

A person is walking on a dirt path that winds through a dense forest. The path is illuminated by sunlight filtering through the trees, creating a dappled light effect. The person is in the distance, on the left side of the path. The background shows rolling hills and more trees under a clear sky.

Daily Manna
For
Your Spirit

Volume 9

A Collection
of
"Today's Manna"

By
Pastor Duane A. Barrett Sr.

Compiled & Edited
by
Robert Farmer

Cover Photo
by
Jordan D. Ewing

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Foreword

Daily Manna is a “Heart Felt - Spirit Led” Devotional that is considered easy to read and designed to encourage, uplift and challenge the reader.

You will be refreshed with the Lord’s strength and renewed with joy as you learn how to enjoy a life with God through these daily prayers and apply them to your daily lives.

These Compilations of Daily Manna Devotions will inspire you with hope and gratitude as you lay down your cross and listen to God’s still small voice while falling in love with Him all over again.

I have known Pastor Duane for years. He is gifted to teach a simple, balanced, uncompromised, Word of God in a manner that all can grasp easily and this would also make this a perfect gift to the loved ones in your life.

Bob Farmer

CHAPTERS

Chapter 1 Do you seek first God and His Kingdom in all you do?

Chapter 2 Its not is God on your side, but rather are you on God's side?

Chapter 3 Can you stand and praise God anywhere?

Chapter 4 Have you received The Messiah?

Chapter 5 Jesus bore ALL your sin, sickness. disease, and poverty!

Chapter 6 Are you the Righteousness of God in Jesus?

Chapter 7 I am cleansed by the Blood of Jesus, are you?

Chapter 8 Have you been added to the book of life through Christ Jesus?

Chapter 9 Are you a Child of God by faith in Jesus?

Chapter 10 Are you a conqueror through Jesus?

Chapter 11 God is your all in all, if you will let Him!

Chapter 12 Seek the Lord and His wisdom for your day to day things!

Chapter 13 Have you learned to receive God's forgiveness?

Chapter 14 Where do you lay up your treasure?

Chapter 15 You never hate a person, only the evil that they do!

Chapter 16 Can you praise God with zeal?

Chapter 17 Search me, O God, lead me in the way everlasting!

Chapter 18 Search my heart oh God!

Chapter 19 Are you living in religion or Christianity?

Chapter 20 Are you living in the Old Covenant?

Chapter 21 Have you been adopted or grafted into Israel?

Chapter 22 Do you live in God's Mercy and Grace or in The Law?

Chapter 23 Do you know your God like David did?

Chapter 24 Are you suited up in God's armor always?

Chapter 25 Which Covenant are you living under?

Chapter 26 Do you understand the Covenant Jesus made for you?

Chapter 27 Is Jesus your mediator to God?

Chapter 28 Are you risen with Christ Jesus?

Chapter 29 Has God's Word sanctified you?

Chapter 30 Do you know ALL the promises of God to you?

Today's Manna

Chapter 1 Do you seek first God and His Kingdom in all you do?

But I will sing of Your mighty strength and power; yes I will sing aloud of Your mercy and loving kindness in the morning; for You have been to me a defense (a fortress and a high tower) and a refuge in the day of my distress.

—Psalm 59:16 Amplified Bible

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

So many things in our lives can be stolen away by natural disasters, aging, the cares of everyday life, the lust for things of this world, sickness, disease and death. Satan will take what-ever opportunity we give him and he will exploit it, remember he only comes but to steal, kill, and destroy. Be careful that you do not leave even a tooth pick in the door for Satan to come through, he will wedge it open if you do! But God is immovable, uncorruptible, and unchangeable!

When we invest ourselves in Him we can know our spirits are secure in His care, He is our fortress and a

refuge. He changes not, nor will He ever leave us or forsake us as long as we press in and draw near to Him. We must seek Him first and foremost above all else, yes even over our natural family, He is our Family. If we do, He said He will give us all those other things that everyone else is seeking. And He will be our Fortress and our Refuge.

MY PRAYER...

Precious Father, Rock of my salvation, thank You for being unchangeable and faithful. Thank You for being the source of my security and my future in a day of chaos and change. Thank You for being God. My God. You are my God and in You I place my life, my hopes, and my future. May You be glorified in all I do and say. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Chapter 2 It's not is God on your side, but rather are you on God's side?

Seek (inquire for and require) good and not evil that you may live, and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said. Hate the evil and love the good and establish justice in the [court of the city's] gate. It may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph [the northern kingdom].

—Amos 5:14-15 Amplified Bible

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

A whole bunch of folks claim that God is on their side, and He truly wants to be. In reality, what's more important, is whether we are on God's side, since God doesn't take sides! He is No respecter of persons. Whether or not we are on God's side is determined more by what we seek and do rather than what we say we believe. For what you seek and do truly reveals what you really believe, not what you are saying. "For by their fruit shall you know them." God longs to be with us, but He will not sacrifice His character to extend us cheap grace, a grace that does not call us to be like Him.

He's looking for believers who put their character, their actions and their lifestyle where their mouth is through what they do, not just what they say they believe. It's easy to say you love God and are a Christian, but does your walk prove it? He's looking for people who will believe what He says in His Word and live the lifestyle that He has described for us, not what we want, not what the world says we should do. Not with ungodly, immoral and unethical lifestyles, but with Godly character and lifestyle will you honor God. Do you live and walk the talk or just talk the talk? Talk is cheap!

MY PRAYER...

Most Holy God. Your righteousness and Holiness are beyond me and my ability to attain. Yet I long, Father, to be more like You in every way possible. Jesus told Philip, "If you've seen Me, you've seen the Father". Let me see the presence of Jesus, and know that Your presence is with me as I seek You and Your character in my life. Through Jesus, my Righteousness, I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 3 Can you stand and praise God anywhere?

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

—Psalm 95:1-2 New International Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY’S VERSE...

What better way to express our joy than with laughter and song. We sing to the Lord because we are joyful and thankful for all He has done for us! Not what is going on in our lives and in the world around us. Our music is not inhibited or held back, but exuberant and as full of heart as it is of sound. We praise Him with our whole being, all that we are.

Just like David danced in the streets before the Lord. You can do it at sports events and concerts and no one cares, try being that exuberant when you praise God and see what happens. Thanksgiving and praise to Him is what brings us into the Father’s presence and it is our joy at the knowledge of what He has done for us that leads us to praise Him. Even if we are not musically inclined it’s okay. He said in His Word we could make a

joyful noise unto the Lord. It's our hearts that matter, not what we sound like. Remember He said, He would inhabit the praises of His people.

MY PRAYER...

Most wonderful and glorious Father, thank you so much for sending Your Son and saving me from sin, death, and the law. Thank you for saving me and giving me the assurance, through your Holy Spirit, that I can come before you with exuberant and overflowing joy. Your love and grace have not only given me hope but have made me your child, a son and an heir. Hear my heart and be blessed by my sounds of praise. Through the mighty name of Jesus I pray and because of Jesus I will shout your praise forever and ever.

Amen.

Chapter 4 Have you received The Messiah?

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and he carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

—Isaiah 53:3-4 New International Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY’S VERSE...

The prophet Isaiah spoke of what Jesus would become and do for us many years before He actually did it. Jesus was everything that God was and yet He became as a man (He laid aside His Deity) to help us, to become our example of how to live before God. The prophet Isaiah said we didn’t even notice what He did for us. His own people even rejected Him and then had Him crucified.

They just assumed He deserved it, and so they did not even repent of their deeds. Their Messiah came to them in answer to their prayers, but they saw Him not because their hearts were hard, their eyes were blind,

and their ears didn't hear what He had to say to them and so then they murdered Him. But there was something about that sacrificial story that finally grabs our hearts and calls us home and we find in Him not only a Savior, but first a Lord, then a Healer, a Deliverer, a Friend, and a Servant and finally He is our Savior.

MY PRAYER...

Almighty Father, Your plan to redeem me takes my breath away. How and why You chose to take Your precious Son and expose Him to such public disgrace and humiliation I will never comprehend. But this I do know: You love me with an everlasting love, a love that goes beyond my comprehension. I pledge to You that I will serve You with all of my body, mind, soul, and my strength in thanks for His great sacrifice. Father, take me and use me for Your Glory. Lord make the changes in me that are necessary for me to become a vessel that You can use for Your glory. Through Jesus name, I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 5 Jesus bore ALL your sin, sickness, disease, and poverty!

He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

—Isaiah 53:5-6 New International Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY’S VERSE...

I don’t know how Jesus could stand up under the weight. He had my sin, your sin, the world’s sin for all of time, all placed upon Him so we would not have to bear the consequences of it. But in that sacrifice, as horrible as it was, we find ourselves healed, cured of every sickness and disease known to mankind today and all those yet to be named. But most important of all we were cured of the most awful disease known to mankind, a sin-sick soul. Can you imagine what it must have been like to have ALL the sin, sickness, disease, and iniquity of the world, past, present, and future, placed upon His body at one time. And this, so that we

would not have to bear it ourselves. In its place, He has left us a transforming peace that passes all understanding.

The ability to walk in divine health, to be prosperous in all we do, and most importantly to be the righteousness of God through Him. And ALL of this is already done, we don't have to wait for Him to do it! It's DONE! We just have to reach and receive the Gift of God into our lives.

MY PRAYER...

Father of all mercy and grace, fill my soul with the wonder of Your grace. Let me not forget the precious cost of Your love. Stir within me the constant and abiding memory of Your redemptive grace. Help me, Father, to be always conscious of the price paid for me at Calvary that day. Thank you Lord Jesus for all You have done for me.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 6 Are you the Righteousness of God in Jesus?

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

–2 Corinthians 5:21 New International Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY’S VERSE...

Righteousness: “To be in right standing with God.”

Why? Because you are so good, never do anything bad or wrong? Because you’ve never broken the law? Because you go to church every Sunday? No way! Nothing you could ever of yourself do would make you righteous before God. It took Jesus, the Son of the Living God, to be our righteousness. That’s right, without Him we are nothing! We are what we are because of Jesus and His Blood that was shed for us on God’s Heavenly Altar. Know and then dare to boldly declare what the scriptures say you are in Him:

(2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV) For he hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

(Ephesians 4:24 KJV) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

(2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Are you born again of the Spirit of God, then you have put on the new man. God's righteousness, that's what the scriptures say, not what I say. We are the testimony of how holy, just, and gracious He truly is, because in Jesus, we become God's righteousness! We are to be the image of God to the world.

MY PRAYER...

Thank You, Father, for making me righteous through the blood of Your Son. As I consecrate myself unto You, I know that You are at work in me, sanctifying me, setting me apart for Your use.

May people see in me a reflection of Your holiness, justice, love, grace and mercy. Through Jesus, who sacrificed Himself for my sins, that I may be the righteousness of God in Him, I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 7 I am cleansed by the Blood of Jesus, are you?

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

— 1 John 1:7 King James Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE(s)...

How are we cleansed from sin? My Bible says we are cleansed from sin by the Blood of Jesus! Not by anything we (you or I) can do on our own! We are cleansed when we extend our faith to trust in God's grace and then walk in the light through Jesus. When we believe with our heart and confess with our mouth Jesus as our Lord and let Him direct our lives. That's what a Lord does, they control your lives. The light that is the Truth given us in the Word of God then directs our paths. The more we walk in faith, in the light of His Word, and the more we fellowship with one another, the more He will have fellowship with us. And while Jesus' death was a "once for all," the cleansing power of His Blood goes on and on and on as long as our hearts are in tune with His and we walk in the light of His

grace.

MY PRAYER...

Holy Father, Loving Father, thank You for the gift of Jesus and the cleansing power of His blood, shed through His death on the cross for me. Help me today to live a more dedicated life, to understand and receive the cleansing and renewing that His blood through His death has made possible. Thank you for the assurance that as I seek Your will for my life and live out Your plan for my life, You have, through Jesus, also forgiven me of my sins and cleansed me with His blood and made me a new creature in Christ Jesus . In Jesus' name I pray and offer You all thanks and glory forever.

Amen.

Chapter 8 Have you been added to the book of life through Christ Jesus?

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

— Acts 2:41 King James Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY’S VERSE...

Think about it, can you imagine a man who, just days before, had denied that he even knew Jesus. He gets filled with the Holy Spirit and fire (an experience that is subsequent to the new birth), stands up and preaches his first sermon and 3,000 people repent and call on Jesus to be their Lord! How would they have received the Word unless they heard it?

How will they hear the Word unless we preach it? How can we preach the Word to them that need to receive it, unless we first receive it, are filled with the Holy Spirit and fire, and the commission from Jesus to go? If we remain inside the four walls of our church building and don’t go out how will they hear? We can’t expect the unsaved to come into church to hear us preach the

Word to them. Jesus said to GO into the world and make disciples of all nations! Two thirds of God's name is "go"!

We have to go and tell them, just like Peter went out of the upper room into the town square and preached the 'Gospel' to them that would receive. Peter wasn't Pastor Peter or Reverend Peter, or 1st Pope Peter when he went out and told the people about the Gospel.

He was just a believer, a disciple (student) of Jesus, baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire that Jesus promised us and told us to receive before we went out. A baptism that is subsequent to believing!

"Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." (Zec 4:6 KJV) Have you told anyone about Jesus today?

MY PRAYER...

Father, we ask You in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, to change our hearts Lord.

Help us to have the compassion that You have for the lost, for those that don't know the way home to You. Help us to become bold through the infilling of Your

Holy Spirit, just like on the day of Pentecost.

Lord, baptize us with Your Holy Spirit and with Fire, that we may become bold in the spirit for You.

Just like the boldness that overtook Peter and saw 3,000 added to Your Kingdom in one preaching! Father, we give ourselves unto You this day, from this day forward to do Your will and Your Plan, Your way. In Jesus' Mighty name.

Amen.

Chapter 9 Are you a Child of God by faith in Jesus?

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

—Galatians 3:26-29 KJV

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Want something really basic, simple, and easy to understand. When we became Christians through our faith (our belief in Jesus Christ and Him crucified for us) and baptism into Christ, we were made one with all other Christians around the world. Race, gender, nationality, and social status are gone. All that's left is one, The One, Jesus Christ and His body of believers. Our lives are His and thus are connected to each other now through His Spirit. Our destination is the same, heaven. Our family is the church (not a building but the gathering together of His children), the bride of Christ. No barriers. No closed doors. No Denominations. We

are one in Christ. Oh, one other thing. If you could trace your family roots far enough you would find that everyone came from Adam and Eve somehow anyway! We are all family.

MY PRAYER...

Abbba Father, thank You for adopting me into Your family. May we be one on earth now, as we will be when we are all together around Your throne in heaven. I pray for unity among all those who call upon the Name of Jesus and share Your Spirit so the world may know there is a solution to conflict, strife and division at least within the church (the Body of Christ). In the name of Jesus, the Christ, our Lord, Savior, and Righteousness I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 10 Are you a conqueror through Jesus?

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

–Romans 8:35-37 New International Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY’S VERSE...

Conquerors! We win! But, not just conquerors, we are more than conquerors! When you open up the final book of the Bible, Revelation, and read and study it, this is the message put forth. Christians win because Jesus is The One true Conqueror, and HE has already won for us. No matter how the battle is going for you right now, remember that in the end, we win! If you will not give up, you cannot lose, Jesus already won for you! Nothing, let me repeat that ‘NOTHING’ can separate us from the Love of God – you can only refuse to accept it!

MY PRAYER...

☩ I Shaddai, God Almighty, Father of more than enough, thank You for securing the ultimate victory for me by raising Jesus from the dead. I know He is coming with victory on the day You have appointed, but I pray that I may live victoriously for You until that day. Jesus told us when we pray: “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”

I know that there is victory in heaven, so Father I thank You that Your will be done now, here on earth, in my life. That I AM victorious now through the Blood of Christ.

As Jesus told us to pray, I pray now through Jesus my conquering King, in His Name, the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Chapter 11 God is your all in all, if you will let Him!

I will love You, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I take trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

–Psalm 18:1-2 New King James Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY’S VERSE...

We sing it and we say it in our public praise and prayers: “Father, God, we love you.” But notice very carefully the beginning phrase of our verse. “I will love You, O Lord...” Even in public, in community worship, in the grocery store, and at WalMart we need to know the importance of a personal expression of love to God. When is the last time you told the Creator of the universe, “I love You!”

Do you ever just change the we to I and sing it from your heart when you are singing those praises in public? Try it sometime, you might be surprised by the results when it is personal and comes from your heart and is directed from you specifically to your Lord. All He wants is your heart. He said, “He would inhabit the praises of

His people.”

MY PRAYER...

Father in heaven, I love You. I love You because You first loved me. I love You because You are more than worthy of my love. I love You because You sent Your Son to be my big brother and pay the price for my adoption into Your family. I love You because of Your faithfulness. I love You because You have permitted me through Your grace to love You. I love You because there is no one else worthy of this love I have for You! I love You, I love You!

In the name of Jesus I Love and thank You.

Amen.

Chapter 12 Seek the Lord and His wisdom for your day to day things!

So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

—Psalms 90:12 New King James Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY’S VERSE...

So often we look up and time has passed us by and we wonder what has happened. I mean it seems like my son was just born a few years ago, and yet he’s already quickly approaching 40 in a week. And I even have a couple grandsons and 4 great-grandsons! The things we promised ourselves we’d accomplish and the deeds we told others we’d do, seem too often get left undone. Before we know it, days have become weeks, and weeks months, and months years. We find ourselves unable to accomplish what we once assumed we could do easily because we no longer seem to have the time, finances, or the energy. Yet we have the same amount of time that we have always had, we just aren’t using it wisely. We have ALL our needs met by faith in Christ

Jesus, and the Lord is our strength!

We must ask the Spirit of God to help us see and to help us seize the opportunities the LORD places in our path.

We must ask the Lord to show us how to use our time both wisely and with His wisdom.

Ask Him to show us how we can both accomplish what He desires for us and also those things that need done in the natural normal day to day things of the world around us.

For He knows we have natural needs also, He made us. Do you remember what He said in Matthew 6:32-33?

“For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

We need to see and understand how to number our days according to His plan for our lives.

MY PRAYER...

Father, I confess that so often I leave undone what

needs to be done and instead do what could have waited. Usually because what I did was something I liked to do. Please help me see Your plan in each of my days and help me to live in a way which not only honors and glorifies You, but also blesses those You want me to reach out and bless. Lord, help me to number my days and accomplish that which You would have to do each and every day. Help me Lord to understand Your timing in everything I do. In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 13 Have you learned to receive God's forgiveness?

You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call on you.

—Psalm 86:5 New International Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Forgiveness is such a sweet blessing, especially when it's to you. But God does more than forgive! He cleanses and forgets. "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." If you know anything about the Earth and geography then you know the east never meets the west! You can go north over the pole and then you are traveling south, but if you travel east forever you will always be going east, never west.

God knew this before men discovered that the Earth wasn't flat! Our transgressions according to God are GONE! His love is not metered out or carefully rationed. He is not a respecter of persons. He pours it out upon all who genuinely seek Him as Lord, God and Father. But we must diligently seek Him with all our heart, believing

in faith that He hears us. For every one that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened.

MY PRAYER...

Precious Father, I call to You wanting You to know how important Your love and forgiveness are in my life. Thank You for sending Jesus to show and demonstrate Your love and to pay the debt of my sin that I was unable to pay.

Help me to live today as Your child, that others may see my joy and my passion for You. That I would shine forth Your love to this world as a beacon of hope. To You be all glory and honor. Through Jesus, my Savior I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 14 Where do you lay up your treasure?

Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, for you do not know what evil will be on the earth.

—Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 New King James Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Cast your bread upon the waters, bread is representative of money or wealth when used in this context here. Casting it on the waters is representative of sowing it into the Kingdom of God for His work. The world lays up treasure for a rainy day placing it in stocks and bonds and savings or just in a sock under their mattress.

Stocks and bonds aren't a very good place right now with the conditions of the financial market the way they are today. But Christians are supposed to sow into the Kingdom for a rainy day (a day when times of evil will befall the earth and overtake mankind). God will take care of you when these times come if you have sown into His Kingdom, Just like he took care of Elijah during the famine. If you have laid up treasure in heaven, if you

believe that He will, God will take care of you. Since I have put my faith in Him, even since retirement and much less income, I have never seen lack. I have always had more than enough, my wife and I eat out more now than we ever did when I was working. In fact there has always been more than enough so that I could do good works for Him in His Kingdom and still have ALL my needs met.

God uses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise and this principle totally confounds those of the world. How giving tithes and offerings and helping the poor (sowing) could lay up a treasure for your time of need. They don't understand how God's Kingdom works, yet the world uses it without even knowing it for other things.

Just look at God's principal of 'Seed time and harvest!' Some of you reading this claim to know and understand the tithing principle and yet you are NOT tithing! (Cindy, John, Charles, Melinda – God knows who you are!)

God will only allow you to skate for so long before He removes His hand of protection from you and allows the Devil to come in! You know who you are, and so does God.

MY PRAYER...

Precious Father in heaven, reveal unto your people the secrets of Your Kingdom. As a father instructs his children, instruct us in Your ways. Teach us , Holy One, to do things Your way, to learn to put aside the things of this earth and to learn to sow spiritual seeds into Your Kingdom for a time when our harvest will come forth from the very windows of heaven.

For a time as Your Word says, that You will open the Windows of heaven and pour out upon us more blessings than we can contain. Father, help us to see into Your spiritual realm beyond that which the natural eyes can see. In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 15 You never hate a person, only the evil that they do!

Let those who love the Lord hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

–Psalm 97:10 New International Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY’S VERSE...

Hate is a bold and powerful emotion as well as a word. Look very closely here to what God says, God does not say here to hate people who are evil. We must not hate people, but hate evil itself. It’s a tough combination to pull off, but absolutely vital. You don’t hate the homosexual, you hate the homosexual acts they do and the one who causes them to do the things they do. God doesn’t hate the homosexual, He hates the evil behind it (Romans 1:20-32). Evil is here because of the evil one — the champion of hate, lies, and death (Satan). So when evil rears its ugly head, let’s be courageous and oppose Satan and his work, we already have the victory anyway in Christ! In the process, let’s pray for those trapped in the evil one’s tentacles, even if they consider us enemies. This is what God directs in

His Word. “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.” Matthew 5:44-45

MY PRAYER...

Almighty God, make my heart grieved by the evil in my world. Give me the power to be strong against those things opposed to Your will and character.

Yet Father, just as You redeemed me by grace, and rescued me while I was a captive to sin, give me courage to care about those who are in the evil one’s embrace. Lord, help me to pray for those who are despitefully used by the evil one, help me to heap coals of fire upon their heads and lips through love and prayer for them. Through my Savior, Jesus, I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 16 Can you praise God with the same zeal you use at sporting events or rock concerts?

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

—Colossians 3:16 New International Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY’S VERSE...

We sing when we are happy. We sing when we are heartbroken. Today we should sing out of gratitude to our God. God is not only worthy of all of our praise, He is worthy of all of our thankfulness also. But the basis of all our songs should be Jesus and what He has already done for us through His death on the cross. His death, burial and His resurrection and ascension to the throne. We should be making a proclamation of the good news that brings life to us through Him. We should be preaching about that redemptive power. As that message, that Word of Christ fills our hearts, we are tuned to be thankful children of the Most High God. There is none higher or none more worthy of our praise than Him. It is Christ’s Spirit living in us that brings forth

God's Love through us. You don't have any trouble being loud and boisterous at sporting events, why can't you show the same enthusiasm when you praise God?

MY PRAYER...

I am so thankful, Lord, for all the many blessings You have poured into my life. Your love, Your grace, Your mercy, and Your forgiveness, all give me hope for the future. Your gift of Jesus gives me life today and promises life eternal with You. The incredible physical blessings, as well as the blessings of a new family and friends, are wonderful. But the greatest of all blessings is the assurance that I will one day see You face-to-face and share Your glorious presence forever.

In Jesus name I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 17 Search me, O God, lead me in the way everlasting!

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

–Psalm 139:23-24 New International Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY’S VERSE...

God is omnipotent, omnipresent, and He is all knowing. He knows the condition of our hearts even better than we do. God knows us inside and out. We can’t pretend we are something we are not with Him. We can’t hide behind a facade and pretend to be something else, He knows us! He sees all we do and hears all we say. He even knows our thoughts before we speak them.

This should liberate us to be able to have real intimacy with Him, but instead most of us run from such a close relationship with God. If our desire, however, is to become more like Him, the only way to be transformed into His likeness is by inviting Him in and allowing “Him to look at our heart, our motivations, and our desires,

all of it, not just some. He desires our close, intimate, fellowship most of all. He wants to renew your heart, mind and soul to a point where you think, feel, and desire the things He does.

MY PRAYER...

Father, I know You are the one who “searches hearts and minds” yet because of the grace You demonstrated in Jesus, I am confident that You love me. My heart is sorry for the sin I have committed, and I truly am ready to change.

Yet I need Your help and Your power working in me to affect that change. I of myself can do nothing. I am really trying to serve You in honor and purity.

Please fill me afresh today with Your Holy Spirit to enable me to become more like Christ. Father, search my heart and purge that which is not of You. In the name of Your Holy Son, Jesus I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 18 Search my heart oh God!

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

—Psalm 139:23-24 New International Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY’S VERSE...

God is omnipotent, omnipresent, and He is all knowing. He knows the condition of our hearts even better than we do. God knows us inside and out. We can’t pretend we are something we are not with Him. We can’t hide behind a facade and pretend to be something else, He knows us!

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fellowship most of all. He wants to renew your heart, mind and soul to a point where you think, feel, and desire the things He does.

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Please fill me afresh today with Your Holy Spirit to enable me to become more like Christ. Father, search my heart and purge that which is not of You. In the name of Your Holy Son, Jesus I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 19 Are you living in religion or Christianity?

*H*ear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

–Deuteronomy 6:4-5 New International Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY’S VERSE

So many times Satan seduces and deceives us into a flat, 2 dimensional religion (Dos & Don’ts) instead of true Christianity. He deceives us and tricks us until he has us just going to church and doing ‘good’ deeds, which are really nothing more than works of the flesh. Works of the flesh do not, cannot save us and these works of the flesh do not please God.

Yet God calls us out of darkness and into a three dimensional faith in Jesus (His Death, Burial, & Resurrection). He (God) wants us to love Him with all of our being, in all of our actions, and with all of our might. He wants us to put our faith in Him into action, not based on what we can do, but what HE has already done for us. What He can do through us. And what HE can do with us if we will only let Him have control of our

lives.

MY PRAYER

Father of all grace and mercy, I give all thanks to You. I thank You for being such a loving Father and Lord. Heavenly Father, I honor You as God Almighty (El Shaddai). I appreciate You for all Your kindness and blessings lavished upon me.

I love You because You first loved me and sent Your Son Jesus to pay the penalty for my sin. I thank You Lord for making a way into Your Kingdom for me, where there was no way.

Nothing I could have done would have been enough. Only through Jesus' Blood am I made righteous. My heart's desire today is to demonstrate my love for You in all I do, and say. Father, take my life and burn up all that is not of You in it. Purge me Lord and then fill me with Your will, Your desires, and Your plans for my life. Oh Father, that I may be a vessel worthy to be used in The Master's hands. In Jesus name I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 20 Are you living in the ‘Old Covenant’ or in the ‘New and better Covenant?’

Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in My covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

–Hebrews 8:9 King James Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY’S VERSE(s)...

Notice that God says right off the bat; “Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers!” (The Old Covenant!) Oh, but God said that His New Covenant, this covenant that we have today, this New Testament confirmed by the Blood of Jesus and His death on the Cross, His burial, and His resurrection unto the Father, shall not be like the old one that I (God) made with their fathers. No, this shall be a better covenant, founded on better promises. Imagine that, a better covenant than the old one with better promises and yet many of us still disregard this “New” covenant with God, and try to live from the ‘Old’! Many of us still want to do our own thing, our own way. When, if we

would just harken (listen to and heed the Word of God) unto the Lord and keep our part of the covenant that we have with God, we would be blessed beyond our wildest dreams!

Yet that would mean we would have to be obedient to God's Word. Because a covenant requires action by both parties involved. And God requires obedience to His Word for Him to keep his part.

MY PRAYER...

Father, I thank You for Your Holy Word and Your covenant of promises. Father I ask that You help us to understand the depth, breadth, length, and the width of this new covenant that You have made with us. Help us to understand and see what could be ours if we would just keep Your covenant. Father I pray in the name of Jesus that the eyes of our understanding be opened and that we be filled with the knowledge of Your will and with all understanding of what You have promised us.

In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Chapter 21 Have you been adopted or grafted into Israel?

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

–Hebrews 8:10 King James Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY’S VERSE(S)...

Remember, the house of Israel refers to the Church, The Body of Christ, not a country in the context of the Bible. So many just believe that He was only referring here to the country of Israel, the Jews. Not so, Israel represents the Church, The Entire Body of Christ, Those who believe in and have made Jesus the Lord of their lives, not just a country.

It provides for those who have been grafted in or adopted as sons and daughters through their faith and belief in Jesus Christ.

No, this better covenant, founded on better promises

will not be written on tablets of stone. It will not be written in the blood of animals. It will not be hung on the walls of the sanctuary or in our courthouses.

No, it shall be written in our hearts and put into our minds. And after God has done this He promises to be a God unto us. But how do you suppose He's going to put it in our minds and write it upon our hearts?

Let me tell you how. Through the washing of water by the Word that renews our minds (Eph 5:26 & Romans 12:1-2).

We must first renew our minds and fill our hearts with God's Word by reading, studying, and meditating it always. We must be willing to give ourselves completely to God and be in obedience to Him and His Word at all times. We must make a sacrifice of our time, our talent, and even our treasury to God.

MY PRAYER...

Father God, give me revelation knowledge of Your Word and of Your covenants with Your people.

Open the eyes of my understanding that I may see and understand the everlasting promises that You made with our fathers and that are still ours today.

Lord help me to cleanse and renew my mind and to fill my heart with the words of Your covenant to me. Help me to understand the true meaning of Your Word, Your covenants, Your promises, and most of all Your grace and Your mercy unto Your children. In Jesus mighty name, I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 22 Do you live in God's Mercy and Grace or in 'The Law?'

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds will I remember no more. In that He says, A new covenant, He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

–Hebrews 8:12-13 New King James Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE(S)...

Notice that God says in His Word (not me) that He has made the first Covenant (The Old Covenant - Testament) obsolete! I didn't say that, God Did! God has told us that we are to be partakers of a "New" covenant that was confirmed and ratified with the Blood of Jesus, a covenant that is merciful. The old covenant was not merciful, failing to keep the old (ALL the rules) brought an unmerciful death usually by stoning. But God Himself said it is obsolete, growing old and decaying and is vanishing away. Now the old covenant (the "Law" or the Ten Commandments and the rest of the 613 laws and rules in the Mosaic Law) was given to Moses because God's people had turned away from Him and His ways.

God had to show them the mistake they were making. So He gave the “Law” to Moses for the people to be as a teacher to point the way to Jesus who was to come. But, now Jesus has come and has died for us that we might have the New and better Covenant through His Blood. If only God’s people would study and learn His Word! He said: “My people perish for lack of knowledge.”

MY PRAYER...

Holy and precious Father, help us to understand Your ways. I know that I am to be a partaker of this “New” covenant also, but instill in my heart the full meaning of this covenant. Help me Lord to gain revelation knowledge of what this new covenant is really about. Help me Lord to learn to lean on and to pull from this “new” covenant the grace, the mercy, the forgiveness, and the strength necessary to be victorious now in this life. The things that come only from You Lord. In the name of Your Holy Child, Jesus, and by the cleansing of His precious Blood, I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 23 Do you know your God like David did?

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen

—Hebrews 13:20-21 King James Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE(S)...

Thank God we have a better covenant than they had in the Old Testament. We have an everlasting covenant based on better promises. But, take notice at what ratified that covenant, what brought it into its final form and made it take effect for us.

The Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, shed on the Cross for all of mankind! His death, His burial, and then His resurrection into heaven seated at the right hand of the Father. We have a covenant with God Almighty, ratified by the Blood of Jesus. That blood did not cover or atone for sins as the blood of animals did, His Blood, through this covenant, washed away our sins

forever (I prefer to say “it blew them out of existence!)

Take hold of this and learn your covenant rights with God Almighty and you will never look back on the old way! Know your God and your covenant and you will stand mighty before any enemy, including the devil, just as David stood mighty before Goliath.

What was it David told Goliath when Goliath began mocking him as being only a mere boy? “This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee;” David knew His God!

How was it that David was able to do this? Not in his own strength, but in the strength of the Lord. This guy was at least 3 times the size of David – it didn’t matter, David’s God (my God) was bigger yet!

Once when I was preaching this story a young man about 6 was sitting with his father and when I spoke the part about David taking Goliath’s head he sang out; “And there was blood everywhere too!”

MY PRAYER...

Most Holy God, I give You praise and glory and thanksgiving forever. Father I thank You for Your covenant promises, for a cleansing by the Blood of Jesus

that only needed be done once and for all. I know that You are not a man that should lie and that what You have promised in Your covenant You have already fulfilled through Jesus.

I thank You Lord that You have given us not only a better covenant with better promises, but You have made a way into Your Throne Room through Your most holy Son. In Jesus mighty name, I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 24 Are you suited up in God's armor always?

Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

—Ephesians 6:12-13 New International Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

How often do you forget that we are in a spiritual war and not a physical one? Our enemy is deceptively cunning – take away the urgency of a threat and the danger appears gone. But he's there, the evil one is there always, just waiting to stick his foot in the door like a persistent salesman.

Yet rather than try to guess his plans and counter all of his moves, Paul reminds us to simply take up the tools God has given us and stand up to the evil one. Put the power of prayer in the name of Jesus to work in our lives.

Make sure that you have donned your armor and picked up your shield of Faith and then turned on your spiritual security system every morning by spending time in God's Word before heading out into the world of darkness around us.

Always, always make sure you have on the full armor of God. From the helmet of salvation to the shoes of the Gospel and everything in between. Most importantly the shield of Faith, by which you can quench ALL the fiery darts of the enemy.

The moment we forget even one piece of that armor, is the time the enemy will come in with force and find the chink in your armor! It says when he comes, not if he comes. But the Word also says we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us.

MY PRAYER...

Lord of Hosts, my Great Deliverer, protect me from the evil one by Your great and mighty power.

Give me a sense of urgency as I face Satan and his schemes on a daily basis, but also help me to increase my confidence that Jesus has already defeated my foe. Help me to stand against this foe and show myself faithful to You.

Lord, reveal unto to me the enemies' plans before he has a chance to apply them. That I may then use that which Jesus has already provided for me in my defense. May Your Holy Spirit fill me fresh each and every day. In the name of my Lord and Savior I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 25 Which Covenant are you living under?

For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

—Hebrews 8:7-8 King James Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE(S)...

The reference here to the first covenant is to the Old Testament or more specifically to the Law of Moses (The Ten Commandments plus for a total of 613 actual commandments or laws).

When God, seeing that mankind would not and could not keep them ALL, He proceeded to make (to actually establish & ratify) a new covenant with the house of Israel (Note here the house of Israel does not mean just the country of Israel, but the entire church of God including ALL who are born again through faith in Jesus Christ, God's Son.) A covenant that had actually begun 430 years before the law (The Ten Commandments, plus) was given to Moses for the people of Israel. A

covenant made with Jesus through Abram (Abraham).

Through Abraham, God would finally be able to get His son into the earth to help mankind! Through Jesus, God's Son, God was able to establish and ratify (put into effect) the "New Covenant" with mankind. A Covenant actually started before the Law! A Covenant of Mercy & Grace through faith in Jesus. A Covenant of forgiveness.

MY PRAYER...

Father God, thank You that You foresaw the future of mankind. Knowing full well our beginning and our end You prepared a way for the coming of Jesus long before the time would come for Him to be sent. Lord God, I thank You for Your Son and for Your promises made to Jesus through Abraham so many years ago. Promises that have been fulfilled at the cross. Father, in the name of Jesus I praise and thank You.

Amen.

Chapter 26 Do you understand the Covenant Jesus Made for you?

Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though [it is] only a man's covenant, yet [if it is] confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ. And this I say, [that] the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.

—Gal 3:15-17 New King James Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

We are partakers of a covenant that was confirmed in Christ Jesus, a covenant that cannot be annulled or made of no effect. Notice that I didn't say that, God did in His own Word! Even the 'Law' (the commandments & laws given to Moses) did not, will not, and cannot change the terms of the covenant God made with Abraham 430 years before He gave Moses the Law & the Ten Commandments. I didn't say that, the WORD of God did! Look it up for yourself, don't believe it just

because I reprinted it here.

The commandments & the rest of the Law were given to Moses because of a people who had turned from God. They were given to be as a teacher to them to point the way to Jesus. They were given to show mankind the sin they were in so that they might turn from sin to God.

MY PRAYER...

Father, my prayer is simple. Impart by revelation unto me and all your people the full meaning of Your new covenant to me and to them, a covenant made with Abraham and his seed before the 'Law' was. I know that we are partakers of that covenant also through the blood of Jesus, but instill in us the full meaning of this covenant. Show us Lord each and every benefit of this covenant. Show us Lord what we have, who we are, and what we can do being in Christ. Also Lord show us our part in keeping this covenant and what the penalties are for breaking it. In the Holy name of Jesus, Lord I ask this.

Amen.

Chapter 27 Is Jesus your mediator to God?

There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men.

—1 Timothy 2:5-6 New International Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE(S)...

We do not need another person, no matter how mighty, how pious, how religious, how saintly, or how special; to intercede for us before God. We do not need a priest and a confessional box, we do not need Mary or some other saint. After all every Christian is a 'saint' according to God's Word! All we need is Jesus as our Lord and our savior. I didn't say that, God did in His Word (see scripture above.) As His children, bought by the precious blood of the Lamb, Jesus, we can go freely before our Father God, knowing that God Himself has provided the perfect mediator between us and Himself. That mediator alone is Head of THE Church and Chief Priest before God for us. His name is Christ Jesus, our Lord. NO other person is worthy enough to stand before God Almighty on our behalf except Him. No One period! You need not direct your prayers to anyone except

Father God, but always through the name of Jesus. He is our only link to God the Father! To understand this you must understand God's Word and not some doctrine of man given as church history.

MY PRAYER...

Father God, You and You alone are my God, and I praise You for making Yourself so available. I know that in my own power and ability, I have no right to approach You. Yet in Your grace and by Your mercy You not only provided a ransom for my sin, sickness, disease, and poverty, but a mediator and an advocate to stand before You and make my approach to You possible. Jesus, I thank You as well, for paying the price and staying at the Father's side to intercede and speak for me on my behalf! Thank You for representing me before the Father as one of Yours. Thank You for making this prayer known to the Father. For truly no man comes unto the Father, except through You, Jesus.

In Your name, Jesus, I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 28 Are you risen with Christ Jesus?

Christ has indeed been raised, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

–1 Corinthians 15:20-22 New International Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY’S VERSE(S)...

Being eternal is nothing new, we’ve always been an eternal spirit, created by God in His likeness and image, God is Spirit. Being like Jesus, having our glorified bodies will be new. But when the moment of glory hung in the balance as Jesus was revived from his sleep of death by the power of the Holy Spirit of God, we too were given the assurance that death no longer claims us.

The only death that really matters is our death to sin with Jesus on the Cross and in His baptism. If we have shared in the death of the cross and have been baptized in death with Him, we will most certainly share in His resurrection (Romans 6:1-14). For if the same Spirit that

raised Jesus from death dwells in us then we too shall be raised from death unto life everlasting. If Jesus was first fruits, then there are many more fruits and I for one am one of them. Are you in there somewhere also?

MY PRAYER...

Almighty, Most Powerful Father God. Because of Your grace and Your Mercy and the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, I know I will see You face to face. Help me now, however, to live that resurrected life, being more like Jesus today than any day ever before and even more so tomorrow. Father, let the power of Your Holy Spirit fill me afresh each day of my life, that through Your power that dwells in me by the Holy Spirit I may live the life that pleases You. Through my Risen Lord, Jesus, I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 29 Has God's Word Sanctified you?

*S*anctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

–John 17:17 King James Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

God's Word will sanctify us. That word sanctify means to be set apart from the world, but also to be set apart unto God for His use and purposes.

God's promises, God's Scripture, and God's clearest message of all, His Son; are all truth. But only the last of these, Jesus, is The Truth, Grace, Mercy, Deliverer, Friend, Lover, Lord, Savior, Brother, Redeemer, Healer, Prosperer ... or whatever it is that you need.

He is whatever it is that you need when you call on Him. When you call on Him in Faith believing that you have received when you pray, then you will have what you asked. It may not immediately materialize, but if you believe then it is yours. It was finished for us that day a long time ago on the cross, we just have to receive it, it is not something that we need to wait for.

MY PRAYER...

Father God, give me a holy passion to know Your Truth and live it in both word and deed. Help me Lord, to make my life a reflection of Your Word. To be like Him, who both proclaimed and lived Your truth. For Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us and many knew Him not. Lord help me to proclaim Your Word and Truth so that many may come know Him. In Jesus mighty name, I pray.

Amen.

Chapter 30 Do you know ALL the promises of God to you?

But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

— Heb. 8:6 King James Version

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY’S VERSE...

Thank God we have a better covenant than they had in the Old Testament. Thank God we have better promises than they had coming out of Egypt. Thank God we have a living, loving Mediator, an Advocate, and a Lawyer who stands before God on our behalf.

When you mess up don't run and try and hide from God...instead run to Jesus and ask Him to forgive you, to fix it up with the Father for you. He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness (1 Jn. 1:9), if only we will come to Him and ask. In Fact this is what God says in Isaiah 43:25-26: "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake; and I will not remember your sins. Put me in remembrance; Let us contend together; State your case, that you may be

acquitted.

God says nothing about being found guilty if you come to Him and ask forgiveness!

MY PRAYER...

Most Holy God, I give You praise and glory forever. Father I thank You for Your promises. I know that You are not a man that you should lie and that what You have promised You will fulfill. I thank You Lord that You have given us not only a better covenant with better promises, but You have made a way into Your Throne Room for us through Your most Holy Son. I thank You Father that I can come boldly to your Throne through the Blood of Jesus. Thank you Lord for giving me a Mediator to settle my case with You, that I may be acquitted. In Jesus mighty name, I pray.

Amen.

About The Author

Pastor Duane was born in Adrian, Michigan in 1950. He was raised in an essentially non-Christian home. But at the age of 7 he was taken to a vacation Salvation Army Bible School by an older cousin. Duane went on to reject the Gospel of Jesus and to live his life apart from God and the Bible until the age of 47 when he gave his life to Jesus.

While at work one day he cried out to God and as he did he was genuinely Born Again and filled with the Holy Spirit. Since then he has prayed for many to be saved, baptized with the Holy Spirit, and healed in their bodies.

Duane studied the Bible for four years in his senior pastor's Bible school, Liberty Bible Institute of Word & Spirit Church in Bremerton, WA. He completed his Bachelors in Church Ministry and his Masters in Biblical Studies from The Sure Foundation Theological Institute and recently completed his PHD in Theology from the Institute.

He is currently the Associate Pastor of Word & Spirit Church in Bremerton, Washington where he assists his senior pastor with the pastoral duties. Duane is gifted to teach a

simple, balanced, uncompromised, Word of God in a manner that all can grasp easily. He is the author of "Unveiling the Mysteries, Christian Truths Concerning the Laws Found in Romans".

He has been on 2 mission trips to Africa with his senior pastor and one mission trip to the Philippines accompanied by his wife Laura of 43 years.