



Waldo Avenue

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MY Testimony

by Muriel Leutiman

In the past few days, I have received impressions from the Spirit as to how our Father looks upon His daughters and His desires for their welfare. Just this morning, I was walking and praying over my own family. I saw myself as something solid yet swaying, strong and firm, unwavering and secure in my family position, emanating hospitality, joy, comfort, and peace. This is an aim or goal to continue to reach for, more than a reflection of my current performance. With this word came also: *This objective of securing the home is primary in the heart and mind of God for His daughters.* Meaning that our family's welfare comes first before all other projects outside the home. Serving each family member's needs with guidance from the Holy Spirit will have far greater benefit to society than anything else wives and mothers can ever do. *She who rocks the cradle, rules the world* is true more today than ever before.

I saw each daughter as a large ship anchor. We are to be like that for our families, grounded in the Lord, securing the home as it navigates calm or stormy seas.

I have learned recently that God created our homes to be battle stations for His

Kingdom work. Keeping a well-organized, efficient, welcoming home is critical to the family, the neighborhood around that home, and community. Last year I gave up my responsibilities with the IIAW as Communications Secretary and Neighborhood Transformation Team Leader. I loved that work and I did well in those positions. However, my health was declining and I had taken on another assignment that required more attention to perform it well.

When I stepped away and focused on my art assignments and matters close to home, I realized how much my family and home had sacrificed in the 5 years I was doing community work. I also saw how much stress I allowed in my life with my community work. There was no wiggle room for rest or open time for the Spirit to move freely during my day. My house was disorganized, cluttered and dirty. I was edgy and cranky at times, and didn't see how much that was affecting my husband, son, and daughter. I feared being asked where something was in the house because I didn't have a home place for things. I had to think hard where that thing might be. I was losing track of things. Frankly, I was tired and slowing down. I was a mess!

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I say unto you, listen to me....one, As the five wise virgins did in the parable of the last days, gather and sanctify your oil, before the cry at midnight. Prepare yourself through scripture, prayer, fasting, and humble service. You must take the Holy Spirit as a guide in all things that you do in your life.

Trust Me

From Jesus Calling pg. 12

Trust Me by relinquishing control into My hands. Let go, and recognize that I am God. This is My world; I made it and I control it. Yours is a response part in the litany of Love. I search among My children for receptivity to Me. Guard well this gift that I have planted in your heart. Nurture it with the Light of My Presence.

When you bring Me prayer requests, lay out your concerns before Me. Speak to Me candidly; pour out your heart. Then thank Me for the answers that I have set into motion long before you can discern results. When your requests come to mind again, continue to thank Me for the answers that I have set into motion long before you can discern results. When your requests come to mind again, continue to thank Me for the answers that are on the way. If you keep on stating your concerns to Me, you will live in a state of tension. When you thank Me for how I am answering your prayers, your mind-set becomes much more positive. Thankful prayers keep your focus on My Presence and My promises. Ps. 46:10, Col. 4:2, 2 Pet.1:3-4#

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I do not believe God wants His daughters to feel that kind of stress and anxiousness. He would rather we do a few critically important things well, than to try to address the ills of the world. The key is to let the Spirit lead, and ask many ques-

tions about what and how we, as God's daughters, are to perform. Our main work is on our knees in supplication as to what we are to do with the Word He has given. When we are shown a great need, our response must be to pray first and consistently. Let God open the doors to serve if there are any.

Our days are full of many experiences. It is important to have time to evaluate and consider all of the lessons to be learned and insights these experiences provide. Oftentimes, multiple things happen together to address one particular issue we have been praying for, and that God wants to resolve for us. We need time to sort everything out, put all in proper order, learn all there is to be learned, keep asking the Spirit what more there is to gain from the experiences, and record God's messages for future reference.#

Read Any Good Books Lately?



Thom Rainer is a consultant whose gift is to develop a game plan for churches who desire change. Many call on him because their church is weak, sick or dying. He has written several books. I've read Becoming a Welcoming Church, Anatomy of a Revived Church, Anatomy of a Deceased Church, 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive, I have found them enlightening, full of ideas that have worked with other churches, and I believe Spirit led for our needs today.#

5 Things That Will Help You Surrender to God's Will

(adapted from CRE March Conference Daily Tidings which is taken from countingmyblessings.com)

1. Trust God's Love!

It's hard for me to follow someone who doesn't want what's best for me and since the Garden of Eden, the Adversary has used whatever he can to get people to doubt God's love.

Have you ever heard a child say: *you don't love me* to a parent's *no*? Yet the job of a loving parent isn't to make their children happy, it's to do what is best to help them grow and mature.

I'm learning that as my loving Heavenly Father, God is at work in my life helping me grow and mature in faith and love. And...

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His Only Begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins (I John 4:9-10).

That is HUGE love!

2. Let go of Worry (fear) and Surrender in Faith.

If worry was an Olympic sport, I'd have a trophy case of medals. The list of things I've worried about is too long for this space. I'd memorized the verse *don't worry about tomorrow* as a child—but apply-

ing it seemed beyond my ability, I would become overwhelmed with anxiety. But, I'm not doing tomorrow right now. I am living today! It took several major crises before I finally learned that I just needed God to help me through the moment and trust Him to give me what I need in the next. That's living through faith... Believing God will meet each need one moment at a time!

Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? And if worry can't accomplish a little thing like that, what's the use of worrying over bigger things? (Luke 12:25-26).

3. Let Go of the Past and Surrender to God's Healing Grace.

Dwelling on the past is as much of a problem as worrying about the future. In Christ Jesus, God has completely forgiven the past. I'm learning to trust Him and lean into His grace and mercy. Part of my surrendering means going to God in prayer asking Him to forgive my past and give me all I need to forgive those who hurt me. When you and I focus on regret and revenge we cannot surrender. Those two things will always rob us of God's peace and joy (aka Barriers and hindrances to Zion).

Remember ye not the former things; neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth. Shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert; (Isa. 43:18-19).

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5 Things that will Help You Surrender to God's Will

4. Let Go of Impatience and Surrender to God's Timing.

I'm not good at waiting—lines, doctor's offices, etc. I have a schedule to follow. You too?! But the truth is, there is no peace when I'm tapping my foot and staring at my watch. So, I'm, giving my impatience to God, asking Him to help me trust His timing and while I wait, I'm also asking Him to give me His peace and strength.

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint (Isa. 40:31).

5. Let Go of Disobedience and Surrender to God's Commands.

I'm too often a creature of habits and not all of them are good. It's easy to make light of my sins, after all they're not THAT bad. But sins are a big deal. They rob me of peace, cause me unpleasant consequences, and fail to glorify God, I'm asking God to help me believe His ways are best and give me a heart for obedience, not to earn His favor but to glorify Him and testify of His love.

Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O Lord, have we waited for Thee; the desire of our soul is to Thy name and to the remembrance of Thee (Isa 26:8).

Summary

I like to have control over what happens in my life. I want what I want, and I want it now. But experience has taught me that fighting God's plans will never offer me lasting happiness or peace. It has never happened in the past and I doubt it will in the future. I believe God wants to help us trust His perfect love and surrender to His will.

Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me (Isa. 46:9).

So I will surrender my will to God today. Not on my own. But with His help.

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me (Phil. 4:13).

I'm thankful for these quotes to inspire me:

- ◇ *If my life is surrendered to God, all is well. Let me not grab it back, as though it were in peril in His hand but would be safer in mine! Elisabeth Elliot*
- ◇ *It is wonderful what miracles God works in wills that are utterly surrendered to Him. Hannah Whitall Smith.*
- ◇ *Real contentment must come from within. You and I cannot change or control the world around us, but we can change and control the world within us. Warren Wiersbe*
- ◇ *Peace is the deliberate adjustment of my life to the will of God. Author Unknown,*

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On Being His Church

*If you don't become a **reconciler** of the lost, you will become an **evaluator** of the saved.*

*There is something inherent in our nature that wants to **see people get right with God**, and if we don't direct it at the **lost**, we will direct it at the **saved**.*

*Then instead of **pursuing sinners**, we will spend our time **policing the saints**.*

*All of us have been called to be "**fishers of men**", but when those who are called fish don't fish, they fight.*

*When energy that was meant to be used outside the church is used inside the church, the result is **explosive**.*

*Instead of becoming **reachers** of the lost, we become **critics** of the saved.*

*Instead of **helping** the hurting, we **hurt** the helpers.*

*And sadly, the lost go **unreached**, the poor go **unfed** and the confused go **unconsoled**.*

*But when those who are called to **fish**, fish, they **flourish**, souls are **reached**, lives are **changed** and the world is **impacted**. (Jeff Brawley, Encounter Ministry, Lebanon, Mo.)*

False Narratives

False narratives aka lies, make you

- * Feel Powerless and Overwhelmed
- * Want to Withdraw and give up
- * Create division and strife.

An example - *you can't do, be, or say ... (whatever); you aren't good enough...*

The adversary uses division to maintain control, have power over.

When people are bickering they are oblivious to what really is going on. #

Fixed in Your Purpose

by Florence King.

The time is far spent—there is little remaining to publish glad tidings by sea and by land,

Then hasten, ye heralds! Go forward proclaiming! Repent for the judgments of God are at hand!

Shrink not from your duty, however unpleasant. But follow the Savior, your pattern and friend

Your little afflictions, though painful at present, Ere long, with the righteous, in glory will end.

Be fixed in your purpose, for Satan will try you, The weight of your calling, He perfectly knows.

Your path may be thorny, but Jesus is nigh you, His arm is sufficient, though demons oppose.

Press on to the mark of eternal perfection, Determined to reap the celestial reward,

That you may come forth in the first resurrection, And feast at the supper of Jesus the Lord. #

What Must Zion do to be Saved?

Saints Herald, Oct., 1932

Vol. 70 #41

...for Zion to be saved it must be freed from all unfavorable forces...This people must heed the warning, when it is called to their attention that forces are within our midst that are making for disintegration. We must recognize not only these forces, but also those which are necessary to release in order to overcome the unfavorable forces...#

Words of Counsel

Given through Junior Orval Cottrill at
Temple Grove Reunion Aug. 2, 2024

Every once in a while, I feel the need to share with you, a patriarch's fatherly thoughts. And so, I am impressed by the good Spirit to share these few words of counsel for your consideration:

You really have but one call to answer. It is not mysterious. It is not hard to understand. Your call is to be faithful. Be faithful to the call to be My people. Be faithful to love one another. Be faithful in right relationships. Have aught with no one.

Be faithful to practice, with humility, repentance, and forgiveness. Be faithful in your search for your unique place and responsibility in this work. Be faithful with your testimony of a risen Savior, who ensures the promise of eternal life.

Be faithful over a few things, and in the kingdom to come, you shall be ruler over many things. Be faithful in your approach to God, and always remember that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and through Him only, can you come unto the Father.

Be faithful in your daily walk, and be not discouraged, for the purposes of God cannot be frustrated.

Be faithful until the spiritual conditions of My people will allow the coming forth of my Holy Zion.

You are few in number. But fear not little flock, for it is My Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. BE FAITHFUL! #

Recipes for a Healthy Church

By Zion Bound Press Dedicated to all those who enter into the house of the Lord.

Sabbath Slice

1. Slice away activities that keep your Sabbath from being the Lord's Day.
2. Remember that while the Lord's day is only a slice of our week that all our days are gifts from God and we should always be found thankful to the Creator of all good gifts.

Witnessing

1. Mix knowledge of God with the desire to share.
2. Ingrain with love your concern for another.
3. Bring the water's edge. Baptism.

Faith Soup

This is the easiest to prepare

Boil large quantities of water and tell people they will enjoy their favorite soup.

This requires the type of faith that can move mountains.#

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A Daily Prayer of Surrender to God's Will

Years ago, a dear friend shared this morning prayer with me.

Father God, I surrender this day to You. I will follow where You lead and do Your will as You reveal it to me. Help me live this promise—that I may live today for Your glory. In the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.#