Jesus Promise Rest for the Soul

(Matthew 11:28) Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (v29) ***TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU AND LEARN FROM ME***, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

(John 13:15-17) I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. (V16) I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. (v17) Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

(Philippians 2:5) Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus

***Jesus Christ was humble, willing to give up his rights in order to obey God and serve people. Like Christ, we should have a servant*'s attitude, serving out of love for God and for others, not out of quilt or fear. Remember*, you can choose your attitude. You can look for opportunities to serve other. (Mark 10:45 for more on Christ's attitude)*

(Matthew 13:15) For this people's heart becomes calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I will heal them.

(1Peter2:21) To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps.

We may suffer for many reasons. Some suffering is the direct result of our own sin; somethings happen because of our own foolishness; some is the result of living in a fallen world. Peter is writing about a suffering that comes from doing good. Christ never sinned, and yet he suffered so that we could be set free. When we follow Christ's example and live for others, we too may suffer. Our goal should be to face suffering as he did, with patience, calmness, and confidence that God is in control of the future.

This is what the Lord says: Stand at the crossroad and look: ask for the ancient path, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. (Jeremiah 6:16) (now read Jeremiah 18:15)

The right path for living is ancient and has been marked out by God. But the people refused to take God's path, going their own way instead. We face the same decisions today; moving in God's one true way, or following a new path of our own choosing. Don't be misled! The only way to find peace and rest for your soul is to walk on God's path.

Read more and study more

Who Am I to Say?

I don't know I'm just saying: But AS IT IS WRITTEN!
My prayer this morning was, "God, I know I am not perfect so help me be mindful and to treat people the way I want to be treated , according to your Word, your will, and your way. Righteous unto you! I need you Father to show me, lead me and direct my mouth, my mind and my heart."
Then, I opened my bible for my daily read and opened to Micah 7. I looked back up the page and my eyes fell on chapter 6 verse 8 which states:

"He has showed you, O man, what is good.
And what does the Lord requires of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."
(Micah 7:6-8)

People have tried all kinds of ways to please God (refer to Micah 6:6-7), but God has made his wishes clear: He wants his people to be just, merciful, and to walk humbly with him. In your efforts to please God, examine these areas on a regular basis. Are you fair in your dealings with people? Do you show mercy to those who wrong you? Are you learning humility?

I tell you, I had to sit back and think. I thought to myself, "God does answer, lead, directs and show us things. It's just that we must be able to hear. And willing to listen and be obedient.
I continue to read the verses:

Listen! The Lord is calling to the city-And to fear your name is wisdom-
"Heed the rod and the One who appointed it.
Am I to forget, O wicked house,
Your ill-gotten treasures
Shall I acquit a man with dishonest scales,
with bags of false weights?
Her rich men are violent
Her people are liars
And their tongues speak deceitfully;
Therefore, I have began to destroy you,
to ruin you because of your sins.
You will eat and not be satisfied;
(Micah 6:9-14)

Micah watched as society rotted around him. Rulers demanded gifts; judges accepted bribes; corruption was universal. But God promised to lead the people out of the darkness of sin and into the light. Then, the people will praise his faithfulness. God alone is perfectly faithful. Even today uprightness (honest, integrity) is difficult to find. Society rationalizes sin and even Christians sometimes compromises Christian principles in order to do what they want. It is easy to convince ourselves that we deserve a few breaks, especially when "everyone else" is doing it. But the standards for honesty come from God, not society. We are honest because God is truth; and we are to be like Him.

I know that some people who have a humble spirit genuinely believe they were wired that way and there is nothing more that need to be done. But here's the thing; we are all born sinners. And we have to be born again with the spirit of God to be in right standing (salvation) with him. We must also seek him and continue to renew our mind in Christ, regardless of how we are wired. We also have to ask for forgiveness of our sins (seen and unseen).

It is written: "for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"; (Romans 3:23)
"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinner, Christ died for us". (Roman 5:8)" For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Roman 6:3) "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, that shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." (Roman 10:9-11) "For whosoever call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Roman 10:13)

Sometimes we can get by without instructions, like putting together something man made and throwing away the instructions. But when it comes to putting together a life that reflects the goodness and wisdom of God, we can't afford to ignore the directions He gives us in the Bible. The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years because they ignored God. And they saw firsthand what God did for them, just like some of us have. But when God delivered them and as they began to reestablish worship in their homeland, they prepared to do so in accordance with what was written in the Law of Mosses. They began to do exactly what God had directed Moses to have told them to do.

At this point in life we do not have to follow the Law of Moses, but Christ gives us directions now. He said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." And "Love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:37,39). When we believe in Him and come to Him, He shows us the way to live. The One who made us knows far better than we do how life is suppose to work.

Lord, remind us as we start each day that you have given us to live by your example. Help us to read your Word and follow the directions that you have so graciously provided for us!

If we want God to lead us, we must be willing to follow Him. Glory Be To God!!! It is written!!!

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Keeping Faith By: Min. Shirley Ellison

Have you ever felt that God promised you something and gave you a vision of it, but it took too long to manifest? This is my testimony concerning a vision that God showed me at the age of 15 (nearly 45 years), while working at Rosewood Elementary School, about a business that he would bless me with. That business was a daycare. It was my first job. I had enjoyed working with children and knew all along, even as a young girl, that this was what I wanted to do. So I believed that the vision was confirmation for me, and that the daycare where I was working at the time was where God wanted me to be. It also confirmed that he wanted me to have a daycare of my own. Though that was what God wanted for me, it took faith and years of waiting to receive it.

One thing about God, he may show you a vision just like he did Abraham who didn't get that son until after 30 years of following the plans of God, but he will do what he promised.

In 1985 God blessed me with the opportunity to work at another daycare, where I remained for about 11 years before opening my own daycare. In 1996, I launched by own daycare business inside my home. In 2012, I finally started to see the vision coming to past. God had blessed me with a building facility in Lexington. This is the current home of Training the Children Christian Center. My daughter and I now have a licensed building; that's licensed for 58 children.

God does things in seasons. We don't always get what we want, when we want; we have to wait on God. But, when he blesses us, he truly blesses us! I thank God each and every day for what he has done. It was and still is a process but I am walking by faith.

If God has giving you a vision for a business and it looks like you are not progressing or seeing your desired growth, just remember that God is not slack concerning his promises. All you have to do is wait on the Lord! As we wait on the Lord and the vision to manifest, he will direct our path; in the name of Jesus. There are times when God has to guide us from our old life to get us to our new life!

God Don't Just Save Souls: He Saves Marriages too by Min. Felicia Weathers

Marriage is hard work, but with God you can endure. I have been married now for 21 years and, like many couples, we have had our ups and downs and ins and outs. Before I got saved, my husband and I had been married for five years and we began going through a difficult time learning how to be married. Because we didn't know how and didn't have any examples of what marriage was all about, it was a trial and error at that time.

We had been separated and out of the house from each other when I had been looking for a job and was not able to find one. By then I had become depressed in my marriage, and because my husband and I couldn't figure out how to make it work, we decided to do a legal separation. As we prepared for court, for the legal separation, we were still being cordial because we loved each other. But, love just wasn't enough, so we went before the judge anyway. She heard what we both had to say but did not grant us the divorce. She told us both to go work it out. Not really knowing what we were supposed to do, we remained separated.

A few weeks later I got a call from Roper Temporary Service saying that they had a job for me. However, the issue was that the company that I would be working for, Plaster Line, was the same company where my husband Tony worked. So I told the lady that I didn't want to do factory work. She told me that it wouldn't be factory work but that I would be doing clerical work and would have my own office. I accepted the job. One day around lunch time, I had my door opened doing paper work when he walked past. He stepped back and did a double take, and looked like, why are you here. So, I told him that it was the only job that I could get but that I was not bothering him. He said to me, "you know what? An old man just told me that someone is praying for us". That's all that he said and then walked out. It made me depressed because I missed him.

I started telling a girlfriend about how I was feeling and she said, "Why don't you call and talk to my pastor?" I figured we had tried everything else, even counseling and nothing seemed to work. So, I said "why not?" That was a Monday, so on that Tuesday I called her and she asked if she could come talk to him and I. On that Wednesday I talked to him about coming to meet the pastor at the house, and he agreed. That Friday she came to the house and she starting talking to us about some of the dreams we were having and the things that we were dealing with. She was very open and she was easy to talk to so we continued meeting with her to discuss our issues. Because of this, we decided to try to make things work.

At that time we were not saved but God started pulling on us, and for me, I didn't understand what God was doing but I remembered praying a prayer before we went to court saying, "Lord if this is your will to fix my marriage then you fix it because I have done everything I know how to do." And God was doing just that, because that Sunday we both went to church and got saved. We have been together ever since.

I can't tell you that it has been a bed of roses but I can tell you that going through this journey have been a blessing from God. That day my husband and I got saved God said to me, "I will teach you how to war." I said, "We have already been fighting!" But he said, "No, I will teach your hands how to war in the spirit and how to fight in the spirit realm." So, my testimony is that God is a healer.

He can mend anything that is broken. He can bring broken homes and marriages back together. He did it for mine.

The Community Herald

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Agape Church News

2016 has been declared the Year of Transformation. Our theme is Transforming Through God's Un-Failng Love. Our theme scripture is Lamentations 3:22 "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not."

The Four Phases of Transformation

1. Consistency
2. Compassion
3. Commitment
4. Connection

Upcoming Events

Christmas Concert 12/20 @ 5pm
Fill a Pew 12/27 @ 11:30am
Watch Night 12/31 @ 10pm

Bible Way Church Worship Center of Atlas Road News

Candlelight Memorial Service
Friday, December 11, 2015, 6:30pm
– A.C. Jackson Wellness Center
Join us for a special Memorial Candlelight Service in memory of deceased loved ones. For more information, please call 803.603.7785.

Worship and Arts' Christmas Musical
Tuesday, December 15, 2015, 7:00pm
– Bible Way Church Worship Center
Worship & Arts Christmas Program. Bring the entire family and friends to this special holiday program.

Bible Study
Tuesday, December 22, 2015, 7:00pm
– Bible Way Church Worship Center
Be a part of this dynamic service.

Supernatural Manifestation Service
Tuesday, December 29, 2015, 7:00pm
– Bible Way Church Worship Center
Join us as we culminate a year of teaching about the miracles of Jesus with this powerful, Supernatural Manifestation service.

Watch Night Service
Thursday, December 31, 2015, 10:00pm
– Bible Way Church Worship Center
Bring family and friends to this celebratory worship service as we thank God for His Grace and Mercy in 2015, and usher in 2016!

Agape Church

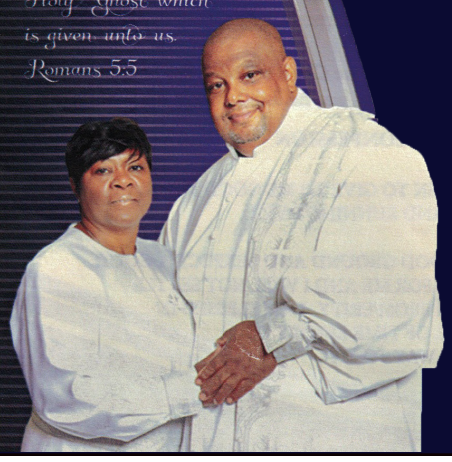
Wednesday

7:00 P.M. **Prayer**
7:30 P.M. **Bible Study**

Sunday

9:30 A.M. **Prayer**
10:00 A.M. **Sunday School**
11:30 A.M. **Worship Service**

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. Romans 5:5



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WHY WE DON'T GIVE UP

Perseverancec, persistence, the prize!!! The Christian life was never promised as an easy way to live; instead, Paul constantly reminds us that we must have a purpose and a plan because times will be difficult and Satan will attack, but we never persevere without the promise of a prize- a promise God will keep.

Reference	*The Purpose*	*The Plan*	*The Prize*
1 Corinthians 9:24-27	Run to get the prize Run straight to the goal	Deny yourself of whatever is potentially harmful Discipline your body, training itself	A crown that will last forever
Galatians 6:7-10	Don't become weary in doing good Don't get discouraged and give up Do good to everyone	Sow to please the Spirit	Reap eternal life
Ephesians 6:10-20	Put on the full armor of God Pray on all occasions	Use all the pieces of God's armor provided for you	Taking our stand against the devil's schemes
Philippians 3:12-14	Press on toward the day when you will be all God wants you to be	Forget the past, strain toward what is ahead	The prize for which God calls us heavenward
2 Timothy 2:1-12	Entrust these great truths to people who will teach them to others Be strong in Christ's grace, even when your faith is faltering	Endure hardship like a soldier, and don't get involved in worldy affairs Follow the Lord's rules, as an athlete must do in order to win Work hard, like a farmer who tends his crops for the harvest	We will live with Christ; we will reign with Him He always remains faithful to us and always carries out his promises

Love

Our society confuses love with lust and possession. Unlike lust, God's kind of love is directed outward toward others, not inward toward ourselves. It is utterly unselfish. This kind of love goes against our natural inclinations. It is possible to practice this kind of love only if God helps us set aside our own desires and instincts so that we can give love with expecting nothing in return. Thus the more we become like Christ, the more love we will show to others.

15 Characteristics of Love
1Corinthians (13:4-7)

Love is patient, kind, thinks no evil, it is not puffed up (proud), self seeking, or easily angered (provoked), it does not envy (hate), vaunt itself (boastful), it does not behave rudely, or rejoice in iniquity (evil, keeps no records of wrong doings), it rejoices in truth, bear all things (protects), believes all things (trust), hopes all things, and endures all things.

Now abideth faith, hope, love; but the greatest of these is Love. (1 Corinthians 13:13). And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God and God in him. (1 John 4:16)
With more love we will have a more fulfilled life. It is a commandment God said, "love your neighbor as yourself," (Mark 12:31) this isn't just the people that live next door to you; it is all people. Try to love a little more and see the joy of the Lord work in our lives. You will feel good because you are giving love, others will feel good because they feel loved. In return they will love back. Its reciprocal give it and it comes back.

Everyday Study: God's Word for God's People

Study it! Live it! Love it! Enjoy It!

Day 1 Matthew 11:29
Day 2 2nd Timothy 2:22
Day 3 Jeremiah 23:3
Day 4 Isaiah 58:11
Day 5 Jeremiah 33:3
Day 6 1st Corinthians 10:13
Day 7 1st Corinthians 9:25
Day 8 Ezekiel 12:23
Day 9 1st Peter 3:9
Day 10 2nd Peter 3:9
Day 11 Ephesians 6:10-18
Day 12 Ezekiel 23:24
Day 13 Mark 10:47
Day 14 Proverbs 8:11
Day 15 Jeremiah 6:10
Day 16 Psalms 25
Day 17 Jeremiah 22:8,9
Day 18 Job 42:10
Day 19 2nd Peter 1:19-21 v19
Day 20 2nd Peter 1: 5-11 v5
Day 21 Philippians 4:5-7 v5
Day 22 2nd Jeremiah 25-14
Day 23 Ezekiel 37:3, 4, 7 v4
Day 24 Luke 3:4
Day 25 Hosea 10:12
Day 26 John 16:33
Day 27 Psalms 119:69
Day 28 Colossians 2:6, 7
Day 29 Acts 1:8
Day 30 John 3:1,2
Day 31 1st Corinthians 13:4

For more Go Deeper visit church, bible study, and or Sunday school.

To God Be The Glory