

TRUMPET SOUNDS

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NOTE TO MOMS

I wanted to write a short note to all the Moms and Grandmothers who faithfully pray for their children and grandchildren.

I know of nothing more wonderful than knowing for the first time that you are going to have a child. There is the amazing feeling as that little life moves within until the time of birth.

They come into the world naked and helpless depending on us for their lives, nurture, love and lessons. We wrap them up and carry them until they walk. We look forward to what they will become as we dream of all the possibilities.

There are also the firsts we go through with them. Their suc-

cesses and failures bring both joy and sorrow. We are a mixed basket of emotions raising them.

Then comes the day when the son takes a wife and the daughter a husband. We do not have much say to whom they give their love, even though at times we may say very much. In the end they choose and cleave to another. We witness their happiness's and sadness's as they learn married life and raising children for themselves.

We moms are not so different from one another. I have two beautiful daughters and granddaughters. I raised my daughters the way I believed I should making mistakes along the way just as my mother did. I have

watched my granddaughters being raised in a different generation than the one in which I raised mine. There are times when you bite your tongue and other times you wished you had bitten it harder and stopped from saying things that cannot be taken back. This is normal. We, like Paul, have done what we wish we had not and not done what we wish we had. There are no do-overs, but do-betters next time.

There are also the moms who have gone through the heart wrenching times of the death or near death of a child, addiction, depression, abuse, cheating of their spouse, a criminal act upon them or by them as well as a

terminal disease. To you moms I give special prayer for your strength and courage to stand fast in faith with all the love and support you can muster, and when that reserve is used up that you can fall in the arms of Jesus and allow Him to carry the load. Sometimes we just have to let go to let God even when we think we cannot.

When all is said and done, cried and prayed, bought and wore the T-shirt, God is faithful to watch over what we cannot. He can reach the places of the heart that we have no clue how to reach and give the unconditional love and forgiveness that we too must walk out and embrace.

P. S. MOMS

There are only two jobs more difficult than being a mom, that I can think of at this moment, and they are the current president and God.

The things our children never know because we generally do not tell them some of the scenes that have come to mind, mostly because they are against the law.

I bet there is not one mom who has not wanted to run away from home at some point leav-

ing neither forwarding address nor trail of breadcrumbs.

How about the times they come complaining about what someone did to them, as you sit with your understanding and consoling face, yet secretly knowing they did the very same thing to you! I could write a book!

Fido and Miss Kitty start to look really appealing because there is no college fund to save up, they eat what is put down or go hungry, you never have to explain yourself, they do not

talk back and they are either loving you or sleeping.

In all this there is a BUT I am coming to. Our Children carry part of us around wherever they go and are a part of our hearts that can never be removed. The hardest of times with them have taught us how to pray and reach the heart of God who knows more than anyone how hard it is to be both a mom and dad to all his children.

GOD YOU AMAZE ME! May I be more like You, amen.

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MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is a day in which we commemorate those who have given their lives for others and to this nation. Whether they died in the action of saving or spent their lives giving of themselves to a more peaceful retirement, we commemorate these selfless ones.

We tend to think of soldiers, police officers and firefighters etc., but there are others just doing their jobs as citizens in honesty and good faith.

In Acts 10:1-4, we find a man,

Cornelius, not born a Jew but an Italian, who had such a love for God that his entire household was won over by his example. He had two things for which God commended him...his giving and prayers that went before God as a memorial.

There was also the woman with the alabaster box of ointment in which she broke open to anoint Jesus that was also given the testament of memorial by God.

We may be little people doing

everyday little things, while those in the limelight touch millions by satellite. Has Joel Osteen taken food to your neighbor when she came home from the hospital? Or did Billy Graham give a hand to help the man across the street when he had that stroke and could not cut his grass? Where was Mother Teresa when that woman in front of you was five dollars short at the Walmart checkout?

There are every day things happening to every day people and those famous are a television

screen away or on a page in history.

God needs His every day people doing every day acts of kindness. These are memorials that we may not picture for ourselves and yet God sees, values and sets the memorials.

Maybe you do not see yourself in this Memorial Day, but someone else has been the beneficiary of your kindness, and it meant more to them than you will ever know.

Memorial Day is the blessing for all to all.

THE MORAL OF THE STORY...

There is a story of a barbaric king who found a way to decide guilt or innocence in a most entertaining way. The operative word in that first sentence is BARBARIC, thus the test.

The king had an arena set up with two doors. Behind one door was a crazed lion with a ravenous appetite, while behind the other door was the reward of a fair maiden. The entertainment would be the gruesome, bloody attack by the lion or a marriage feast with all invited.

The king had a beautiful daughter who fell in love with one of the king's mightiest of soldiers. The king did not think anyone was good enough for the princess and wanted none of their romance. Thus, the king had the soldier arrested and placed in jail.

The princess was forlorn and grief stricken at her loss. She also knew that it was either the lion or a fair maiden that would take him away from her forever. She knew the maiden chosen.

She hated her for her beauty and that she had seen this maiden looking fondly at her lover. The princess had her father's blood flowing through her veins making her dilemma great upon her heart. Sleep left her as she tossed thinking of which door her love would pick and how she might live with either choice. She could neither abide him being torn by the lion in death nor life in another woman's arms especially the woman she so hated. She faced this torment day and night until the evening before the trial. The princess was given the information of which door held the lion and which the maiden. Finally her decision was reached. The death of her lover would be swift and she would meet him on the other side of life or his life with the woman she hated would continue in happiness without her.

The day came and all were present for this occasion to see what would happen. The princess sat expressionless next to the king

knowing her decision.

As her lover came out, the crowd gasped at the stature of this mighty man. He was the finest man they had seen. The man turned, but instead of bowing to the king, as was customary, he looked at the princess with imploring eyes for a sign she would give him. She calmly raised her right hand and placed it upon the pillow next to her without the attention of those around her. He knowingly turned and walked to the door on the right believing the princess had saved his life.

What did she pick? Did she pick selfishly or sacrificially? What would you say and how would you pick?

This is a very telling story. It tells us a lot about our own thoughts and life. Have you picked? How does this story turn out?

No, I am not giving the end of the story because each of us find that we must decide for ourselves whether our choices are

based on selfish desires or if we decide sacrificially. Our circumstances are not losing in the same arena as this story, but situations arise in life in which we are faced with hard choices that may end up costing us no matter what we decide. The Scripture that comes to mind is equally hard to decide: **Luke 6:27-28 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, 28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.**

The King of Kings is our Father, and the blood He shed for us runs through our veins. Yet often when someone hurts us or our family, we like to know there is a special place of punishment for their unkind act. There are two doors in our arena. Which door would we signal our enemy? The door of the lion or the door of the marriage feast? We choose the ending to many story outcomes. What do you choose?

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

What is charity? In the Bible it is *agape* a love feast, dear, love. Feast is *egkainia* or renewal and dedication in a large portion. It would not be a sometimes love in the right circumstances or in response to someone loving you first but a committed, dedicated love regardless of the situations, surroundings or difficult personalities.

The characteristics are given here: *1 Cor 13:4-8*

- *Charity suffereth long,*
- *kind;*
- *envieth not;*
- *vaunteth not itself,*
- *not puffed up,*
- *not unseemly,*
- *seeketh not her own,*
- *not easily provoked,*
- *thinketh no evil,*
- *rejoiceth not in iniquity,*
- *rejoiceth in the truth,*
- *beareth all things,*
- *believeth all things,*

- *hopeth all things,*
- *endureth all things,*
- *never faileth:*

This is the test of love from the WORD's perspective. This was Jesus...the WORD made flesh. Now the Spirit of God has these characteristics: *Gal 5:22-23*
But the fruit of the Spirit is

- *love,*
- *joy,*
- *peace,*
- *longsuffering,*
- *gentleness,*
- *goodness,*
- *faith,*
- *meekness,*
- *temperance:*

I did not write these characteristics to show what failures we are but what an awesome God we serve. These are God's characteristics and His Spirit. God is our template of abundant life.

Often the church can get caught up in self-righteous works to credit ourselves that we have

paid our dues in salvation. We as the church can inflict the sinner with this secret judgment by thinking, "God helps those who help themselves." Yet sinners cannot help themselves. We need the love of Christ more than advice and a formula. We put a qualifier onto salvation for the struggling sinner in the impossible situation that he should actually save himself.

If we go to the cross of Jesus we see a thief who is dying a thief, but in one small moment before he perishes faces his sin and asks Jesus one thing: *Luke 23:42*
Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. Did Jesus hand him the Ten Commandments and tell him to study the list and work it out? Did Jesus expect him to clean up his life first? No, Grace spoke: (Luke 23:43)
Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise. That thief became the righteousness of Christ with

his name in the Lamb's Book of Life in that one small moment. He had no time in which to prove his repentance or walk it out. On the other side of this, Jesus spoke to the religious self-righteous saying: *Matt 9:12-13*
They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Just as those who are not hungry do not look for food or those who are not thirsty seek not a well of Living Water, so those whose righteousness is in themselves do not need a Savior. Charity has an attitude of the Grace we receive and extend to others unconditionally. The spiritual gifts do not cause us to see our righteousness but to serve those who need a Savior.

The greatest asset in Christian character is our love and acceptance of God and our brother.

INSANITY

One definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over expecting a different result. By this definition we have all reached points of insanity. Instead of thinking that this is not working, we wonder why it is not working and continue the helpless venue over again for good measure that this time it will work.

The definition of perseverance is steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success. There is a fine line between those two definitions, however, the abyss widens when persevering in the Word of

God and His promises as opposed to our own efforts over and over in futility.

It is amazing that we think we can control situations that we have no control over. The only thing we can control, with practice and perseverance, is changing ourselves. Changing ourselves is the key to situations changing around us either from our outlook or example.

We point our prayers at situations when the answer lies within our ability to change.

In any given situation, especially the ones we do not cause, we

need to see our part not on how we feel but what the Word helps us to understand. Difficult people and situations are not the target but our growth in how we handle the things we cannot change is the key. There is a prayer called the Serenity Prayer which goes like this: *God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.*

The only thing over which we have the power to change is ourselves and in the process many of the things we cannot control seem to change with our outlook.

Think of it this way, your mind is like a closet that has not been cleaned out in years. Not all clothes fit you anymore or the style has changed and they are just taking up valuable space to replace newer clothes that do fit. Maybe the attic of your mind has bundles of old newspapers and magazines and it is time to get rid of old issues or cobwebbed thinking. The process may not be easy or fun, but it is worth it to have accomplished and see how amazing the changes can be. You may find some long awaiting prayers answered.

FRIENDLY FIRE

Family relationships have an amazing blood bond whether tightly knit or dysfunctionally knit. When one member has cancer everyone has cancer. They all suffer from the one afflicted in either the grief or fear...usually both.

Healing or deliverance of one member is a team effort in positive faith or negative fear and decline.

In war the general never fights alone but rallies the troops. *Joel 2:7-8 They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: 8 Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.*

Friendly fire is a term used when weapon fire comes from one's own side, especially fire that

causes accidental injury or death to one's own forces. Fear is the number one cause of friendly fire. We see this with Job: *Job 3:25-26 For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. 26 I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came.*

What thing came? Well, let us look at the family dynamic: *Job 1:4-5 And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. 5 And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.*

The word *feasted* in verse 4 is the Hebrew word *mishteh* meaning to drink or drinking, which comes from the root *shathah* meaning to imbibe, drunkenness. This was a worry for Job, for why else would he have in his mind that they might have sinned and cursed God. Not only did this trouble him but he voiced his fear, and unless he was in the habit of talking to himself, his wife got an ear full. I am sure he preached at them the ills of their drunkenness as well. Did he cover up their deeds or make excuses trying to hide what they were doing for the sake of his unblemished reputation as an upstanding and wealthy man of town? They did not have AA or Al Anon back then, for if Job had access to one of their pamphlets, he would have seen the ills brought on by fear and the wrong kind of intervention.

It is important for a family to work together in good faith with love at its core. Love sometimes

can be encouraging and sometimes quiet and still. If the family's confidence is in the Lord they can walk in their own path without thrusting one another nor breaking rank in interference stepping on one another's lives.

When one in a family is sick all are affected. All thoughts start to decay toward the sickness. Prayers veer to worry and anxiety getting more off course with the lost trust from which we must find again.

Friendly fire is not so friendly when it hurts those already afflicted. To help those needing to recover from sickness, whatever that may be, we must first recover in our thinking and actions. We can provoke healing in others by the trust we have in God and His Words to us: *Jer 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

COMPLICATING LIFE

If it were not for people, our lives would not be so complicated. The Word of God never points blaming others for the complications in our lives. The Word speaks directly to the person of one... 'tis I.

We seldom understand how to simplify our lives by borrowing the troubles of what could happen tomorrow or next week, and some of us can spread our worries out over years ahead that are not even in view. We live in the "what-ifs" like pros as the possibilities race in our minds at breakneck speed followed by the multitude of "what will I do"? We project the future in self fulfilling prophecies and often speak them bringing even more complications into play. I have learned that my well

planned efforts to fix something or someone only dug the hole deeper. Most of the time doing nothing but prayer and walking gently into the day brings about more success than anticipating what could happen and interfering to make it so.

Worried thoughts provoke forced solutions. Taking a square peg and forcing it into a round hole damages both the pieces.

I have never known another person to be changed by rehearsing arguments in my head over dialog of what I wish I could say to them. These well thought out arguments of the mind escape in actions and future conversations causing a world of strife and division. Funny how we assume it is our job to solve everyone else's problems when all we achieve is making more for our-

selves. When we are busy minding everyone else's business there is an enemy ready and willing to mind ours. Thus, being absent from our own business makes us vulnerable. Going after the splinter in someone's eye while the moat remains in ours takes on new meaning.

Finding the good in others and working on the good in ourselves makes for a brighter outlook in life. Since we cannot rewind events in our lives, we must simply step over into the next chapter of our story, and if we do need to skip to see the end consider these Scriptures: *Matt 25:21 Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a*

few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matt 25:23 Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. (Few things is the Greek *oligos* for puny number or small.)

Simplifying our lives down to being responsible for ourselves and not inflicting our "rightness" on everyone doing what we perceive as wrong is quite a load off.

In the end, (2Co 5:10) we will not stand alone before Christ to answer for anyone else. It will be a review of our own business.

ROAD TO DE-MASK-US

At prayer, I call inner-sessions (intercession), there is much word play. In the Hebrew language there is also much word play, however, it is lost in the varied language translations. It is not lost in those inner sessions.

Today in prayer we were praying from the individual child of God to the nation to be unmasked from who we think we are to who God has called us to be.

I related this to the example of Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus. Who, on that road became changed from a religious Pharisee to a follower of Jesus as the Christ. When I finished praying what I had, another inserted De-mask-us. Saul was de-masked from who he thought he was to the revelation that he was the blind guide leading the blind and that his God was no other than JESUS

by name.

This prayer continued with the understanding that the road to de-mask-us is the journey through the Word of God to find who is behind the mask.

We have worn our Christian masks so long in front of others that we believe the mask is who we were born to be. Let's face it, Saul thought himself Godly by arresting the early Christians until he was unmasked to his blindness and began to truly see that he had been arresting God in every action.

Saul became transfused with the blood of Jesus and became Paul, a man of destiny and a newer testament...literally!

Many polish the outside and see the reflection in the glass, yet turn away and forget what manner of person we are.

God's Word is a mirror of who

and why we are. We are not only a people of purpose but individually a person of promise.

Have you ever actually sat alone with yourself and taken inventory of your character? If we look at this like the inventory a store keeper takes, we see it in a better light. A shop keeper might see what items are not going over very well and eliminate them, while some things are in short supply and need restocking. Do we have an over supply of what we do not need and a shorter supply of what we do? This is a fairly practical lesson if we choose to be honest with ourselves.

Sometimes the mask is worn so much that it starts looking the same underneath. Time and years may have rendered short supplies in qualities that simply need restocking. Then there are some new revelations that are

worth investing on our shelves. Our taking stock of ourselves should not be a shameful experience any more than a shop keeper who realizes it is time to reorder what ran out, eliminate what is not necessary or try a new product.

I believe we are all on the road to de-mask-us at some point and possibly more than once. Take the inventory. Make a list of things that do not work or have negative side effects. Make a list of things in short supply that need restocking in a goodly supply.

I believe the church is on the road to de-mask-us right now where masks of prejudices and judgments need to be taken off the shelves because they are enmity with a God of unconditional love and forgiveness. CHURCH, OPEN WIDE THE GATE THAT THE KING OF GLORY MAY COME IN!

ANOTHER KIND OF MASK



The term for terrorism is *the use of violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political aims*. Terrorist is then a person, usually a member of a group, who uses or advocates terrorism.

The two pictures at the top are similar pictures of terrorists by the above definition. One is a group called ISIS to the left and to the right is a group of paid liberal "protestors" against Trump and those who support him.

The Supreme Court of the United States has held that the First Amendment protects the right to conduct a peaceful public assembly. It does not hold to the protection of people concealing themselves in masks using violence against human life, intimidation or the destruction of buildings and property etc.

The right to an honest protest with signage is one thing, but these masked terrorists hiding under the guise as "protestors" with their back-

packs ready to unleash their destructive violence is criminal behavior and should not be allowed by law. You and I, as Mr. and Mrs. Citizen, would be arrested if we decided to take out our anger and break a storefront window, spray ugly graffiti, throw molotov cocktails at police officers or the public creating destructive chaos and harm.

We need to fight the terrorism at home before branching out.

We have a president in office who had a slogan, "Drain the Swamp". This is not just the job of one man. Our job was not finished with one vote. There is more to do now than pray for Uncle Leo's gout. As Christians, we are to help with the cleansing by the power of the Word in prayer. Prayer-up, stand upon the Word and have a part of the healing process. We are the United States of A-Miracle. Let us take this nation back to her destiny.