

# Trumpet Sounds

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## One Day At A Time...Sweet Jesus

Christians unconsciously live wondering what they can do for God, yet feel so commonplace even though we are as different and unique as our fingerprints. What should we be doing as Christians? We know the basics of gathering ourselves together to worship and that we are witnesses living by the “Golden Rule”, but when it comes to picking up our cross we are not as sure what that means. It always puts a crimp in our flow of the “happiness pursuit” we work to achieve.

Do you realize that out of Jesus lifetime little is known except for the three years from His baptism to ministry fulfillment at the cross? The majority of His earthly life was just living each and every

day. Even though Jesus' birth was monumentally written with a virgin conception, wise men following His star and a handful of shepherds seeing His angels, no one in His neighborhood or the world knew He was anything more than another kid growing up with their kids: *Matt 13:55-57 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? 56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? 57 And they were offended in him.* No one remarked, “I always knew something was different about him.”

Living each day as the eldest of younger siblings calls for watching over the younger ones and helping mom around the house...like, changing diapers? Did Mary ever say something like: “Be sure and hold James hand at the market... Don't let him out of sight.”? We know of an episode of Jesus being separated from His family while asking provocative questions in the temple, but the world did not know it. There were no big news headlines: THE KING IS ALIVE AND WELL ON PLANET EARTH...DAY ONE OF THE MESSIAH WATCH. Jesus' early life was a normal life of year after year, day after day until His last three years. He was the first Christian before anyone knew what Christianity was. Jesus

dressed and ate like any other Galilean...no extraordinarily white robe with matching halo. The pictures of Him do not do reality justice for Scriptures told that...*he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him, Isa 53:2.*

Jesus was God on earth, yet like one of us growing up. He was working in a carpenter shop while John was preaching until the day of His baptism. All while John “the baptizer” was stirring up the government of his day and making news, Jesus was still working every day, getting up in the morning and going to bed every night. He was not at the water's edge with John taking part.

So, in getting back to us wondering what we can do for God as Christians, John answered for the people asking him: *Luke 3:10-14 And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? 11 He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. 12 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? 13 And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. 14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence*

*to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.*

This tells us to be fair, giving and just in our dealings and in all we do. We do not repay evil with evil but good for evil. I know that is easy to say, but I also know practice makes perfect. Faith does not come naturally. It comes by working it daily and learning from falling short.

Sometimes our minds are so into the mystery of what tomorrow will bring that we miss living out the day we are in. Allow the future to unfold, but be consciously aware of today. Each day adds itself to what your future will become; therefore, spend the day capitalizing on living it as best possible. Be involved in even the littleness of life because some of the smallest things we take for granted could be a lifeline to another.

The little trick is learning this: *Col 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men...* That is the cross we carry. We live each day in Christ, whether we are seemingly doing nothing extraordinary but just living “littleness”. That littleness may be the trigger that changes a life even when it is not a headliner for the world's recognition, it is life changing to someone.

Live today's life and give tomorrow to the Lord to watch over.

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## Silent Champions

***“It is not so much in what we preach to reach but how we live to give.”*** I perceived this from Holy Spirit this morning.

*[More than one person has asked me how I get what I get to write. Well, it is not just one thing. This morning I sat at my desk and said, “What?” and got that opening line. My understanding catches up to the line and an article is born. Each day is new and different. There is no formula; there is only availability.]*

Today’s “Live to Give” over “Preach to Reach” is the example of living our lives in front of people as champions that do not have to talk a person into life but being living proof of God’s LOVE that can change a heart.

It is so easy to default into the talk over the walk, but there is a lot said while silently living in front of those we love.

We show the intervention of God in our lives by walking through difficulties with confidence that we will reach the other side. We do not become manic with the panic but confi-

dent that even a difficult road leads us to the right path full of healing and prosperity. The people around us are ever watching our responses. Our fidelity in the Word of God is all the witness we need to stand in the darkest day.

One of the things, among many, I love about the Christian life is that nothing gets wasted. No matter what we have done or failed in, it is not wasted. We have all been on one of those roads under construction with all its bumps, ruts and a flagman making you stop while someone else passes by slowly. The longer the wait the more the frustration and slower the pace, but it **does** end and sometimes you just have to remember that IT WILL PASS.

Do you understand why we have a nation *of the people, by the people and for the people*? It is because our founding fathers lived for freedom. Freedom did not come easily but was lived day by day in those silent champions. They

gave their lives so that we could live ours. We may not have the same situations but a whole new set of frustrations. We are the silent champions walking in the light of God’s love and hope. I believe the Serenity Prayer is the creed of the silent champion:

***God grant me the serenity  
To accept the things I cannot  
change;  
Courage to change the things  
I can;  
And wisdom to know the dif-  
ference.***

***Living one day at a time;  
Enjoying one moment at a  
time;  
Accepting hardships as the  
pathway to peace;  
Taking, as He did, this sinful  
world  
As it is, not as I would have it;  
Trusting that He will make  
all things right  
If I surrender to His Will;  
So that I may be reasonably  
happy in this life  
And supremely happy with  
Him***

***Forever and ever in the next.  
Amen.***

I know I have said a lot about the Serenity Prayer, but if we studied it carefully, we would see more clearly how to live even in so short a prayer.

The world only sees impossibility, death, sorrow, chaos, misunderstanding and despair. Our witness is seeing the possibility in impossibility, life through death, joy in sorrow, sanity in chaos, justification through misunderstanding and hope in despair.

We have the anti-venom to the poison and toxicity of any situation, because Jesus always erects a bridge for us to cross over the deepest abyss to the other side. All we do is cross the bridge to the other side and allow the example to be seen by all the watchers watching.

Even when people seem not want to listen, it is hard not to witness the success of those who live wrapped in Christ’s security.

## Count The Cost

My pastor did a series on this subject of **Deferred Gratification**. It is the ability to resist the temptation of an immediate reward to wait for a later reward. Later is greater!

This is the life of Christian boundaries set to resist an immediate temptation that can rob us of the much larger reward planned by a Loving Father.

Esau is a prime example of satisfying oneself with a quick fix and losing a birthright: ***Heb 12:16-17 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. 17 For ye know how that afterward, when he***

***would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.***

We live out our choices. Many of us know when we are compromising values for today’s “feeling” bringing tomorrow’s remorse. Some of these choices that gratify the moment take years of paying off and could be life long consequences. ***Lu 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?***

When we allow our feelings to take

charge of us it is the same as giving a 4 year old our car keys to head out on the highway.

Ask the gambler if one more bet will make any difference. Instant gratification practiced as a lifestyle will rob you of everything that has value.

Deferred gratification may not be instantaneous, but it will be lasting.

We need to make good investments within our lives, for example, when buying a house we consider looking at everything carefully to make a good investment. That being said, our temple/bodies are more costly than a building in which much consideration

needs to be taken.

***Ps 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.***

We mistranslate the word precious using our English, but in Hebrew it is the word **yâqâr** meaning **costly**. So it would be read: ***Ps 116:15 Costly in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.*** Just as it is costly to us when someone we love passes on, it is costly to God.

Gratification is not a bad word as long as we count the cost and live what we value rather than indulging what gratifies for the moment.

## Spiritual Sensitivity

*John 5:19 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.*

Have you ever envisioned yourself doing something and thought, "I don't think so...I can't do that." Many times we do not connect with what we assume just an imagination.

I have finally learned through trial and error that envisioning it in my mind is actually what Jesus was talking about as the Father showing Him what He would do and Jesus did what He saw.

How often do people wonder what they should or could do for God, yet He is showing us what we can do and we chalk it up to a day dream or imagination.

There is no booming voice from heaven. Any action of those amazing people in the Scriptures that "heard from

God" saw the same way we do. Read Hebrews 11 to find that it was by *faith* Abel...Enoch...Noah...Abraham...Isaac...Jacob...Moses...Rahab...moved. No, they were not perfect or without err, but they envisioned themselves doing what their inner spirit impressed them. Sometimes we do not realize it was God until hindsight proves it out, and then we have either accomplished it or regretted missing it. I have personally done both and am accomplishing more due to the multitude of regrets!

My biggest regret was picturing a friend of my Grandma Giovanetti's named Loretta. One day she came to mind and I wondered if she knew that anyone was thinking of her. I felt she should know that I was remembering her and how many times I had seen her with my Grandma. I wrote her all about the times I valued her in memories with Grandma and put the letter in an envelope, called Mom for

her address and stuck it on my counter to go out to mail. The problem was that I did not get around to mailing it. It was the next week that Mom called and said how odd that I had just asked for Loretta's address since she had just received news that Loretta tried to take her life because she felt no one cared about her. I was devastated with the news and mad at God for not making it clear that writing Loretta was not my good idea but a God Idea. That gave me great pause to give attention to the things I saw myself doing or thinking it was a good idea of my own and started realizing God's Holy Spirit has a voice. I just had to learn to recognize it.

We get little impressions all the time unaware that in many cases it is God's Spirit. The more we step forward to act upon those little urges and impressions the stronger it becomes, and the more we tend to discern the difference between our voice and His.

To hear God's Spirit, we must turn down our own volume. We know how to tell God what is going on but harder for us to listen to what He says is really happening that we may not see or consider. We allow situations their loud voice of frustration and fear to get our attention much like Elisha running from Jezebel: *1 Kings 19:11-12 ...and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: 12 And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.*

Silence what needs silenced to hear Him.

"How can I know if it's God and not Satan?" There is a difference in voices just as there is a difference in kingdoms. Check the boxes below, but more importantly knowing the Word of God heads you toward the right voice.



**To Listen to God:**

- Silence your environment
- Silence your body to listen to your words
- Silence your words to listen to your thoughts
- Silence your thoughts to listen to your heart
- Silence your heart to listen to your spirit
- Silence your spirit to listen to God's Spirit

## True North

Paul gives a brief synopsis of his conversion:

*1 Tim 1:12-14 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; 13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.*

**WOWZERS!!!** Paul was heading due north but it was a far cry away from his true north ... BUT JESUS!

Paul crucified Jesus over and over again and again in God's children. How many Christians were imprisoned and died because of Paul's zealousness against Jesus? Paul did not do what he did accidentally but with all fervor and deliberation.

God took Paul's fervor and zealous passions heading due north and pointed him in his "true north".

Technically, magnetic north is so flexible, because it comes from the iron based molten core, which is magnetic. True north does not have this flexibility, because it is an actual pinpointed place on land. Therefore, true north differs from magnetic north, which varies from place to place and over time due to local magnetic anomalies. A magnetic compass almost never shows true north. In fact over thousands of years, magnetic north wanders considerably and occasionally reverses so that the magnetic north pole has been near the geographic south pole at some periods in the earth's history.

Compare this technical side to the analogy of life. There are many magnetic pulls called human desires and distractions to make a due north not our true north. Each of us was created with a true north, purpose, plan called destiny:

*Eph 1:4-5 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in*

*love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will...*

This does not mean that God picked some for salvation and not others. Notice that I underlined HE HATH... THAT WE SHOULD. What hath He? He hath chosen us. What SHOULD WE? We should be without blame? How can we possibly be without blame? There is only one way, and His name is Jesus.

Everyone was accounted in the Book of Life: *Ps 139:16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.*

We may start out in the Book but may not continue there: *Rev 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy*

*city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

*Rev 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.*

GRACE put our names in the Book, our lives have purposed destiny unless we do not chose to be there.

We have all been waylaid by the desires of a magnetic pull whether money, a hunk, a hunk o' burnin' luuv, an addiction or intense feeling that we made into our due north. Yet, due north can and does change with the course of life and often we have wasted not only valuable time that we cannot get back but our values period...BUT JESUS! Just like Paul, we can get back to our True North

YOU matter...Do not just take up space and have weight, but live out the purpose for which you are here at this appointed time. AMEN





Jesus loves me this I know  
Jesus knows me this I love

## Jesus Knows Me...

A good friend showed me this saying on something given her. It is an amazing thought: Jesus loves me this I know... Jesus knows me this I love.

JESUS KNOWS ME... THIS I LOVE!!! Jesus knows us, yet this is what we need to know about His knowing us: *Ps 103:10-14 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.*

*11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.*

*12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.*

*13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.*

*14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.*

In other words... JESUS GETS IT!!! Jesus gets me. He knows what makes me tick, respond and react the way I do. Jesus has never misunderstood me, even when I tried to excuse or justify myself, He knows me. That being said, He also knows that I

do not wake up every morning wondering and plotting how I can hurt myself and others. I may tumble into that, but I had not calculated evil.

Look at all the characters of the Bible. Not a perfect one in the bunch. As a matter of fact, some of those He chose had committed some of the worst crimes. The example of David calculating the death of an honorable soldier so he could take his wife. Or... what about "a bald man, two bears and forty-two children"? Elisha was given power, yet in anger from being called baldy, cursed them and two she bears came out and mauled 42 of them. Most people think God did this, but what God did was to give Elisha power through prophecy. What people do not understand is that along with the gift is the responsibility. The proof of a true prophet of God is what follows his words. Whether in blessing or cursing a true prophets' words will come to pass. God did not ordain Elisha to curse the death of children. We know this because Jesus, who was and is God in the flesh taught us these things: *Luke 6:27-29 But I say unto you which hear, Love your ene-*

*mies, do good to them which hate you, 28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. 29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also.*

*James 3:8-10 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.*

We believe God is harsh because His people presented Him in the harshness of their attitudes and reactions. *Matt 5:38-39 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: 39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. Matt 5:43-44 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44 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;*

Even though Jesus knows us, He still picks us up and helps us to go forward no matter what stupid things or evil we have done through anger etc.

JESUS KNOWS ME... THIS I LOVE!!!

If you had not thought of anything praise worthy in your life, then think about this: *Rom 5:8-10 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

God did not send Jesus for the best of us but for the worst of us to make us His best. JESUS LOVES ME THIS I KNOW... JESUS KNOWS ME THIS I LOVE!!!