grace and there is no excuse for it. We all need to turn away from this cheap grace and turn toward true grace.

PRAYER

Thank you, God, for showing me true grace. If it were not for your grace, I don’t know where I would be. Help me each day to turn away from my sins and turn toward you. Thank you for being a patient Father. Amen



DAY 23 (WITH TRACEY CARABALLO)

SCRIPTURE

“The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are all over His works.” Psalm 145:8-9

THOUGHTS

“Hello. My name is Tracey and I’m a control freak.” I own it! Control has been my drug of choice and the thorn in my side. It gives me the delusion that I am on the throne in my life, and for that I deserve to be condemned. Actually, God doesn’t even have to deliver a punishment because the consequences of my attempts to do His job and taking matters into my own hands are usually enough to give me a reality check. The only control I or any of us truly have is the free will to choose how we respond to our circumstances. I can choose to do it my way and deal with the consequences or do it His way and leave the consequences to Him. If I constantly feel the need to be in control, that is not exercising the trust and faith that I have in Him.

So, I thank God for the depths of His grace and mercy. When He has every reason and right to condemn me and knock me off His throne, He instead mercifully chooses to take His little control freak of a daughter by the hand (or collar sometimes) and leads me right back to the foot of HIS throne in surrender. And I am met with no shame, no guilt, no judgement...just His unwavering love, forgiveness, direction, and mercy.

PRAYER

Father, you give me free will to choose. Even when I fail to make the right choice according to your will, you choose mercy over condemnation. For that I am grateful and pray that you help me to extend that same mercy you so freely shower on me to those you put in my path. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



DAY 24 (WITH PASTOR AARON JAHJAH)

SCRIPTURE

"Christ arrives right on time to make this happen. He didn't, and doesn't, wait for us to get ready. He presented himself for this sacrificial death when we were far too weak and rebellious to do anything to get ourselves ready. And even if we hadn't been so weak, we wouldn't have known what to do anyway. We can understand someone dying for a person worth dying for, and we can understand how someone good and noble could inspire us to selfless sacrifice. But God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him." Romans 5:6-8 (MSG)

THOUGHTS

Our God loves us so much that He didn't wait for us to love Him before He took on what we deserved – before He made the ultimate sacrifice for us. Jesus didn't die for the righteous, but for the sinners; He didn't come for the healthy, but for the sick. Jesus died for us – even while we were of no use whatsoever to Him. Before you and I had even thought of God, He had thought of us – and He decided to give up His Son for us.

We never have to worry about earning God's love and grace. When we're at our worst, God loves us with His best. God has given us the ultimate proof of His love – He's given us His only Son. And He's never going to give up on us.

Have you ever had someone give up on you? Have you ever given up on someone else? It's not a good feeling either way. It leaves one lost, hopeless, and lonely. I'm so glad that even though I don't deserve it, our God is still faithful.

PRAYER

Father, I realize that even on my best days, I still don't measure up. But it didn't then and still doesn't change Your love for me today. Thank You for accepting me even though I deserve to be rejected. In Jesus name, amen.



DAY 25 (WITH PASTOR BILL BREYLINGER)

SCRIPTURE

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (NIV)

THOUGHTS

When you invite Jesus into your life and trust His finished work on the cross you receive 3 things:

- 1) You get a new heart.
(Spiritual passions and desires)
- 2) You get a new human spirit.
(Jesus is not the new creation – YOU ARE!)
- 3) You also receive God’s Spirit (God’s D.N.A.)

You will always be dependent on God, on Christ within you, but it helps that God gave you a heart and spirit in perfect alignment with Him. He’s your source and your strength. Train your heart and mind to listen to God’s encouragement and promises. It’s all there, inside of you. Tune into the voice of the Holy Spirit for direction. Claim God’s promises. Live under His protection and provision. Place yourself in the middle of His plan and purpose for your life.

PRAYER

Help me to remember your promises when I feel like giving up. Give me your strength and answers when I become anxious, impatient, and overwhelmed. Help me connect to my new heart and spirit today. Amen!



DAY 26 (WITH CHRIS HESS)

SCRIPTURE

“But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.’” Isaiah 43:1

THOUGHTS

Oh my, that scripture takes my breath away. I am hooked on the “*Chosen*” television series and have watched the first episode at least twenty times. When I falter (which is a lot), I hear in my spirit those words and it helps re-center me with the love and goodness only God can provide. If you don’t know His love at this depth, I pray your heart is opened and allow His cleansing power to heal you through and through. Being a Christ follower is first and foremost about knowing God, but a big part of living toward eternity is introducing others to Jesus so that they too can have eternal life.

PRAYER

Dear Father, hearing the words of Isaiah 43:1 humbles me and gives me a renewed sense of being yours. I pray everyone will take this scripture to heart and it will change their soul, like it did mine. May we slow down and intentionally live toward eternity.



DAY 27 (WITH PASTOR JIM LANIER)

SCRIPTURE

“Am I now trying to win the approval of man, or God? Or am I still trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.” Galatians 1:10 (NIV)

THOUGHTS

I have a story and it's not one that I'm always proud to share. A past that has many regrets...a life that is full of missed opportunities and paths that I chose rather than paths He had planned for me. I spent way too much time in my youth trying to fit in and to be accepted by my peers rather than taking pride in who I am as God's child and truly believing and just accepting... 'me'!

Although Jesus may not always approve of our actions or choices, He always approves of us as a person, whom He created, whom He loves, and whom He thought was important enough to die for. Isn't it comforting to know we never have to try to earn Jesus' approval, and that we can live with a peace of mind knowing He accepts us no matter what?

PRAYER

Dear Lord, I pray for Your wisdom and comfort to deal with situations in which I feel hurt, rejected, and worthless. Fill me with Your love so I can love others, even when I do not feel loved in return. Please help me to remember the only One I need to seek approval from is You, and that in You alone I can truly believe I am worthy and unconditionally loved. In Jesus' Name, amen.



DAY 28 (WITH RYAN HAYNIE)

SCRIPTURE

“That according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith – that you, being rooted and grounded in love.” Ephesians 3:16-17

THOUGHTS

Our faith in God not only gives us assurance that we are protected and covered by His love, but also teaches us how to love others. When you let Christ come into your heart, His spirit transforms you and puts you on His path. He doesn't care about politics or geopolitical borders, only to love everyone naturally and openly regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, or nationality. When you learn to let yourself stop looking at worldly issues and to start looking at everyone with love as Jesus loves us, your heart and spirit will strengthen and those around you will notice your love for others. They will start to question “Why is this person different?” or “How can they not care about our governmental issues?” It's because we have Jesus in our hearts and know what true love is. We want to spread that love to the world so more people can come to know Jesus through our love. While we deserve to be counted out, He gives us another chance; just as we should give others.

PRAYER

Father God, I thank you for showing us what true love is. I trust in what you provide for us and give up on worldly matters. All that matters is loving you and loving everyone as you love us. I pray that you help me become the best example of your love so others may come to find you through my love. Strip the thoughts out of my head of worldly matters so we may turn to you and trust in you. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.



DAY 29 (WITH PASTOR EDDIE MORRISON)

SCRIPTURE

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29: 11

THOUGHTS

Can you remember back to the first time you met your best friend? I can...I was 13 years old, and we were on the same city league football team: The 1989 UNDEFEATED Lake Wales Steelers. In fact, we got to play for the State Championship at the Orange Bowl, in Miami, Florida. What an experience it was!!

Through the season, we quickly developed a bond that I thought was going to last a lifetime. We had so much in common; except for one thing, I had two loving parents, but Shawn was passed around from family member to foster homes, never feeling that anyone ever truly loved him or wanted him.

I'll never forget the day that my life would change forever. I was pulled out of class by the principal, my mom, and my pastor. They took me to the front office and told me that my best friend, Shawn, had taken his own life the night before. I felt so guilty, that somehow it was my fault, that I could've been a better friend, not understanding the emotional pain he was in.

At his funeral, after everyone left, I knelt down at his casket and made a promise to him and God that I would dedicate my life to helping teenagers know and feel that they are loved. I never wanted another teenager to feel the pain and hopelessness that Shawn felt. Through the pain, God gave me purpose. No matter what you've been through or what you're going through, you have a Heavenly Father that loves you. He has a plan for you, a plan to prosper you, a plan to give you hope, and most importantly, he has a future for you.

PRAYER

Father, I pray for those who feel empty. I pray that you would give them purpose. I pray that you would wrap your arms around them and allow them to feel your love. In Jesus name, amen.



DAY 30 (WITH FAWN WATERMAN)

SCRIPTURE

“He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ in accordance with His pleasure and will to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves.”
Ephesians 1:5-6

THOUGHTS

Have you ever thought about just how blessed you really are? That’s a big concept for kids to understand because they see what they don’t have...not always what they do have. We are blessed with family, friends, free education, and church. We are not born into a war-torn country. We have people who care and love us. Do you realize that we really don’t deserve any of this? Remember all of your sins from then to now. The ones against your family, friends, school, neighbors, and church. Remember the things you said, the things you did or didn’t do, the hurtful thoughts and ways you treated others. No, we don’t deserve any of those things, but God chose for us to have these things. What you have, who you are, and the gifts and talents we are given are because of God’s grace. You have been chosen by God to be who you are and there’s no one like you. This is His grace.

PRAYER

Thank you, God, because you have chosen me. You have given me all that I am blessed with, and I am forever grateful. You are a mighty and gracious God. Thank you for the blessings that fill my life. Amen



DAY 31 (WITH TRACEY CARABALLO)

SCRIPTURE

“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:21-23

THOUGHTS

“When you know better...you do better.” I’ve said that so many times. But the truth is that even when we do know better, we still often miss the mark. We fail to do it God’s way. We repent time and time again, we make broken promises to ourselves, others, and to our Heavenly Father, yet He is ALWAYS faithful to keep His promises to us. At times our relationship with God can be very one sided. He holds up His end of the deal, but many times we come up short on our end.

Just think how frustrating it is when we are the ones constantly let down in our earthly relationships, or to others when we are the culprits? We extend grace, forgive, and move on...but eventually we are faced with the same issue or offense again. Our human nature can make us feel like throwing in the towel and saying, “I’m done!”. But God isn’t like that with us. He will NEVER count us out, no matter how many times we fail Him. I deserve to be counted out for the many times that I stepped outside of the will of God...we ALL do. But God in His faithful and infinite love for us, blesses us with another chance with each new day, filled with new grace and new mercy. There is no one-and-done or three strikes you’re out with God. As Cory Asbury so beautifully expresses in his song “Reckless Love”, God’s chances far exceed the 7 times 70 He suggests to Peter in Matthew 18:21-22. We refer to Him as the God of second chances, but in reality, He is the God of limitless chances!

PRAYER

My Good, Good Father, thank you for your “Reckless Love” that always gives me another chance. I am thankful for the peace I have in knowing that you will NEVER count me out when I fall. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



DAY 32 (WITH PASTOR AARON JAHJAH)

SCRIPTURE

“For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin (or to become sin itself), so that we could be made right with God through Christ.” 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)

THOUGHTS

Not too long ago, I was playing in a softball league. This particular game night, we were down players, and I ended up having to play catcher (I can't stand playing this position). I wasn't having the best game. My hitting was below average, and my fielding was pitiful. I was embarrassed – not just personally, but for my teammates too. I kept thinking, “I just need another chance to redeem myself.”

Well, the other team was up to bat, and they had a guy on third base. They were doing everything they could to get another score on the board, but we needed to hold them. Their next player up to bat, hit a line-drive right over second base. Our second baseman retrieved the ball as fast as he could, while their guy on third was trucking it to home plate. Our second baseman looked at me, and in a flash, launched the ball to me to get the guy out. This guy was coming in hot (could've laid me out like a Mack Truck). I stepped in front of home plate, caught the ball (felt like I was punched in the hand by Mike Tyson with no glove on), and tagged him out! And the crowd goes wild!!!

There are some things that unlike my softball game couldn't be made right. Sin was one of those things. No matter what, we couldn't do enough good to be made right with God. There was nothing we could do or say to take our sin away. That's why we needed Jesus. He was able to do what we couldn't do. He was able to be the offering for our sin so that we could have a way to be made right with God. We deserved to be counted out, but He gave us another chance.

PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for Your sacrifice. You were able to do what we couldn't. You made us right with God, our Father, In Your name.



DAY 33 (WITH PASTOR BILL BREYLINGER)

SCRIPTURE

"Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee. Grief and anguish came over him, ³⁸ and he said to them, "The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me. Stay here and keep watch with me." Matthew 26:36-38

THOUGHTS

What had to be done, He could do. Never had Jesus felt so alone. God couldn't turn his back on you. With His eternal eyes, Jesus saw you, and one look at you was all it took to convince him. His eyes met yours in the middle of a world that wasn't fair, in a river of pain you didn't ask for. Abandoned by those you love with a body that gets sick, and a heart that grows weak and emotions that give out.

He saw you in your Garden of Gethsemane and He didn't want you to be alone. On the eve of the cross, Jesus made a decision. He would rather go to hell for you, than go to Heaven without you.

PRAYER

Lord, may I never forget where you were willing to go for me. Give me the strength to love and pour my life out for the people you've placed in my path. Amen!



DAY 34 (WITH CHRIS HESS)

SCRIPTURE

“I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’” Psalm 122:1

THOUGHTS

Sharing from Louie Giglio’s take on “Worship”:

It is a personal thing. But it’s also something we do together. In other words, our responses of worship to God are both personal and corporate. And each kind of response is intertwined with the other.

Through Christ we’ve been reconnected to God, and in Him we’re linked to each other. Each one of us plays a unique role.

The primary purpose of the church (the people of God) is worship.

At its core, the church exists to glorify God. And without your life and voice, the body’s expression is incomplete. But even in the corporate setting, worship doesn’t begin with a group activity, it begins with our individual responses to what God has revealed to us about Himself. Those responses don’t just happen once a week...they happen day by day.

PRAYER

How thankful I am to be able to enter your presence. I pray you continue to call and equip our pastors and congregation to keep introducing you to your children. What a privilege to worship and serve you, my Lord. We all have a story and are all born with your spirit inside us to be awakened and shared.



DAY 35 (WITH PASTOR JIM LANIER)

SCRIPTURE

“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.” John 10:28-30 (NIV)

THOUGHTS

In our ‘politically correct’ world today, we are consumed by the idea of justice and equality – the idea that everyone deserves the exact same treatment, benefits, outcomes etc., in every area of life. Whether it’s wage equality, gender equality, marriage equality, or equality in employment. Our world believes that life ought to be absolutely fair, that people should get what they deserve. And when someone thinks they’ve been treated unfairly, they aren’t afraid to let you know. It’s human nature to believe that we should get what we deserve: but should we get what we deserve? Through the prophet Jeremiah, God tells us that He doesn’t give us what we deserve; and that’s a reason to rejoice! We can give thanks today that God doesn’t give us what we deserve. Christ gives us eternal life the moment we believe in Him for it and He never takes it back. We are secure forever not because of our grip on God but because of His grip on us. We are forever in His hands!

PRAYER

Precious Jesus, what wonderful security You provide for me, especially during a time when there are so many troubling things happening in the world that can leave me feeling insecure and unsure. Knowing that I am secure in Your promises of eternal life gives me great joy and peace! I do not have to live in fear of ever losing my relationship with You and I pray also that you help me share with others about Your security that lasts forever. In Your powerful name I pray, amen.



DAY 36 (WITH RYAN HAYNIE)

SCRIPTURE

“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.” 1 Corinthians 16:13

THOUGHTS

While faith can give us assurance that all will go as planned, the world doesn't always make it easy to maintain that faith. Global and national issues bring new fears to us every day. We need to guard our hearts from issues that try to distract us and hold tight to our faith. No matter what may go on in the world or our country, all that is important is believing that God will provide His people everything we need to get by every day. Even if the world around us seems like it's falling apart, we need to stand our ground and hold onto our courage and strength through Christ who keeps us strong. Even though we may deserve death, He gives us life abundantly. Let's continue to hold onto our faith.

PRAYER

Father God, I pray that you keep me focused on what truly matters to you. You have the whole world in your hands. I pray that you help me stand firm against the world even when things seem dark. You are the light of the world and through me, I pray to be your light for those who are lost. In your name I pray, amen.



DAY 37 (WITH PASTOR EDDIE MORRISON)

SCRIPTURE

“Having predestined us to adoption as sons (daughters) by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”
Ephesians 1: 5-6 (NKJV)

THOUGHTS

Shortly after my wife and I got married, we were asked if we would consider taking in or adopting one of the teenagers in our Youth Ministry. Up until this point, this young man had been living with his much older, alcoholic father. For over a year, they had been living with no running water and no electricity. We already had a blended family of six, but as soon as we heard his story, Leslie and I both knew that this was God’s will and He would provide. Isaac came to us with nothing more than a garbage bag of a few things that he owned. In a short time, we realized we needed Isaac as much as he needed us. He taught us to appreciate what we have and not take life for granted. He was so appreciative of everything. We were not a perfect family, and he was not a perfect kid, but he didn’t have to be for us to love and accept him as our own. We accepted him and he accepted us. He was our son, and we were his family.

As a Christian, I know that God loves and accepts me unconditionally. But the reality is, at times I still struggle with feeling accepted. I often find myself associating my performance with my acceptability. Here’s what I (wrongly) feel at times: if I’m good, I’m acceptable. If I help people, if I am a blessing instead of a burden, well then I am accepted. If I preach or perform well, then I have value. If I have large numbers in youth group, then I’m a success. But if I fail, blow it, or mess up, then I feel like I deserve to be rejected by others and God.

Lots of us struggle with trusting the truth that we’re accepted by God. We are accepted not because of what we do or don’t do; not because of who we are. We’re accepted because of who God is. We are not only accepted “in” the Beloved, we are accepted “by” the Beloved Himself! You may sometimes feel rejected, but how you feel is not who you are! You are Accepted - No exceptions!

PRAYER

Lord, help me trust what you say about me more than I trust how I feel about myself. Thank you for accepting - loving me unconditionally. Amen.



DAY 38 (WITH FAWN WATERMAN)

SCRIPTURE

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” Romans 3:23-24

THOUGHTS

Have you ever felt guilty for something you have done in the past and you can't get it out of your mind? You keep replaying it over and over again. You even feel like you have to hide it because other people will find out and condemn you. Depression and anxiety begin to set in and you can't seem to move forward. Well, NEWS FLASH...everyone sins and falls short of God's glory. Every last one of us. Your parents, sinners. Pastors, sinners. Teachers, sinners. Friends, sinners. Sweet lady next door, sinner. Man who helps everyone, sinner. Even Grandma, sinner. We all need God's grace daily. We all make mistakes, but God's gift to us is His grace and mercy. When we accept God's grace, we are no longer stuck in the guilt of our sins. We can let it go and let God take over. We don't need to be controlled by it any longer because His grace sets us free. So, when we sin, and we will every day, ask God for His forgiveness and let go. Live out who God intended you to be, an overcomer free from the chains of sin.

PRAYER

Father God, in your name, strengthen me to submit to you and resist my sinful nature. Help me Lord to live out the beautiful life set before me by your grace and mercy. Help me to believe and live the life of an overcomer. In Jesus name, Amen.



DAY 39 (WITH TRACEY CARABALLO)

SCRIPTURE

“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.” Isaiah 12:2

THOUGHTS

Salvation is the amazing free gift that we receive when we accept Jesus as our personal Lord and savior. There is absolutely NOTHING we can do to earn it. There are no strings attached and it is not based on our behavior...it's based on our belief. Jesus + Nothing is the equation. If you try to add anything to it, you void out the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. He willingly took on the mission the Father set before him to take on the sin of the world in a selfless act to redeem each and every one of us and give us the promise of eternity with Him.

But salvation is not limited to our eternal destiny. It is not a gift that we have to wait to open when we die. Salvation is something for us to enjoy right now...every day. We were saved for an abundant earthly life, saved from everything that we rightly deserve. For we ALL fall short of His glory and the wages of sin is death...so we all deserve it. But instead, God had a plan that would not only save us from death...but help us to really live!

As the Treasurer, it brings me great joy to use my 'PAID IN FULL' stamp. The debt has been paid, there's a zero balance, and I don't have it weighing over my head. That is exactly what Christ's sacrifice did for us. Our sin debt is paid in full! There is no balance! We are free and clear! The enemy will always try to weigh it over our heads, but not God. He no longer sees our sin. He sees Jesus' sacrifice and His child whom He loved enough to put the plan of salvation in motion for.

PRAYER

God of Salvation, thank you for turning my death sentence into an abundant life. Thank you, Jesus, for taking on what you didn't deserve for what I did. Help me to live each day in gratitude for your sacrifice and spread the Good News. In the powerful name of Jesus, Amen.



DAY 40 (WITH PASTOR AARON JAHJAH)

SCRIPTURE

“But the fact is, it was *our* pains he carried—*our* disfigurements, all the things wrong with *us*. We thought he brought it on himself, that God was punishing him for his own failures. But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him—*our sins!* He took the punishment, and that made us whole. Through his bruises we get healed. We’re all like sheep who’ve wandered off and gotten lost. We’ve all done our own thing, gone our own way. And God has piled all our sins, everything we’ve done wrong, on him, on him.”

Isaiah 53:4-6 (MSG)

THOUGHTS

Our great God provided His own holy Substitute – JESUS – for you and me – the unholy. In the passage above, Isaiah explains the reason for the incomparable suffering of Jesus. It’s almost as if the Prophet Isaiah stood beneath the cross of Jesus with Mary, Martha and John and looked intensely at the bleeding body of the Suffering Savior. Isaiah realized that it would indeed be our divine Substitute who would suffer for us.

It should’ve been us though! As Sandi Patty beautifully illustrated through her song, “Where The Nails Were”:

*It should've been my hands where the nails were – It should've been
It should've been my feet where the nails were – It should've been
It should've been my side that was opened – My heart that was broken
But it was Your hands – Yes, it was Your feet
It was Your blessed hands – It was Your precious feet
It should've been my hands
It should've been my feet where the nails were*

So, as we stand at the foot of the cross with Isaiah, may we always remember that He took our place – we deserved DEATH but HE gave us LIFE!

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, it should’ve been me, but it was Your SON. With all that I am, I say THANK YOU! I love you! In Jesus name, amen.